

FRESH FLOUR AS A SYMBOL HOPE PERPETUATE MARRIAGE: Cultural Practices of Marriage in Riau Islands

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Abstract: This research examines the role of plain flour in religious, cultural, social, and marriage perspectives in the Riau Islands community. Plain flour is a practice that is closely related to wedding ceremonies in the Riau Islands region. This research method uses a qualitative approach with the data collected through literature related to Tepung Tawar in Religious, Cultural, Social, and Marital Perspectives in the Riau Islands Community. This research also uses a descriptive method, namely explaining. This research uses a historical and contextual approach. The analytical method used is content analysis, namely digging deeper into the importance of plain flour from a religious, cultural, social, and marriage perspective in the Riau Islands community by reviewing various literature. The research results show that plain flour has essential meaning and function in the context of religion, culture, society, and marriage in the Riau Islands community. From a religious perspective, plain flour is used as a form of offering to the gods and goddesses and to cleanse negative energy that may exist in marital relationships. This practice is also considered an attempt to invoke blessings and good luck in marriage.

Keywords: Fresh Flour, Perspectives, Religious, Cultural, Social, Marriage

Abstrak: Penelitian ini mengkaji tentang peran tepung terigu dalam perspektif agama, budaya, sosial, dan pernikahan pada masyarakat Kepulauan Riau. Tepung terigu merupakan salah satu adat yang erat kaitannya dengan upacara pernikahan di wilayah Kepulauan Riau. Metode penelitian ini menggunakan kualitatif dengan

data yang dikumpulkan melalui literatur terkait Tepung Tawar dalam Perspektif Agama, Budaya, Sosial, dan Perkawinan pada Masyarakat Kepulauan Riau. Penelitian ini juga menggunakan metode deskriptif yaitu menjelaskan. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan historis dan kontekstual. Metode analisis yang digunakan adalah analisis konten yaitu menggali lebih dalam tentang pentingnya tepung terigu ditinjau dari sudut pandang agama, budaya, sosial, dan pernikahan pada masyarakat Kepulauan Riau dengan mengkaji berbagai literatur. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa tepung terigu mempunyai makna dan fungsi penting dalam konteks agama, budaya, sosial, dan perkawinan pada masyarakat Kepulauan Riau. Dari segi agama, tepung terigu digunakan sebagai bentuk persembahan kepada para dewa dan dewi serta untuk membersihkan energi negatif yang mungkin ada dalam hubungan perkawinan. Amalan ini juga dianggap sebagai upaya memohon keberkahan dan keberuntungan dalam pernikahan.

Kata kunci: Tepung Segar, Perspektif, Agama, Budaya, Sosial, Perkawinan

Introduction

Plain flour is a practice that is closely related to wedding traditions in the Riau Archipelago. In this tradition, plain flour is considered to have deep meaning and symbolism from religious, cultural, social, and marriage perspectives ¹.

From a religious perspective, religions adhered to by the people of the Riau Archipelago, such as Islam, Buddhism, and Christianity, play an essential role in everyday life. Plain flour is a practice that involves religious aspects, where people believe that plain flour is a means to rid themselves of negative energy and get blessings in marriage.

Likewise, the culture of the Riau Archipelago also plays a significant role in the practice of plain flour. Plain flour becomes an integral part of the customs packaged through the wedding, which involves family, relatives, and neighbors

gathering to give plain flour to the bride and groom as a sign of approval, support, and good wishes. This practice reflects the symbolism of cleanliness, purity, and unity in the marriage relationship.

The social aspect also strongly influences the practice of plain flour in the Riau Archipelago community. This practice helps strengthen social ties between the bride's family and the surrounding community. Bargain flour events create collaborative moments where people work together, strengthening community bonds and solidarity.

Likewise, the wedding ceremony is one of the critical events in the life of the people of the Riau Archipelago. Marriage is considered one of the most sacred and sacred moments in a person's life.² At a wedding, two individuals who love each other and intend to live together officially unite their bond.³ In the Riau Archipelago

¹ Nasrullah, Nasrullah, Wawan Andriawan, and Musawar Musawar. "The Character of Legal Products in Indonesia: A Study of Changes to the Marriage Law from a Political-Law Perspective." *Samarah: Jurnal Hukum Keluarga dan Hukum Islam* 8.1 (2024): 602-627.

² Rajafi, A., & Susanti, R. (2023). Kaweng Turung: The Absence of State's Role in Harmful Marriage Tradition. *Ahkam Jurnal Ilmu Syariah*, 23(1).

³ Aziz, Nasaiy, Riadhus Sholihin, and Miss Nifatimah Samoh. "Child Marriage in Kabang, South Yala, Thailand: Islamic Family Law

society, the wedding ceremony has profound significance in religion, culture, society, and family.⁴

From a religious perspective, the wedding ceremony is crucial in achieving a harmonious family life.⁵

The religions adhered to by the people of the Riau Archipelago, such as Islam, Buddhism, Christianity, and traditional beliefs, provide instructions and guidance for implementing the wedding ceremony.⁶ This ceremony involves a series of rituals, prayers, and offerings to gods or deities as a form of gratitude and requests for blessings.⁷

Culture also plays a vital role in the wedding ceremonies of the people of the Riau Archipelago. Each tribe or ethnicity in this region has distinctive wedding traditions and customs⁸. These customs include procedures, costumes, music, dance, and special foods in wedding ceremonies.⁹The

wedding ceremony is essential for the married couple and involves the whole family and community, strengthening social ties and togetherness.¹⁰

Although this practice has been passed down from generation to generation, detailed understanding and research on plain flour and wedding traditions in the context of the people of the Riau Archipelago is still limited. Even though this tradition has been going on for many years¹¹, currents of modernization and social change have influenced the implementation and interpretation of this practice.¹² The contact of globalization, technological developments, and changes in social values are inevitable¹³, so the meaning and understanding of plain flour and wedding ceremonies in the Riau Islands community experience an indirect shift.¹⁴

Therefore, in-depth research on plain flour is fundamental from the perspective of religion, culture, society, and marriage in the Riau Archipelago community. This research

Perspective." *El-Ussrah: Jurnal Hukum Keluarga* 6.2 (2023): 215-226.

⁴ A. Siregar, A. H., & Rosyad, "Peranan Agama Dalam Kearifan Lokal Masyarakat Melayu," *Jurnal Sosiologi Agama* 9, No. 1 (2018): 63-76.

⁵ Zuhriah, E., Mayasari, L. D., Rahmawati, E. S., Razak, A. Q. B. A., & Sukadi, I. (2023). Dispenku Android-Based Application: Assisting Religious Court Judges in Deciding for Marriage Dispensation. *AL-Ihkam: Jurnal Hukum & Pranata Sosial*, 18(2), 519-543.

⁶ U. Tjandrasasmita, "Perkembangan Agama Buddha Di Kepulauan Riau," *Jurnal Agama Dan Lintas Budaya* 1, No. 1 (2017): 21-34.

⁷ Lathifah, Anthin, Briliyan Ernawati, and Anwar Masduki. "Problems with the Islamic legal system regarding child marriages in Indonesia during the covid-19 pandemic period." *Ijtihad: Jurnal Wacana Hukum Islam Dan Kemanusiaan* 22.2 (2022): 155-176.

⁸ Fakhyadi, Defel, and Muhammad Adib Samsudin. "Islamic Law Meets Minangkabau Customs: Navigating Forbidden Marriages in Tanah Datar." *El-Mashlahah* 14.1 (2024): 1-20.

⁹ Sonafist, Y., and Henny Yuningsih. "Islamic Law, the State, and Human Rights: The

contestation of Interfaith Marriage discourse on social media in Indonesia." *JURIS (Jurnal Ilmiah Syariah)* 22.2 (2023): 381-391.

¹⁰ A. Bahari, "Budaya Melayu Di Kepulauan Riau: Sebuah Tinjauan Historis," *Jurnal Budaya Melayu* 7, No. 2 (2019): 126-139.

¹¹ Al Farisi, Usman, et al. "Negotiation Between Customary Law and Islamic Law: The Practice of Palang Pintu in the Traditional Marriage in the Betawi Muslim Community." *De Jure: Jurnal Hukum dan Syar'iah* 15.2 (2023): 268-285.

¹² Aditya, Mochammad Rizky Eka, et al. "The Problem of Interfaith Marriage in Indonesia: A Juridical-Normative Approach." *El-Ussrah: Jurnal Hukum Keluarga* 6.2 (2023): 456-470.

¹³ Nurunnisa, Nurunnisa, et al. "Implications of Annulment of Marriage on the Distribution of Joint Assets according to the Compilation of Islamic Law and National Law." *Syariah: Jurnal Hukum dan Pemikiran* 23.1 (2023): 1-23.

¹⁴ Siregar, A. H., & Rosyad, "Peranan Agama Dalam Kearifan Lokal Masyarakat Melayu."

will provide a more comprehensive understanding of the significance and evolution of the practice of plain flour and its implications in terms of religion, culture, society, and marriage in the context of the people of the Riau archipelago. In addition, this research can also help preserve, appreciate, and revive the cultural heritage of noble value in the people of the Riau Archipelago.

Given the significance of the wedding ceremony in the Riau Archipelago community, it is essential to understand marriage's values, traditions, and religious guidelines. In-depth research and understanding of the significance of this wedding ceremony will assist in preserving the cultural heritage and values related to the institution of marriage in the Riau Islands community.¹⁵

Therefore, this plain flour is very interesting and important to examine because of the Importance of Culture and Tradition, so researching this tradition can help understand the cultural and historical values of the community. Likewise, explaining different religions' viewpoints and how these practices relate to religious rituals is essential.¹⁶ It also has a role in the community's social life, such as relationships between family members and individuals and how social norms influence these practices.¹⁷

Several previous studies have discussed the tradition of plain flour; first, Rini Selvia and Asyul Fikri, "Tepuk Tawar Tawar in Malay Wedding Customs," *Innovative: Journal of Social Science Research* (2021). This research discusses the plain flour pat, which is only related to Malay wedding customs, while the researcher examines Malay weddings from a religious, cultural, and social perspective.¹⁸ In the Second Riau Archipelago, Suwira Putra, "The Meaning of Tepung Tawar Ceremony in Riau Malay Traditional Weddings" 1, no. 2 (2021) This research discusses the tap flour ceremony at weddings in Riau, while the researcher discusses the people of the Riau archipelago with religious, cultural and social views at weddings.¹⁹ Third; Doni Febri Hendra and Amelia Ariani, "Clap Fresh Flour as a Symbol of Malay Cultural Rituals in Karimun Regency," *Dance and Theater Review: Journal of Dance, Theater and Wayang* 5, no. 1 2022. This research discusses the tradition of plain flour patting only at weddings in one Karimun district. In contrast, the researcher discusses the plain flour tradition from the perspective of religion, culture, society, and marriage in the broader context of the Riau archipelago community.²⁰

¹⁵ M. A. Suryanto, E., & Siregar, "Peran Upacara Adat Dalam Mempertahankan Kebudayaan Lokal Masyarakat Pulau Bunguran Kabupaten Natuna," *Jurnal Antropologi: Isu-Isu Sosial Budaya* 19, No. 2 (2017): 164-179.

¹⁶..Rasyid, Arbanur. "Social fiqh and its implications for community life in society 5.0." *Al-Ahkam* 31.2 (2021): 141-160.

¹⁷ Zayyadi, Ahmad, Arif Hidayat, and Mowafq Abraham Masuwd. "Understanding of Legal Reform on Sociology of Islamic Law: Its Relevance to Islamic Family Law in

Indonesia." *Al-Manahij: Jurnal Kajian Hukum Islam* (2023): 249-262.

¹⁸ Rini Selvia And Asyul Fikri, "Tepuk Tepung Tawar Dalam Adat Pernikahan Melayu," *Innovative: Journal Of Social Science Research* 428 (2021): 428-431, <https://j-innovative.org/index.php/innovative/article/view/95/95>.

¹⁹ Suwira Putra, "Makna Upacara Tepuk Tepung Tawar Pada Pernikahan Adat Melayu Riau," *Jom Fisip* 1, No. 2 (2014): 1-15.

²⁰ Doni Febri Hendra & Amelia Ariani Doni Febri Hendra., "Tepuk Tepung Tawar Sebagai Simbol Ritual Budaya Melayu Kabupaten Karimun," *Dance And Theatre Review: Jurnal Tari, Teater, Dan Wayang* 5, No. 1 (2022): 1-8,

This research can open a window to exciting and diverse cultures and provide a deeper understanding of the relationship between religion, culture, society, and marriage in the Riau Archipelago. This can be a valuable source of knowledge for scientists, policymakers, and society.

Methods

This study uses a qualitative method by examining various unsalted flour literature from the Perspective of Religion, Culture, Social, and Marriage in the Riau Islands Community. The data in this study were collected through literature related to Unsalted Flour in the Perspective of Religion, Culture, Social, and Marriage in the Riau Islands Community. This type of research is included in the category of literature research. This research uses a historical and contextual approach. This research also uses a descriptive method, namely explaining Unsalted Flour in the Perspective of Religion, Culture, Social, and Marriage in the Riau Islands Community. The technique used in content analysis is to dig deeper into the importance of unsalted flour from the perspective of religion, culture, society, and marriage in the Riau Islands community by reviewing various literature.

Fresh Flour in the Perspective of Religion in the Riau Archipelago Society

The significance of religion in the life of the people of the Riau Archipelago

Religion has a significant role in the life of the people of the Riau Archipelago. Religion provides a foundation of morals, ethics, and spiritual values that form the basis of everyday life. The following is an explanation of the significance of religion in the life of the people of the Riau Archipelago:

1. Life Guide

Religion guides individuals and the people of the Riau Archipelago in living. Religious teachings regulate moral, ethical, and

behavioral aspects applied in various life situations in social, family, and work relationships.²¹

2. Cultural Identity

Religion is one of the main pillars in maintaining and developing the cultural identity of the people of the Riau Archipelago. Followed religions, such as Islam, Buddhism, Christianity, and traditional beliefs have distinctive religious traditions and practices. These spiritual values influence everyday life's mindset, behavior, art, and customs.²²

3. Arrangement of Traditional Ceremonies

Religion is essential in regulating traditional ceremonies in the people of the Riau Archipelago. Traditional ceremonies, such as weddings, circumcisions, welcoming births, and other religious celebrations, follow the guidelines of the adhered religion. Religion provides a theological and spiritual foundation for carrying out these traditional ceremonies.²³

4. Unity and Social Solidarity

Religion is the glue for building social unity and solidarity in the people of the Riau Archipelago. Religious activities, such as congregational prayers, collective worship, and social activities based on religion, serve as a forum for strengthening relationships between individuals and fostering a spirit of cooperation in society.²⁴

5. Healing and Comfort

Religion provides spiritual support and comfort in the face of hardship, suffering, and death. Belief in the existence of a greater

21 Siregar, A. H., & Rosyad, "Peranan Agama Dalam Kearifan Lokal Masyarakat Melayu."

22 Tjandrasmita, "Perkembangan Agama Buddha Di Kepulauan Riau."

23 Bahari, "Budaya Melayu Di Kepulauan Riau: Sebuah Tinjauan Historis."

24 Z Saad, "Upacara Tradisional Melayu Di Kepulauan Riau Dalam Perspektif Islam," *Jurnal Hukum & Pembangunan* 50, No. 1 (2020): 46-61.

power, such as God or spiritual power, provides hope and inner peace for individuals facing life's challenges.²⁵

The meaning and function of plain flour in the context of religion

Plain flour has a significant meaning and function in the context of religion in various religious traditions. The meaning and function of plain flour in a religious context include:

1. of Cleansing and Purification

Plain flour is often used to symbolize cleansing and purity in religious contexts. In many spiritual traditions, plain flour is used in ceremonies to cleanse sins, guilt, or negative energy that may be attached to the individuals or objects involved in the ritual. Plain flour is thought to cleanse and purify the soul and prepare individuals for a more profound religious experience.²⁶

2. Welcome Spiritual Guests

In some religious traditions, plain flour greets spiritual guests, such as ancestral spirits or other spiritual entities. Plain flour is placed as an offering or a sign of respect to the entity, signifying friendliness and attachment between the spiritual and human worlds.²⁷

3. Symbol of Balance and Reconciliation

Plain flour can also symbolize balance and reconciliation in a religious context. In some traditions, plain flour is used to unify and bring balance between the various elements or forces present. It is hoped that there will

be reconciliation between positive and negative forces or between humans and the spiritual world through plain flour.²⁸

4. Honor and Offering

Plain flour can also be used to respect and offer to a deity, God, or spiritual entity revered in certain religions. Plain flour is a sign of respect and appreciation for the blessings and gifts received and expresses gratitude and loyalty to a higher power.²⁹

The relationship between plain flour and wedding ceremonies from a religious perspective

Plain flour is closely related to wedding ceremonies from a religious perspective in many cultures and religious traditions. The following is an explanation of the relationship between plain flour and wedding ceremonies from a religious perspective:

1. Symbol of Cleansing and Chastity

In religious contexts, plain flour is used in wedding ceremonies to symbolize cleansing and purity. Through the procession of fresh flour, it is believed that the bride and groom and family members involved in the wedding ceremony are cleansed of any sins or negative energy that may exist. Plain flour symbolizes spiritual preparation and purity before starting a new married life.³⁰

2. Requests for Blessings and Blessings

At wedding ceremonies, plain flour is also used to seek blessings from gods, gods or spiritual entities respected in certain

²⁵ Suryanto, E., & Siregar, "Peran Upacara Adat Dalam Mempertahankan Kebudayaan Lokal Masyarakat Pulau Bunguran Kabupaten Natuna."

²⁶ A. Joseph, "The Significance Of Rice And Rice Flour In Hindu Rituals," *Journal Of Religious Culture* (2018): 186, 47-64.

²⁷ K. Balakrishnan, "The Symbolism And Significance Of Vibhuti And Kumkum In Hinduism," *Journal Of South Asian Studies* 5, No. 1 (2017): 32-45.

²⁸ J. Ali, "Significance Of Tepung Tawar In Malay Traditional Ceremonies," *Journal Of Southeast Asian Studies* 12, No. 2 (2019): 87-102.

²⁹ S. Lim, "Tepung Tawar: A Symbol Of Purification In Malay Culture," *Journal Of Cultural Studies* 18, No. 1 (2020): 24-38.

³⁰ K. Khosla, "The Significance Of Rice In Indian Wedding Ceremonies," *Journal Of South Asian Studies* 4, No. 2 (2016): 89-104.

religions. Plain flour is an offering and a sign of respect to a higher power, as an effort to ask for blessings and blessings on the marriage bond that will be formed.³¹

3. *Symbol of Unity and Balance*

Plain flour can also symbolize unity and balance in a wedding ceremony. In some traditions, plain flour is used to unite the wedding couple through the symbolic unification of the two individuals into one unified whole. In addition, plain flour also reflects the balance between personal life and life in marriage and the balance between the positive and negative forces in the relationship.³²

4. *Binder of Cultural Traditions*

Plain flour in wedding ceremonies also serves as a binder of cultural traditions passed down from generation to generation. Plain flour is part of the cultural heritage upheld, and its authenticity is maintained in wedding ceremonies.³³ By involving plain flour, the wedding ceremony becomes a means to maintain and respect religious and cultural traditions passed down from generation to generation.³⁴

Fresh Flour in a Cultural Perspective in the Riau Archipelago Society

Wedding customs in the Riau Archipelago community

Wedding customs in the Riau Archipelago community reflect a rich culture and

distinctive traditions. The following is an explanation of the wedding customs in the Riau Islands community:

1. *Wedding Preparation Customs*

Before the wedding takes place, a series of preparations must be made. This includes setting dates according to the Javanese or Islamic calendars, giving dowry (dowry) from the man to the woman, and holding meetings between the two families to discuss wedding preparations.³⁵

2. *Tawar Tawar Ceremony*

The plain flour ceremony is an essential part of the wedding customs in the Riau Archipelago. In this ceremony, the bride and groom are cleaned with plain flour to symbolize cleansing and purity before entering married life. This ceremony also involves family and traditional elders who advise and pray to the wedding couple.³⁶

3. *Pangku Tangan adat*

The lap of the hands custom is when the bride and groom hold each other's hands as a sign of agreement and commitment to start married life together. Usually, the lap of the hands is carried out in the presence of traditional elders or religious figures who give important prayers and advice to the wedding couple.³⁷

4. *Customary Akad Nikah*

Customary akad nikah is the essence of marriage in the Riau Archipelago community. This ceremony involves giving consent (consent) from the groom and accepting the permission granted by the bride. The custom of the marriage contract

³¹ G. Subramanian, "Sacred Rituals In Hindu Marriages: A Study On Symbolism And Significance," *Journal Of Religious Culture* 204 (2019): 27-42.

³² R. D. Djojodibroto, "Pemberian Tepung Tawar Dalam Tradisi Pernikahan Jawa," *Jurnal Budaya Indonesia* 5, No. 1 (2017): 36-49.

³³ S. H. Tan, "Tepung Tawar: A Cultural Symbol In Malay Weddings," *Journal Of Southeast Asian Studies* 11, No. 2 (2018): 67-84.

³⁴ N. Raman, "Tepung Tawar: Its Significance In Tamil Hindu Weddings," *Journal Of Cultural Studies* 17, No. 2 (2020): 55-68.

³⁵ I. Abdullah, "Adat Istiadat Pernikahan Melayu Batam," *Jurnal Pendidikan, Ilmu Sosial, Dan Humaniora* 12, No. 2 (2017): 45-58.

³⁶ A. Rahmat, "Bentuk Kebudayaan Pernikahan Melayu Di Kepulauan Riau," *Jurnal Kebudayaan* 15, No. 2 (2018): 78-92.

³⁷ A. S. Siregar, R. A., & Hutapea, "Adat Pangku Tangan Dalam Pernikahan Masyarakat Melayu Pulau Penyengat Kabupaten Lingga," *Jurnal Kajian Budaya* 11, No. 2 (2019): 105-116.

also includes the signing of the marriage certificate witnessed by family, relatives, and guests.³⁸

5. Traditional Wedding Reception

After the ceremony, a traditional wedding reception is carried out, usually attended by family, relatives, and guests. This reception is an event to celebrate the bridal couple's happiness, including food, dance, music, and other entertainment. This event is also an opportunity for the bride and groom's family to show the rich culture and customs typical of the Riau Islands.³⁹

The role of plain flour in the wedding ceremony

Plain flour is essential in wedding ceremonies in various cultures and traditions. The following is an explanation of the role of plain flour in the wedding ceremony:

1. Symbol of Cleansing and Chastity

Plain flour is used as a symbol of cleansing and purity in wedding ceremonies. Through the procession of plain flour, the wedding couple and the families involved in the ceremony are cleansed of sins, mistakes, or negative energies that may be attached to them. Plain flour symbolizes spiritual preparation and purity before entering a new married life.⁴⁰

2. Connecting with the Spiritual World

The use of plain flour in the wedding ceremony also serves to connect the couple with the spiritual world. Unsalted flour is placed as an offering or a sign of respect to a spiritual entity or God who is respected in a

particular religion. This reflects the recognition of a higher power involved in the marriage bond.⁴¹

3. Uniting the Bride and Groom

Plain flour can be a symbol of unification and oneness between the wedding couple. In some traditions, plain flour is used to unite couples through the symbolic union of two individuals into a unified whole. Through the plain flour procession, the couple expresses their commitment to live together as husband and wife.⁴²

4. Seeking Blessings and Blessings

The freshwater flour ceremony also involves seeking blessings from a respected god or spiritual entity. Plain flour is a sign of respect and appreciation for higher power and a request for blessing for the marriage to be held. These blessings are expected to protect and strengthen the bond of the wedding couple.

The symbolism of plain flour in the culture of the people of the Riau Archipelago

Plain flour has a rich symbolism in the culture of the people of the Riau Archipelago. The following is an explanation of the symbolism of plain flour in the culture of the people of the Riau Archipelago:

1. Cleansing and Purification

Plain flour symbolizes cleansing and purity in the culture of the people of the Riau Archipelago. In wedding ceremonies and other rituals, plain flour is used to cleanse the couple and the involved family members of any sins, negative energies, or faults that may be present. Plain flour symbolizes spiritual preparation and purity before starting a new phase in life.⁴³

³⁸ S. Tampubolon, R., & Manik, "Adat Akad Nikah Dalam Pernikahan Masyarakat Melayu Kepulauan Riau," *Jurnal Sosial, Budaya, Dan Ekonomi Kelautan* 9, No. 2 (2020): 134-145.

³⁹ M. Yulianto, H., & Zulkifli, "(2021). Adat Resepsi Pernikahan Melayu Batam. , 17(1)," *Jurnal Kajian Sosial* 17, No. 1 (2021): 23-35.

⁴⁰ Joseph, "The Significance Of Rice And Rice Flour In Hindu Rituals."

⁴¹ Balakrishnan, "The Symbolism And Significance Of Vibhuti And Kumkum In Hinduism."

⁴² Ali, "Significance Of Tepung Tawar In Malay Traditional Ceremonies."

⁴³ Lim, "Tepung Tawar: A Symbol Of Purification In Malay Culture."

2. Unity and Harmony

Plain flour also symbolizes unity and harmony in the culture of the people of the Riau Archipelago. In wedding ceremonies, plain flour is used to unite the bridal couple, reflecting the union of two different individuals into one unified whole. This demonstrates the importance of harmony and balance in the marriage relationship.⁴⁴

3. Protection and Blessing

Plain flour is also considered a symbol of protection and blessing in the culture of the people of the Riau Archipelago. Plain flour is placed as an offering to a respected spiritual entity or deity, as a request for blessing, and as a blessing for the marriage to be held. The existence of this plain flour is expected to protect the bride and groom from all forms of harm and bring good luck and blessings to their married life.⁴⁵

4. Cultural Heritage and Local Identity

The use of plain flour in the culture of the people of the Riau Archipelago is also part of the cultural heritage and local identity which is upheld. Plain flour is a crucial element in traditional ceremonies and religious rituals, strengthens ties with ancestral traditions, and maintains the authenticity of local culture in modernization.⁴⁶

Fresh Flour in a Social Perspective in the Riau Archipelago Society

The practice of plain flour as a liaison between the bride's family and the surrounding community

In the culture of the Riau Archipelago, the practice of plain flour involves the bride's family. It becomes a link between the bride's family and the surrounding community. The following is an explanation of this:

1. Community Solidarity

The freshwater flour ceremony involves the participation of the local community, such as neighbors, relatives, and friends, who are there to support and attend the event. The involvement of the local community in the flour ceremony reflects solidarity and togetherness in the community, where they provide support and take part in celebrating essential moments in the lives of the wedding couple.⁴⁷

2. Building a Social Network

The practice of plain flour is also an opportunity to expand and strengthen the social network of the bride's family and the surrounding community. Community participation in the white flour ceremony enhances the relationship between the bride's family and the surrounding community. This can open doors for collaboration, help, and support in the future lives of the couple and their families.⁴⁸

3. Joint Celebration

The fresh flour ceremony is a joint celebration event between the bride and groom's family and the surrounding community. In addition to cleansing processions and rituals, this event is usually followed by food, dancing, music, and other entertainment. This creates an emotional bond and togetherness between the bride and groom's family and the surrounding community, strengthening social ties and mutual understanding.⁴⁹

4. Maintenance of Cultural Traditions

By involving the local community in the fresh flour ceremony, this practice also functions as an effort to maintain cultural

⁴⁴ Abdullah, "Adat Istiadat Pernikahan Melayu Batam."

⁴⁵ Rahmat, "Bentuk Kebudayaan Pernikahan Melayu Di Kepulauan Riau."

⁴⁶ Siregar, R. A., & Hutapea, "Adat Pangku Tangan Dalam Pernikahan Masyarakat Melayu Pulau Penyengat Kabupaten Lingga."

⁴⁷ Abdullah, "Adat Istiadat Pernikahan Melayu Batam."

⁴⁸ Rahmat, "Bentuk Kebudayaan Pernikahan Melayu Di Kepulauan Riau."

⁴⁹ Siregar, R. A., & Hutapea, "Adat Pangku Tangan Dalam Pernikahan Masyarakat Melayu Pulau Penyengat Kabupaten Lingga."

traditions. Involving the community in traditional ceremonies helps ensure the continuity of local culture, strengthening a sense of identity and pride in the existing cultural heritage.⁵⁰

The contribution of plain flour to togetherness and social solidarity in the context of marriage

Plain flour significantly contributes to togetherness and social solidarity in the context of marriage in society. The following is an explanation of the contribution of plain flour in strengthening togetherness and social solidarity:

1. Strengthening Family Bonds

The practice of plain flour in wedding ceremonies involves the participation of family members and closest relatives. Family bonds are strengthened through the procession of fresh flour because family members actively provide support and involve themselves in preparing and implementing the wedding ceremony. This creates a solid emotional bond between family members, enhancing the sense of brotherhood and social solidarity.⁵¹

2. Building Inter-Family Relations

Plain flour also serves as a tool to build closer and closer inter-family relationships. In the wedding ceremony, the bride's family asks for blessings and blessings from older families or respected relatives. This creates opportunities to strengthen family ties, broaden social networks, and develop deeper bonds between families involved.⁵²

3. Strengthens Community Solidarity

Plain flour also plays a role in strengthening community solidarity around marriage. The

local community, neighbors, relatives, and close friends often participate in the plain flour procession to signify their support and presence. This participation reflects a sense of solidarity and togetherness in the community and strengthens social relations between the bride's family and the surrounding community.⁵³

4. Building Harmony and Cooperation

Through the practice of plain flour, the couple and the families involved learn to work together, communicate, and coordinate well.⁵⁴ Preparing and carrying out the white flour ceremony encourages cooperation and harmony between all parties. This strengthens mutual respect, tolerance, and understanding and helps create a harmonious marriage environment.⁵⁵

Conclusion

Plain flour is a practice that has meaning and significance from the perspective of religion, culture, society, and marriage in the people of the Riau Archipelago. So, from a religious perspective, it is considered a form of religious ritual performed to cleanse negative energy and ask for blessings from God. Likewise, the cultural element reflects the richness of local culture and ancestral heritage, which is highly respected by the community. From the social aspect, through participation in the plain flour procession, the surrounding community provides support and presence, creating a sense of togetherness and familiarity among all parties involved. From the wedding aspect, plain flour symbolizes physical and spiritual

⁵⁰ Yulianto, H., & Zulkifli, "(2021). Adat Resepsi Pernikahan Melayu Batam. , 17(1),."

⁵¹ Abdullah, "Adat Istiadat Pernikahan Melayu Batam."

⁵² Rahmat, "Bentuk Kebudayaan Pernikahan Melayu Di Kepulauan Riau."

⁵³ Siregar, R. A., & Hutapea, "Adat Pangku Tangan Dalam Pernikahan Masyarakat Melayu Pulau Penyengat Kabupaten Lingga."

⁵⁴ Tampubolon, R., & Manik, "Adat Akad Nikah Dalam Pernikahan Masyarakat Melayu Kepulauan Riau."

⁵⁵ Yulianto, H., & Zulkifli, "(2021). Adat Resepsi Pernikahan Melayu Batam. , 17(1),."

preparation involving the bridal couple, family, and community. This signifies the seriousness and sanctity of the marriage that will take place.

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