LOLOAN



Identity and Location

The Loloan people (also known as the Bali Malay) live in the villages of Cupel, Pangambengan, Loloan Timur, Loloan Barat, Budeng, Air Kuning, and Perancak in Negara District, Negara Regency, Bali. The word loloan is derived from the word liloan ("wrapped around" or "winding"), which refers to the first settler's description of the River Ijogading, with its turbulent, changing currents.

It is thought that the Loloan's ancestors were Muslim immigrants from Sulawesi, Kalimantan, and Malaysia. Sunan Wajo led the first group of settlers from Sulawesi, as they came to Bali in the 17th Century to escape from the Dutch military.

At that time, I Gusti Ngurah Pancoran, the King of Jembrana, welcomed them. He had also resisted the Dutch. These Bugis-Makassar immigrants developed a good relationship with the King for the purpose of converting all of his people to Islam.

Another group of settlers came from Kalimantan and was led by Abdullah bin Yahya Al Qadry, a descendant of the Sultan of Pontianak. Several of the Malay groups from Malaysia originated from the areas of Pahang, Johor, Kedah and Trengganu, and some of the immigrants were of Arab origin. These groups were also seeking to evade the Dutch military and became assimilated into the Loloan people group.

Society and Culture

oloan villages have significantly different characteristics than the villages of the Balinese people in the surrounding areas. In addition to the obvious religious differences, even the style of their homes is different. Loloan homes are built on raised platforms, on stilts approximately two meters high. The main door of the house always faces to the east. The location of the door is designed to avoid any distractions when they are doing their prayers toward Mecca in the west.

The decorations of their homes are generally Islamic in nature, such as using Arabic calligraphy in artwork. The Loloan style of dress, especially for women, is also Islamic. In general, they maintain a distinctive cultural pattern in the midst of the Hindu Bali people, who have in turn, maintained their own cultural distinctiveness in the midst of an overwhelmingly Muslim nation.

Beliefs

The Loloan are strong Muslims, unlike the majority of the Bali people group who are Hindu. This leads to the Loloan being alienated from the Balinese people. Their area has many mosques. At the time of Friday prayers, the streets are empty and the mosques are full. Loloan traditional laws have been handed down through the generations, and they also strictly enforce Islamic law. Despite this, some Loloan people are greatly influenced by animism and superstition. They seek protection using magic to appease or control good and evil spirits.

Needs

The Loloan people need outside assistance in developing the resources in their environment. They need to be open to all kinds of technology in order to become integrated into the larger society as productive citizens. There is a great need for electricity and development of irrigation systems in their remote villages. The Loloan people also need access to more employment opportunities in eco-friendly, sustainable industries that utilize their available resources..^(RD)

