

Bali Time

1. Balinese sense of time:

1.1 Kinds of Balinese time:

- *pawukon* calendar: permutational cycles of 210 day year of 10 concurrently running weeks from one to ten days long. Time cycles within time cycles. Sequence not recorded. Not used to determine age. Used to determine rituals and holidays, temple anniversaries and good and bad days for certain events. Geertz 1973, 394-6.
- Saka calendar. New year is spring equinox. Linear, 78 years behind solar Gregorian calendar. Some temples use this to determine cycle of festivals.
- Gregorian linear calendar: modern

1.2 In short, events happen like holidays. They appear, vanish, and reappear--each discrete, sufficient into itself, a particular manifestation of the fixed order of things. Social activities are separate performances; they do not march toward some destination, gather toward some denouement. As time is punctual, so life is. Not order less, but qualitatively ordered, like the days themselves, into a limited number of established kinds. Balinese social life lacks climax because it takes lace in a motionless present, a vector less now. Or, equally true, Balinese time lacks motion because Balinese social life lacks climax (Geertz 1973, 403-404).

1.3. Sense of motionless present, vector less now. Without consummation.

2. Balinese sense of space:

- 2.1 Balinese categories are *kaja* [towards the interior, mountains, land], and *kelod* [towards the sea]. Tied to winged beings and water beings. Mountains the center of the earth, gods' abode. Water connotes demonic, dangerous.
- 2.2 Three levels: heavens or upper world of gods and spirits, middle of humans, and lower of evil spirits. This tripartite distinction is everywhere: head, body, feet; mountain plain, sea; birth, life, death.