

SYNOPSIS



Among Gods and Demons - Shamanism on Bali

Unter Göttern und Dämonen - Schamanismus auf Bali

Behind the sunshine, palms and sandy beaches of Bali hides an unfathomable cosmology full of black and white magic. Hinduism fuses with animism and veneration of the dead here to create a unique blend of philosophies to explain the world. Those who seek the meaning of life here or anticipate healing find many answers - and yet more questions. The holiday paradise of Bali is home to an estimated 10,000 shamans, whose methods and proposed remedies differ widely. For the Balinese the sea embodies the feared underworld, where demons, monsters and evil spirits live. The gods, on the other hand, sit on the mist-shrouded volcanoes of the interior, in the unreachable upper world. Islanders believe that the world in between has only been loaned to mankind. Only through constant devotion and daily sacrifice can the upper world and the underworld, good and evil, be kept in balance. Magical transition rituals accompany every new stage of life, from birth to the wild celebration of death. And the island's inhabitants view the many, complicated ceremonies not as restrictive, but instead as liberating, because they believe they know how to appease good spirits and placate evil demons. Those who engage with this spirituality, who consent to live amongst gods and demons, will be forced to reconsider their relationship with nature and the cosmos. This documentary is a fascinating journey to exotic places and into one's own subconscious.

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Directed by Monica Ladurner

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