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## Meet the Hidden Jesus within you in Namaste greeting:

To find deep connection between Javanese spirituality teachings and the Gospel of Thomas  
(cf. Mar Thoma at Kerala)<sup>1</sup>

Victor Christianto\*

\*Ekklesia Advanced School of Theology, Jakarta, Indonesia

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### ABSTRAK:

Artikel ini merupakan lanjutan dari dua artikel kami sebelumnya (Christianto & Chandra, 2021; Christianto, 2022), sebagai ungkapan pemahaman kami terhadap karya klasik P.J. Zoetmulder, *Manunggaling Kawula Gusti* (Zoetmulder, 1982). Kemudian saya mencoba menghubungkannya dengan ajaran spiritual Yesus seperti yang kita temukan dalam Injil Thomas, kemudian dari sana, kami berharap dapat menemukan kembali makna tersembunyi dari sapaan populer di India, Namaste.

### ABSTRACT:

This article is a continuation to our two previous articles (Christianto & Chandra, 2021; Christianto, 2022), as mere expression of our understanding of classic work by P.J. Zoetmulder, *Manunggaling Kawula Gusti* (Zoetmulder, 1982). Then I try to connect it to the spiritual teaching of Jesus as we can find in the Gospel of Thomas, then from there, we hope to rediscover the hidden meaning of popular greeting in India, Namaste.

### *Katakunci:*

Yesus tersembunyi,  
manunggaling kawula  
Gusti, Namaste, formasi  
spiritual

### *Keywords:*

Hidden Jesus,  
manunggaling kawula  
Gusti, Namaste greeting,  
spiritual formation

“...behold, the kingdom of God is within you.” - Luke 17:21 (KJV)

## INTRODUCTION

### summary of previous articles

Summarizing, allow me to say that there is striking similarity between Javanese spirituality's teachings with spirituality in Christianity, although we shall also remind the readers, that there are differences.

With regard to present tendency of systematizing Christian beliefs, starting from medieval Christian leaders, allow us to write here that even in Johannes Calvin's books, such as *Institutio*, he cited several spirituality teachers before him, notably Bernard de Clairvaux. Therefore, what St Paul wrote in several letters, with phrase “in Christ,” can be interpreted spiritually not rationally.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

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<sup>1</sup> Accepted at 1st Conference of Philosophy Research held in India, Sept. 2022

## Aesthetics and right-brainer aspects of Javanese spirituality

Actually we're not specialized in Javanese philosophy, but as far as we both learn...there are two characteristics of Javanese thinking style:

a. A combination or emphasizing more on intuitive feeling..it is called "rasa" / emotion: It can be understood in the framework of intuitivity, or how to balance the left hemisphere brain and right hemisphere function of the brain (cf. Iain McGilchrist), or we can also refer to our colleague (RNB)'s idea: penetrative insight.

Perhaps one way to do that is by use of 528 hz or 963 hz, called *Solfeggio Scale*, that is what I advise to you...see the ebook by Horowitz (cf. Horowitz, *the book of 528*).

b. Javanese students strive to reach *union divina* (unity with the Infinite God), that is only possible by going beyond Aristotelian logic (Christianto, Smarandache, Tjandrah Simbolon, 2022). We remember that Jan Lukasiewicz declared how he opposed aristotelian/binary way...actually that is one of the reason, I guess, why many mathematicians are interested in many valued logic and fuzzy logic theory.

Prior of Lukasiewicz many-valued logic around 1920s, we can go to sentential logic as known as french logician, Peter Abelard, where it can be extended further to become proposition calculus. (Christianto & Chandra, 2021)

What we found is there is Javanese statement like this : "*you can do that, but don't do that*" -- it means there are things that we can do by laws, but ethically it is a bad way. Such as law enforcement by military style: it can be done, but the people don't approve the hard way of enforcing laws.

Javanese people think like that, something can be true but at the same time, ethically not appropriate. We once wrote an article on such a form of propositional non-Aristotelian thinking. (Christianto & Chandra, 2021)

## Several implications toward a philosophy of discovery

Regarding intuition, it is well known among researchers, that finding a brilliant idea cannot be simply by tinkering with formulas. There are several ways. For example:

- lateral thinking theory - Prof. Edward de Bono
- ultramind theory - Jose Silva, etc.

If you use intuition, that's rarely discussed ...because our education seems to emphasize the rational deductive process. Even though the holistic function of the right brain is also important, and it is even more important for a healthy civilization.

Intuition also leads to "*the path to enlightenment*." And enlightenment is a spiritual path, not a rational-left brainer way, although reportedly there are also people who get a PhD for spiritualism.

If you use the Javanese line of thinking, then the healthy way after adulthood and towards the elderly:

- olah pikir (*think*)
- olah raga (*sport*)
- olah rasa (*aesthetics / intuition*).

We hope this short remark make our point a bit clearer for readers.

### **Looking for a True Guru: aspects of interfaith dialogue**

Let us discuss a bit concerning several aspects of interfaith dialogue with the Javanese spiritualist community based on the Gospel of Thomas (*Nag Hammadi Scrolls*, 1945).

#### *A. Guru Sejati (True Guru)<sup>2</sup>*

In Javanese ancestors since time immemorial, the concept of *sangkan paraning dumadi* has been known which means the origin of the birth or the incarnation of the soul or human spirit

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<sup>2</sup> <https://gurusejati.wordpress.com/2008/10/24/guru-sejati/> (accessed 17 Juni 2022)

called *pancer*, namely from the supernatural world, it is born into the world, it enters the body or body as a container for the soul (*manjing warangka*). This is an outline of Javanese science since ancient times called 'sedulur papat, limo pancer' (*four brothers, the fifth is pancer*). This *pancer* or soul is none other than the essence of the True Guru. While *sedulur papat* are essentially four kinds of human passions, namely *lust lauwamah* (biological fulfillment), anger (*angra* wrath), *supiyah* (pleasure/lust), and *mutmainah* (purity and honesty). A true teacher as a guide/teacher for *sedulur papat*. The qualities of lust are then symbolized in *wayang* figures, namely; 1. Lauwamah = Dosomuko, 2. Anger = Kumbokarno, 3. Supiyah = Sarpo Kenoko, 4. Mutma'inah = Gunawan Wibisono. While the fifth, namely *pancer* is manifested in the dimension of *mulhimah*, as the main controller over the four previous passions. *Sedulur papat lima pancer*, in the puppet (*wayang*) concept is also in line with the meaning of the essence of the Pendawa Lima character (see Pusaka Kalimasadha), in essence it is represented as Sastrajendra Hayuningrat.

In humans (inner world) *sedulur papat* is manifested in the four elements of the human body that have accompanied since humans were born on earth, namely; When the baby is born, it will be preceded by amniotic fluid or crater water. After leaving the mother's womb, the placenta will follow. At birth a baby is also accompanied by the discharge of flesh and blood. So *sedulur papat* consists of the elements of the crater as the older brother, the placenta as the younger brother, blood, and flesh. If the four elements are united, then there will be five *pancer*, namely the soul that is united into the self. This conception is closely related to the concept of *amaeg aji* (instinctive intention or articulation of the stability of the intention in initiating all activities/plans/businesses) by way of saying; *kakang kawah adi ari-ari*.

### B. *Sedulur papat limo pancer*<sup>3</sup>

In terms of language expression, the term *sedulur papat limo pancer* means four brothers and five as the center. Meanwhile, based on the Javanese concept, the term means a form of unity in the human form when humans are born on earth. That is, in the history of Java, the people

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.hops.id/trending/amp/pr-2942104716/mengenal-sedulur-papat-limo-pancer-wujud-kesatuan-manusia-jawa> (accessed 17 June 2022)

use the term *sedulur papat limo pancer* to describe that when a human is born, four human brothers are also born.

The term is believed by the Javanese as part of the work of Sunan Kalijaga in the 15-16 centuries AD. It is known, this term was first found in *Suluk Kidung Kawedar*, Kidung Sarira Ayu, in the 41-42 stanzas. *Sedulur papat limo pancer* is believed to be a unity that influences each other in humans.

### **Finding Hidden Jesus**

My consideration is that dialogue with our non-Christian brothers and sisters tends to get bogged down easily, if it only relies on standard teachings, because some of the differences are quite clear. But through the Gospel of Thomas, we can develop a deep dialogue about true spirituality, without having to get into problems caused by apologetic nuanced discussions. For example, in the *Pangestu community* (one of popular Javanese spirituality school of thought), one of their goals is to find a True Guru, namely God Almighty Himself.

Based on my experiences, indeed spirituality conversations really help us to have interfaith dialogue with the others (*Sang Liyan*), although we also need to be careful with Kejawen concepts which may not all be compatible with Christianity.. that's what we understood so far.

If we reconsider this matter of Christianity and spirituality, it seems that there are some theologians who wrote that the Gospel of Thomas was written by the Apostle Thomas (Mar Toma who later served in Kerala, India), around the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, and was probably written in the Alexandria city. If it is true, then : No wonder the Gospel of John, which has a slightly spiritualistic-Christian mysticism in the first century, looks a bit different from the three Synoptic Gospels. (Because the Gospel of John conveys more mystical teaching of Jesus compared to more transparent narratives in the Synoptic Gospels)

The possibility, although I admit that is again hypothetical, is that the Gospel of John and the Gospel of Thomas originated in earliest Christianity of 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, which tended to emphasize aspects of Christian spirituality, but had been lost for centuries behind a pile of theological works. (See for instance Philip Jenkins, *the Lost Christianity in Asia and Africa.*)

But once again that does not mean to reduce the meaning and significance of the three Synoptic Gospels; i.e. Gospel of Matthew, Gospel of Mark and Gospel of Luke.

In fact, in the context of biblical studies, perhaps we can put an analogy to what is meant by "*sedulur papat limo pancer*" (an ancient principle in Javanese spirituality) are none other than the four Gospels, plus the Gospel of Thomas to *complete the message of the Good News that Jesus Christ* preached to the disciples in the first place, around 1st century AD. Such an interpretation may be considered as a path to *kasampurnan urip* in Christ (the wholeness of life in God).

Once again, this is just a few hypotheses. I just found a few sources (cf. David P. Gushee, *The sacredness of life*).

### **Meet the Hidden Jesus in popular greeting, Namaste**

Interestingly, according to Maatie Kalokoh, a popular word for greeting and farewell Namaste, has an ancient spiritual meaning:

“Namaste attracts the Divine Consciousness (Chaitanya) and increases the spiritual force and attracts the Consciousness of the Divine.

Why is namaste a spiritually meaningful word? Namaste, also known as *Namaskar*, is a way of greeting each other, as opposed to Western culture, where one shakes hands.

It's about showing respect for the person you're talking to, regardless of age or gender.

One gives an attitude of devotion and gratitude, and this is done through the spiritual emotion of the bhav.

Namaste is also a spiritual greeting of respect when you meet with spiritual teachers or fellow students or greet someone who honors you.

A translation is that *it means bowing to the Divinity, and if you honor a divine person for it, you honor the Divine.*

Namaste expresses the essence of respect for the presence of God, and the other common sense is to greet and greet God, to be with Him...<sup>4</sup>

Moreover, according to Subhamoy Das, as follows:

“Namaste is an Indian gesture of greeting one another. Wherever they are, when Hindus meet people they know or strangers with whom they want to initiate a conversation, "namaste" is the customary courtesy greeting. It is often used as a salutation to end an encounter as well.

Namaste is not a superficial gesture or a mere word, it is a way of showing respect and that you are equal to one another. It is used with all people one meets, from young and old to friends and strangers.

Though it has its origins in India, Namaste is now known and used throughout the world. Much of this has been due to its use in yoga. Students will often bow in respect to their teacher and say "Namaste" at the end of a class. In Japan, the gesture is "*Gassho*" and used in similar fashion, typically in prayer and healing practice.

Because of its global usage, Namaste has many interpretations. In general, the word tends to be defined as some derivation of, "*The divine in me bows to the divine in you.*" This spiritual connection comes from its Indian roots.<sup>5</sup>

Although it is not my intention here to suggest exact similar meaning, nonetheless there seems to be a striking similarity with a known logion in Gospel of Thomas, where Jesus said to Mar Thoma: "*Split a wood, I am there. Lift up a stone, I am there.*" That logion would imply Jesus or Divine essence in everything.

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<sup>4</sup> Source: Maatie Kalokoh, url: <https://www.yourtango.com/2020334634/what-spiritual-meaning-namaste> (accessed 11 Aug. 2022)

<sup>5</sup> Source: Subhamoy Das, url: <https://www.learnreligions.com/what-does-namaste-mean-1770004> (accessed 11 Aug. 2022)

To connect it with philosophy discussion, we can recall it has resemblance to pan-theism, or some would prefer *panentheism*. Nonetheless, instead, allow me to argue in favor to similarity with Leibniz's philosophy...where Divine essence and consciousness can be found in everything, and it actually can be connected to Cosmic Christology, where Christ was and is the hidden cause of all life forms (cf. David P. Gushee, *the sacrednes of life*).

Let us call it : "*pan-Christic biogenesis*." That is we can find Jesus within me, within you, and within all forms of life. That is also the true meaning of *Aleph Tav* as found in Genesis 1:1, and more than 1000 occassions in the Hebrew Bible. (Christianto, 2022a).

And actually, that is a correct interpretation of the following verses:

Luke 17:20-22 (King James Version):

20 And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:

21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! *for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.*

22 And he said unto the disciples, The days will come, when ye shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and ye shall not see it.

See also discussion on implications of the proposed *pan-Christic biogenesis* hypothesis in *Appendix* section.

### **Concluding remark**

In this article, I summarize results of previous articles, and outline some problems in doing interfaith dialogue with the others (cf. Prof. Milad Hanna, *Accepting the Others*).

Concluding, allow me to say that in the context of biblical studies, perhaps we can put an analogy to what is meant by "*sedulur papat limo pancer*" in Javanese spirituality cosmogony



are none other than the four Gospels, plus the Gospel of Thomas to complete the message of the Good News that Jesus Christ preached to the disciples in the first place, around 1st century AD. Such an interpretation may be considered as a path to *kasampurnan urip* in Christ (the wholeness of life in God).

That is to say that to find the Hidden Jesus inside all of us, it is necessary to read and comprehend properly the meaning of the four gospels, and then to complete the study with the Gospel of Thomas. That is the true meaning of "*Namaste*" word, a common word for greeting and farewell in India.

I hope this short exploration would be found interesting for the readers. Further study is of course recommended.

Last but not least, allow me to close this article with a slightly expanded tagline of the then fame X-Files series:

*"The truth is out there -- and within you."*

Version 1.0: 19 July 2022, pk. 13:32

Version 1.1: 20 July 2022, pk. 8:28

Version 1.2: 11 Aug. 2022, pk. 7:46

Version 1.3: 23 Oct. 2022, pk. 15:25

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*Short biography of author:*

Victor Christianto - he completed graduate study in a local seminary of theology at East Java, Indonesia, and now he teaches at Ekklesia Advanced School of Theology, Jakarta, Indonesia. Besides theology and Christianity studies, he is also actively researching dialogue between cosmology, theology and spirituality. You can find in this Scientific God Journal, several of his articles on biblical cosmology and a unique view on creativity, scientific method as well as a heuristic proof of the existence of God (Supreme Creator of the Universe). He can be reached at: victor\_christianto@sttekklesia.ac.id. Visit our Second Coming Channel, <http://bit.ly/ApocalypseTV>

**Appendix :** The sixth extinction and biogenesis: two puzzling episodes from the X-files

*"The truth is out there -- and within you."*

Concluding : which way further?

"Biogenesis" was a story milestone for the series, along with "The Sixth Extinction" and "The Sixth Extinction II: Amor Fati," and introduced new aspects to the series' overarching mythology. The episode was written due to series creator Chris Carter's fascination with the possibility that extraterrestrials were involved in the great extinctions that had happened millions of years ago.

Reconsidering the old question: where did life come from?

I don't think abiogenesis is tenable hypothesis, nor Watson-Crick's panspermia hypothesis. However, biogenesis hypothesis cannot be a strong alternative, unless it shall be improved with Cosmic Christology.

Provided we believe in a cosmic-pneumatic interpretation of this verse from Gospel of Thomas: "Lift up a stone, I am there. Split the wood, I am there," and we can expect to find more evidence behind alleged inscription on surface of Ivory Coast saucer, then allow me to argue in favor of a new hypothesis of the origin of life on this Earth and also the entire Universe:

"Pan-Christic biogenesis"

That is, you can find Christ everywhere, because after all the Kingdom of God is within you. Summarizing, it is okay to find the truth out there, but in these End Times, it is mandatory for you to return and receive the Truth who await everyone to invite Him to come into their hearts.

Read these old verses:

Genesis 2:7 (KJV) And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

<https://alkitab.app/v/a66013a6eb89>

Isaiah 59:21 (KJV) *As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever.*

<https://alkitab.app/v/c2bdf0c27d76>

Translation in Indonesia / versi TB LAI

Yesaya 59:21

Adapun Aku, inilah perjanjian-Ku dengan mereka, firman TUHAN: Roh-Ku yang menghinggapimu engkau dan firman-Ku yang Kutaruh dalam mulutmu tidak akan meninggalkan mulutmu dan mulut keturunanmu dan mulut keturunan mereka, dari sekarang sampai selama-lamanya, firman TUHAN.

Version 1.0: medio april 2022

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Source:

(1)

[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Sixth\\_Extinction\\_\(The\\_X-Files\)](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Sixth_Extinction_(The_X-Files))

(2) [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biogenesis\\_\(The\\_X-Files\)](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biogenesis_(The_X-Files))

(3) <https://www.tor.com/2012/12/20/reopening-the-x-files-qbiogenesisq/>

(4) <https://x-files.fandom.com/wiki/Biogenesis/Transcript>