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Andrew Beatty

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## VARIETIES OF JAVANESE RELIGION

### AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ACCOUNT

Java is famous for its combination of diverse cultural forms and religious beliefs. Andrew Beatty considers Javanese solutions to the problem of cultural difference, and explores the ways in which Javanese villagers make sense of their complex and multi-layered culture. Pantheist mystics, supernaturalists, orthodox Muslims, and Hindu converts at once construct contrasting faiths and create a common ground through syncretist ritual. Vividly evoking the religious life of Javanese villagers, its controversies and reconciliations, its humour and irony, its philosophical seriousness, and its formal beauty, Dr Beatty probes beyond the finished surfaces of ritual and cosmology to show the debate and compromise inherent in practical religion. This is the most comprehensive study of Javanese religion since Clifford Geertz's classic study of 1960.

ANDREW BEATTY is the author of *Society and Exchange in Nias* (1992). He has carried out over four years of field research in Nias and Java, Indonesia.

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*Cambridge Studies in Social and Cultural Anthropology*

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ANDREW BEATTY



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For Mercedes, Sofía, and Daniel

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Should others in Bayu eventually read this account in some form, I hope they will find it sympathetic and representative of their different views. Javanists will probably identify a four-five structure embedded in a nine; *santri* will be pleased that Islam – hence green or multicoloured! – is in the centre. Bayu, incidentally, is the name of the guardian deity of the cosmic centre.

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## Glossary

Words appearing in this glossary are italicized only at first mention in the text; other foreign words are italicized throughout.

<i>abangan</i>	nominal Muslim
<i>adat</i>	custom, traditions
<i>alus</i>	refined, spiritual, incorporeal
<i>barong</i>	lion-dragon; drama of this name
<i>buda</i>	Hindu-Buddhist; pertaining to pre-Islamic Java
<i>bupati</i>	district administrator, 'regent'
<i>buyut</i>	great-grandparent or great-grandchild; title for spirit
<i>cocog</i>	fitting, apt, compatible
<i>danyang</i>	place spirit
<i>desa</i>	administrative village unit
<i>dhukun</i>	healer, magician
<i>du'a</i>	prayer
<i>dulur</i>	sibling, kin; one of the four personal guardian spirits
<i>fatihah</i>	(Arabic) opening verse of the Koran
<i>gandrung</i>	female entertainer/dancer
<i>giling</i>	windmill
<i>hadīth</i>	(Arabic) traditions of the Prophet
<i>haj</i>	the pilgrimage to Mecca
<i>haji</i>	title of person who has performed the pilgrimage to Mecca
<i>kasar</i>	coarse, material
<i>kawruh</i>	Javanese wisdom, Javanist lore
<i>kejawèn</i>	Javanism
<i>kiyai</i>	traditional Muslim leader, usually head of a <i>pesantren</i>

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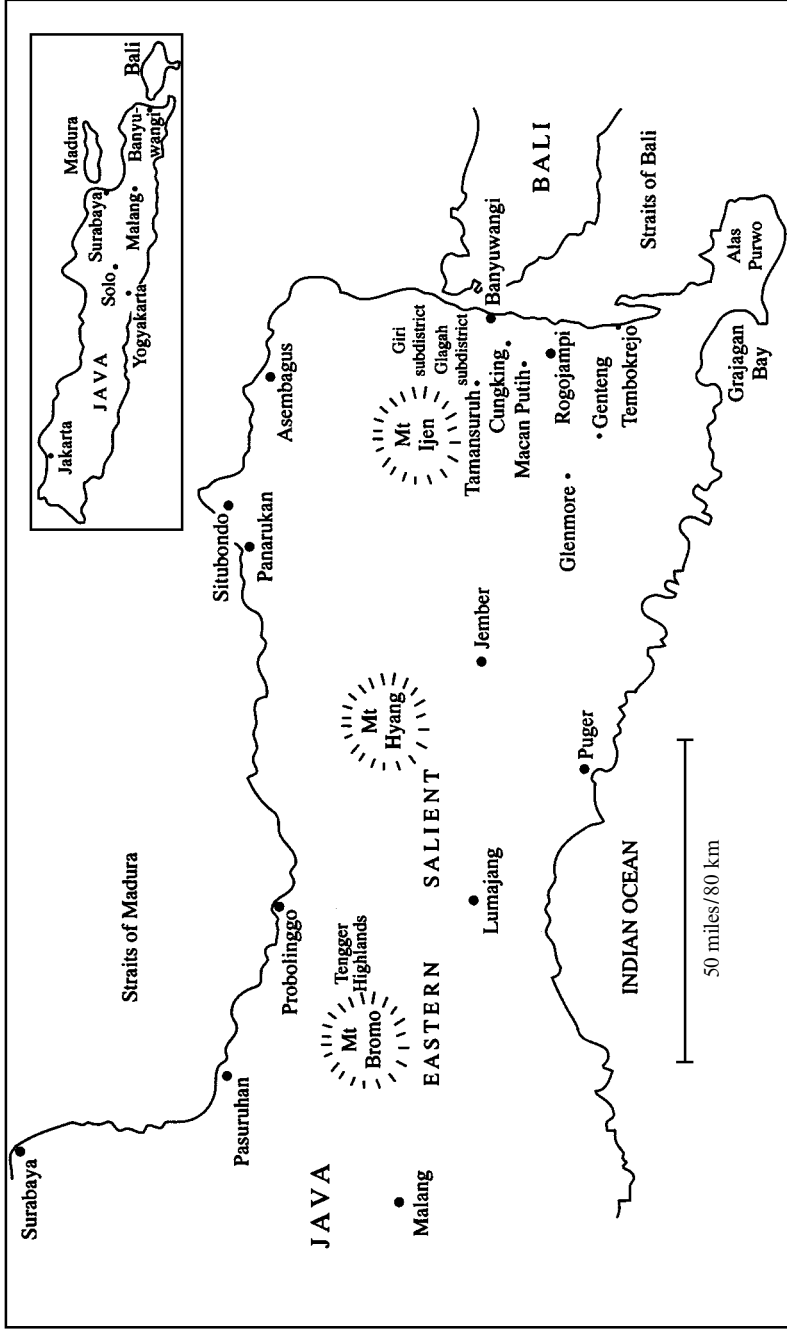
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<i>kraton</i>	palace, court
<i>langgar</i>	prayer-house
<i>lontar</i>	literature, traditionally inscribed on palm-leaf
<i>lurah</i>	headman
<i>mandi</i>	efficacious, (magically) powerful
<i>modin</i>	village Islamic official
<i>niyat</i>	intention, required before performing prayer or ritual action
<i>pesantren</i>	(or <i>pondhok-pesantren</i> ) Islamic boarding school
<i>priyayi</i>	member of nobility or elite
<i>rasa</i>	taste, bodily feeling, intuition, organ of consciousness
<i>rukun</i>	in a state of social harmony
<i>salāt</i>	(Arabic) prescribed Islamic prayer
<i>sanggar</i>	non-Islamic place of worship, shrine
<i>sangku</i>	zodiac beaker used in Cungking cult
<i>santri</i>	pious, orthodox-leaning Muslim
<i>sedhekah</i>	commemorative or funerary prayer meal
<i>sembahyang</i>	Javanese term for Islamic worship
<i>shariah</i>	Islamic law
<i>slamet</i>	well-being; secure, well, free of danger
<i>slametan</i>	ritual feast
<i>tahlilan</i>	Islamic chanting
<i>umat</i>	Islamic community of faithful
<i>wakaf</i>	Islamic foundation
<i>wakil</i>	delegate
<i>wali</i>	saint, friend of God
<i>wayang</i>	shadow puppet theatre



East Java