

THE IBAN VISUAL CULTURE: MIRING

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Introduction

Iban community is one of the biggest community groups that live in all parts of the Sarawak. In addition, the Iban community in contemporary era has embraced major religions such as Christianity and Islam. However, there are still some of them who still do not believe in those religions. This is because they practice an animist beliefs 'pengaruplana' that have been passed down from their ancestors. *Miring*

ritual is one of it (offerings), nonetheless, is one of the most important rituals for the Iban. *Miring* refers to offering to the Gods, commonly in the form of food to the supernatural beings. However, *miring* is performed in various ways in the Iban community. They believe that there are tremendous forces of the supernatural. The existence of extraordinary powers also can wreak havoc on the life of the Iban community.

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such as floods, drought, lack of food sources, landslides, epidemics, hunger; suffer bad luck and a bad curse. It is because of the Iban make intentionally or unintentionally mistakes as has been breaking taboos. Therefore, it angered the extraordinary powers of the Iban community.

The Iban Community

Iban or also known as Sea Dayak is the largest Sarawak. According to Sandin (1967), Iban is derived from the Kapuas River Valley, which is now known as Kalimantan near Sarawak. However, due to the geographical position near Sarawak, these people migrate to the state approximately at mid-century 16. The first group came to Sarawak centered in Lubok Antu, Sri Aman or known as Simanggang once (Margaret Linggi, 1999). They then migrate to the river bank like Sungai Batang Lupar and subsequently expanded to Sadong river, the Rajang river and much more (Blehant, 1997). The Iban community life is influenced by their

traditions that make up their traditional culture (Buma, 1992). The customs and traditions of the Iban have been long practiced. In addition, they are also a practicing animist. The experience and the concept of the Iban culture are still practiced until today as their culture. In fact, the identity of a society depends on the power of culture and tradition that belongs to them. Moreover, most of them have settled in the lowlands or lowland areas and areas around Saribas Rejang River. Nowadays, many among the Iban community who had migrated and settled in cities such as Kuching, Sibu, and Miri in Sarawak.

Placement of the Iban longhouse began in a distinctive way of life (Morrison, 1962). This is because of the Iban practice traditional life patterns, such aspects of agriculture, hunting animals, wearing traditional clothes and their daily activities in the past. They have built houses long since the lack of flat land area. Furthermore, it is influenced by the earth's surface which is hilly. The Iban are strapped

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