



Omed-omedan

English version

Omed-omedan is a tradition in Sesetan, Denpasar Bali. Historically, this originated from a fight between a sow and a male pig which happened hundreds of years ago. Omed-omedan means pulling in Balinese. It is believed that the fight is a form of the push and pull between the good and the bad.

Omed-omedan is a mass kissing festival which is held annually, a day after Nyepi, and followed by the youth of the village aged from 17 to 30 years as well as those who are not married yet. Omed-omedan tradition literally expresses the joy of welcoming the Hindu new year.

Villagers start the festival with a prayer in the local temple wishing for safety. After prayer, participants are grouped into two: males and females. Followed up is a show of giant doll that looks like a pig. Every participant forms a line within their group. When the ceremony leader gives a signal to start, participants call out and choose a person in their group to do the kissing. The chosen participants are carried up on the shoulders and brought closer to kiss each other. The kissing stops when people spray them with water and they are changed with the next chosen ones.

Omed-omedan is a tradition that has been passed down from generation to generation for over a hundred years ago. A few years ago, the locals tried to put an end to this but the appearance of two pigs fighting in the village made the local villagers relate this to the absence of omed-omedan. As a result, omed-omedan was decided to be held again.

Despite the pros and cons, this tradition is considered to serve as a good means for people to find a partner. There have been many who firstly met on this occasion ended up in a relation and finally got married.