

# Pouring Psychology and Indonesian Parapsychology into the Ocean of Transpersonal Psychology

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**Abstract.** In this paper, I discuss the relevance and the importance of a dialogue between psychology and parapsychology to create a better understanding of historical, methodological, and social implications of parapsychology for psychology as well as to prompt both psychology and parapsychology to coexist in scientific efforts. On the basis of this discussion, I present a number of important and largely ignored questions within Javanese and Indonesian context of psychology. In javanism, the concept on human being can be derived from many sources, such as spiritual practices, shadow play, or primbon. This seems to be rather more complicated because many would claim that the so-called supernatural phenomena imply out-of-date, obsolete, unscientific, and irrational approaches. However, Javanese tradition through its spiritual practices has many to offer and shows other routes to understand human psyche in terms of transpersonal efforts to understand the living union with the Ground. Assumptions and suggestions are discussed.

Key words: psychology, parapsychology, dialogue, context, supernatural phenomena, human psyche, Javanese psychology, javanism, transpersonal, the Ground

**Abstrak.** Tulisan ini mendiskusikan relevansi dan pentingnya dialog antara psikologi dan parapsikologi untuk menciptakan pengertian yang lebih baik tentang sejarah, metodologi, dan implikasi sosial, parapsikologi untuk psikologi maupun untuk mendorong keduanya agar berkoeksistensi dalam upaya-upaya keilmuan. Berdasarkan diskusi ini, penulis mengemukakan sejumlah pertanyaan penting dalam konteks psikologi Jawa dan Indonesia yang biasanya diabaikan. Dalam ilmu kejawen, konsep manusia dapat dirumus melalui banyak sumber, seperti praktik-praktik kebatinan, pertunjukan wayang, atau primbon. Tampaknya ini agak lebih rumit karena banyak pihak akan mengatakan bahwa apa yang disebut gejala gaib menyiratkan pandangan yang kedaluwarsa, kuno, tidak ilmiah dan tidak masuk akal. Namun, tradisi Jawa memiliki praktik-praktik kebatinannya menawarkan banyak hal dan menunjukkan lintasan-lintasan lain untuk mengerti jiwa manusia dalam bingkai upaya transpersonal menghayati manunggale kawula lan Gusti. Didiskusikan berbagai asumsi dan saran.

Kata kunci: psikologi, parapsikologi, dialog, konteks, gejala gaib, jiwa manusia, psikologi Jawa, ilmu kejawen, transpersonal, Gusti (the Ground)

In the very first place, I would like to bring forward the fact on how psi and anomalous phenomena have become a matter of great importance for Indonesian parapsychology and at the same time far away from psychology. This is often linked to the fact that the current psychology does not examine, observe, and care psyche and, consequently, ignores the benefits of a

psychic and supernatural exploration. Psychologists are more interested in observing and explaining human behaviors based on overt, observable, and measurable criteria due to its choice to remain true to materi-alistic, positivistic, quantitative, and utilitarian researches. Even though parapsychologists have sunk into paranormal or supernatural phenomena, they do not