

The Land of a Thousand Temples and the Place Where America's Day Begins: A Religious Point of View

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Abstract : The two vast island regions of Indonesia and Micronesia are linked through ancient connections and share similar cultural and spiritual values. The islands of Bali and Guam are the focus of this paper, and the research explores the foundational values and beliefs of each island community and the challenges they face in the modern world. Each community has been sustained for thousands of years through rich cultural and spiritual philosophies that give them meaning and purpose in their lives and help connect individuals and families to each other, to the natural world, and to spiritual forces. Each share a similar history of colonial rule marked with violence and struggle. This research is informed through ethnographic methodologies, drawing particularly on participant observation and in-depth interviews conducted in both Bali and Guam. An appreciation of the collective viewpoint of these communities was gained through cultural immersion in the philosophies of Inafamaolek in Guam and Tri Hita Karana in Bali. The research highlights how spiritual and cultural values and philosophies serve indigenous people as they strive to hold on to their foundational beliefs and practices and yet move forward in the modern world.

Keywords : Inafamaolek, Guam, Tri Hita Karana, Bali

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