

Correspondence

An Answer to Dr. Supomo's Review

In his review of my *A Balinese Temple Festival*, my colleague Supomo, after his introduction, makes two objections. The first is about a translation. The Sanskritist Dr. Yarrow (who helped Jane Belo in her book on *Bali: Temple Festival*) took *jiva-suddha* as *jiva-śuddha* and thus translated it as 'pure of life'. Knowing that the knowledge of Sanskrit among temple priests is zero, I preferred here *jihva-suddha* 'pure of tongue', because the Balinese text immediately goes on with *ngaturang toya kurah* 'when offering water to rinse the mouth'. If only Dr. Supomo had known Balinese or had read the English translation on the same page! There is no need here for that "elaborate a little more" as given in his review. Twenty-four pages of notes in a separate pamphlet for the ease of the reader provide this need. The next criticism concerns the spelling of the Balinese text. Supomo refers me to that used by Robson and Worsley, but he himself writes *pamanku* 'village priest' as I did because not every typewriter and printing press is equipped with the *n* with the lengthened second leg as used by Pigeaud, Robson, and Worsley for *ng*. Supomo may be astonished to learn that in my *The Balinese Poem Basur: An Introduction to Magic*, the editor changed my *pamankus* (i.e., all cases of *nk*) to *paman g kus* and without a word of consultation sent my manuscript to the printer! Supomo suggests using the present-day Balinese spelling. Which one? The latest dictionary is undecided on this and rightly so, for the *e* is as overburdened and with its three different pronunciations as in Dutch. The subject deserves discussion more than criticism and arbitrariness.

The late Jane Belo might have been astonished to learn that the man who complains about spelling himself consistently misspells her name as "Below".

From the point of view of the publishing Institute, which lavishly provided this book with forty-eight pages of new and original photographs, it is a pity that the reviewer only mentioned Jane Belo's first photograph and the reviewed book's cover with Balinese women in cortege bringing offerings to the temple; moreover, Supomo only commented on whether they were bare-breasted.

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