

Religion in Indonesia

Puzzle — "I am a Balinese Hindu"

*Read this personal story of Ida Bagus Ketut Surjirna and his religious beliefs. Then find answers to the clues in the crossword puzzle **on the next page.***

"My name is **Ida Bagus Ketut Surjirna** and I was born in the village of Sanur which has now become one of the major tourist centres of Bali. I am a Balinese but take pride in being an Indonesian as well.

Let me explain the parts of my name. **Ida Bagus** is the male title given to the highest caste of Balinese called the Brahmanas. The other three castes are the Satrias, who may be members of former royalty, the Wesias or Warrior caste and the Sudras or working class and common villagers.

Surjirna is my surname. The name **Ketut** means fourth born in the family. As children are born they are given names in a cycle of four, whether boys or girls: Wayan, first born, Made, 2nd born, Nyoman, 3rd born and Ketut, 4th born. The cycle is then repeated if there are more children born.

Because I belong to the Brahmanas caste, people from lower castes are expected to show some respect, just as I do to the Hindu priests who are also members of my caste. All people in fact, walk bent over when they pass a priest.

My religion is a very old one and was brought by Hindu priests from India to our island over one thousand five hundred years ago. We believe in re-incarnation, which means that the spirit of a dead person returns in the form of an animal. We have one God, Lord Krishna and many other gods and goddesses, such as Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. The holy Scriptures must not be read by people other than the priests.

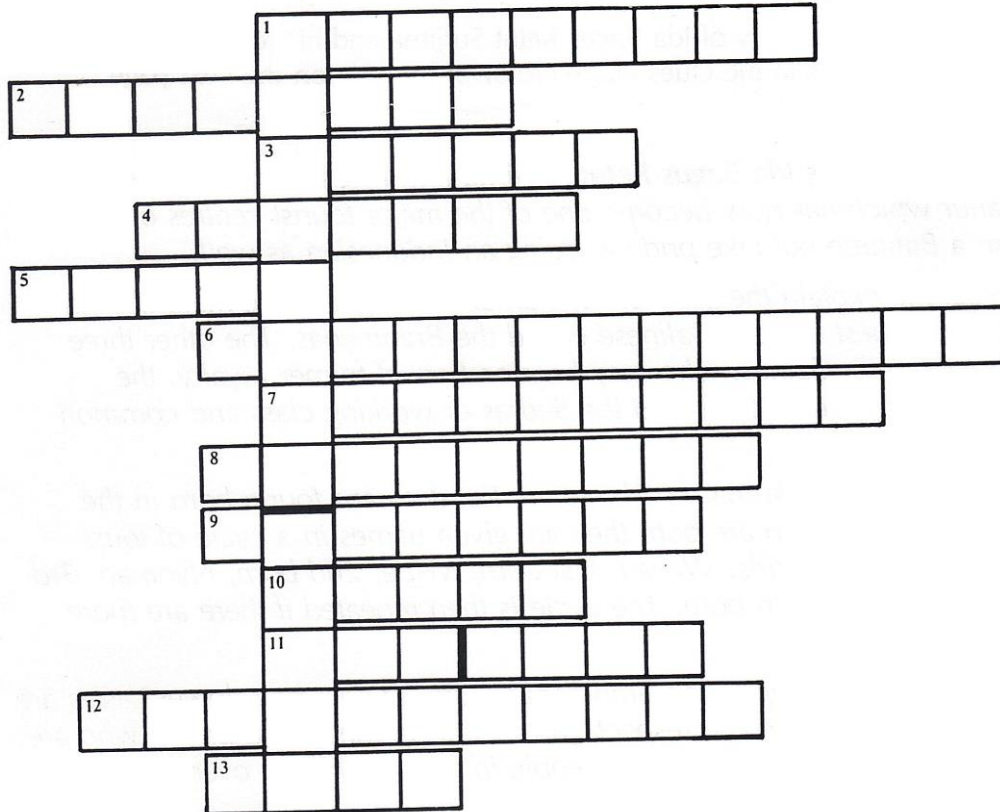
We worship only at certain times, especially on the days of big public festivals. One such occasion is the Balinese New Year which is celebrated every six months. The **pura** are big temples for all Balinese and there are village temples as well. My home has a family temple where we make offerings several times a day of flowers, rice and incense.

Religion is very important in our lives. Although we are allowed to eat any kind of food, as a Brahmana I am prohibited from eating beef. Like most Balinese I wear traditional clothes, but on special occasions I may wear national Indonesian dress of my island."

Puzzle Religion in Indonesia

Read the personal story of Ida Bagus Ketut Surjina and his religious beliefs on the previous page. Then find answers to the clues for the crossword puzzle.

When you have worked out the answers correctly, this should give you the name of a major religious group in Indonesia in the larger column **DOWN** the centre of the puzzle.



Across

1. What is the name of the highest Balinese social class or caste?
2. What is the title one should use when speaking to a member of the highest caste to which priests also belong? (two words)
3. Sudras are poorer common people like farmers, fishermen or shopkeepers who belong to the fourth or _____ caste.
4. Which religious people are the only ones allowed to read the holy Scriptures?
5. What name is given to the first born, either boy or girl, in a Balinese family?
6. What word is used for the belief that when a person dies the spirit is reborn in a living animal?
7. The sacred books, called holy _____ are written in a very old language called Sanscrit that only priests can read.
8. Apart from prayer at the family temple in Balinese homes, what are the special occasions when most Balinese take part in worship and ceremonies?
9. The Hindu religion was brought to Bali more than one _____ five hundred years ago.
10. From which Asian country did the priests bring the Hindu religion to Bali?
11. What special event for the Balinese happens twice a year and brings all work and business on the island to a close, (two words)
12. What name is given to describe the usual clothes worn by most Balinese?
13. What name is given to a large public temple available to all Balinese and of special interest to overseas tourists where they may take part in religious events with the Balinese so long as they dress appropriately and show respect and courtesy?