

The philosophical Background Of Karang Hasti Ornament Found On The Foundation Of Balinese Hindu Sacred Buildings

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Abstract

Karang hasti or *karang gajah* is one of ornaments on Balinese Hindu shrine's foundation. This ornament adopts the basic form of elephant head which is clearly represented with the shapes of trunk, ivory, and wide ears. In Bali, this ornament is made of natural stones, artificial stones, red bricks, mixed sand, and printed concrete. This article is aimed to (a) identify the variants of *karang hasti* ornaments and (b) find out the philosophical background of *karang hasti* ornament on the foundation of shrines. The analysis method is hermeneutic with some approaches on morphological point of view, the characteristic of the real animal in nature, cosmology, mythology, and comparison with other shrines outside Bali. The essential finding obtained that *karang hasti* is a kind ornament with the shape of elephant head having a strong relation with the concept of *asta dig-gaja*

Keywords: Ornamen, Balinese Hindu shrine, and asta dig-gaja.