The Veneration of Dayak Latok among Chinese in Singkawang, West Kalimantan

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ABSTRACT

This paper describes the worship of Dayak deity among Chinese in Singkawang, West Kalimantan. The belief of Datuk Kong 拿督公, a Malay deity is a common phenomenon among Chinese in East and West Malaysia. Many Tua Pek Kong temples in Sarawak (East Malaysia) house one or a few subsidiary Datuk Kong deities. There are also temples devoted to Datuk Kong as its main deity in Central region of Sarawak. However, the veneration of Latok Kong 啦督公, the Dayak deity is unheard of in Sarawak and is totally confined to the neighbouring Chinese in West Kalimantan. Rituals, beliefs and symbols are constantly adapted, transformed to stabilise and cater to the emotional needs of the community. Tua Pek Kong, Datuk Kong, Latok Kong are local tutelary deities believed to protect and help its people. Thus, it is the humble aim of this ethnographic paper provide further understanding into the reflexivity and adaptivity of Chinese folk beliefs towards its social surrounding.

Keywords: Latok Kong, Datuk Kong, Tua Pek Kong, West Kalimantan, Singkawang

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