

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1 Conclusion

In this research, the writer attempts to describe the procedure of the *Barikan Bear* ritual from Karimunjawa and also the offerings used in the ritual. *The Barikan Besar* ritual is the biggest annual ritual held by the locals in Karimunjawa. The ritual involves a prayer asking for safety, prosperity, and protection from disasters and diseases. Recently, this ritual is not just carried out as a cultural event for the locals. It has become an annual agenda for the Jepara government to promote its tourism destination.

The Barikan Besar ritual consists of two stages. The first one is the preparation stage. It includes the committee deciding when the ritual will be held, the date, and the hour of the ritual. Then, the committee decides the participants of the ritual and also prepares the offerings. The second one is the performance stage. A member of each household brings the *buceng*, while the committee provides the *tumpeng raksasa* and *tumpeng sedang*. They gather and pray together at the crossroads and then bring the offerings to the seaside and toss the *buceng* on the top of the *tumpeng raksasa* to the sea. In addition, as part of the festival, the dancers will perform the *Minagara* dance in the city square. Then the *tumpeng raksasa* and *tumpeng sedang* are shared to all participants.

Karimunjawa people agree on what items should be prepared as the offerings of the *Barikan Besar* ritual. The offerings in this ritual are almost the same as the offerings in the *Barikan Kecil* ritual. About the offerings, there are three types of *tumpeng* in the *Barikan Besar* ritual. The first one is the *tumpeng raksasa*, this is the main offering in the *Barikan Besar* ritual. The *tumpeng raksasa* is the one that will be brought to the seaside and the *buceng* on the top will be tossed to the sea. The second *tumpeng* is the *tumpeng sedang*, this *tumpeng* is prepared by each neighborhood (RT/*Rukun Tetangga*) or communities such as hotel owners or tour agencies. The last *tumpeng* is the *buceng*. This is the same as with the one in the *Barikan Kecil* ritual. The word “*buceng*” is also used as the name of the top of the *tumpeng raksasa* which is usually cut off and tossed to the sea. *Buceng* is prepared by each household, the women in the household usually cook and prepare this *buceng*.

Some elements are used as the offerings in the *Barikan Besar* ritual, whether in the *tumpeng raksasa* or the *buceng*. Yellow rice is commonly used when people hold a tradition, especially in Javanese tradition. In many cultural events in Indonesia, yellow rice holds an important part and is always arranged in cone-shaped (*tumpeng*). The second element is Mung beans are commonly used as an ingredient for mung bean porridge, *rempeyek* (a kind of crackers), and other kinds of food both sweet and savory. Then, there are eggs for this ritual. Lots of rituals use eggs as the requirement. *Urap-urapan*, this food is usually used in many traditions in Indonesia along with *tumpeng*. It is one of the items that are there and not forgotten by the participants to be prepared as the offerings in the *Barikan Besar* ritual. The next element is salted fish. Salted fish

in Karimunjawa is useful for survival because when the westerly wind blows the fisherman cannot go sailing and fishing. The last one is the raw salt. The raw salt is commonly used as a component of ceremonial offerings in a ritual. In the Bible, salt is used metaphorically for loyalty, durability, and purification. The offerings for the ritual are replaceable. It is highly dependent on the availability of local sources in Karimunjawa.

5.2 Suggestions

Although nowadays most of the people around the world live with modern life, the writer believes that many traditions still exist and are not forgotten by society. It is expected in the future that there will be more researchers who conduct similar ritual traditions in other cultures. Hopefully, researching those traditions will contribute and give more knowledge about ritual practices especially the ones in Indonesia