

## ***BATEE SUMPAH A SYMBOL OF SACREDNESS AND ITS INFLUENCE ON THE SEUNEBOK PADANG COMMUNITY, TEUNOM, ACEH JAYA***

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### **Abstract**

The Oath Stone in Seunebok Padang Village, Teunom District, Aceh Jaya, serves as a sacred symbol representing the values of honesty, responsibility, and social balance within the community. This stone functions as a medium for solemn oaths aimed at fostering harmony and strengthening communal unity in peacefully resolving conflicts. However, with the advancement of time and the influence of modernization, the meaning and relevance of this tradition have begun to be questioned, particularly by the younger generation. This study aims to explore how the people of Seunebok Padang perceive the sacredness of the Oath Stone, including its spiritual and symbolic values, as well as the social impact of the associated rituals. A qualitative research methodology with a descriptive approach was employed, incorporating direct observations, in-depth interviews with traditional leaders and religious figures, and documentation of related traditions. The findings reveal that the community interprets the Oath Stone as a moral symbol that emphasizes honesty, responsibility, and the importance of maintaining harmony and justice. The social impact of this ritual is reflected in the preservation of social cohesion and the peaceful resolution of disputes. The continued sanctity of the Oath Stone is upheld as an effort to preserve cultural heritage, which embodies noble values, serves as a guide for life, and reinforces the collective identity of the community.

**Keywords:** *Oath Stone, Sacred Symbol, Community Tradition*

### Abstrak

Artikel ini membahas tentang *Batee Sumpah* di Desa Seunebok Padang, Kecamatan Teunom, Aceh Jaya, merupakan simbol kesakralan yang merepresentasikan nilai kejujuran, tanggung jawab, dan keseimbangan sosial dalam kehidupan masyarakat. Batu ini berfungsi sebagai sarana pengucapan janji suci guna menjaga kerukunan serta memperkuat persatuan warga dalam menyelesaikan konflik secara damai. Namun, seiring dengan perkembangan zaman dan pengaruh modernisasi, makna serta relevansi tradisi ini mulai dipertanyakan, khususnya oleh generasi muda. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk memahami bagaimana masyarakat Seunebok Padang memaknai kesakralan *Batee Sumpah*, termasuk nilai-nilai spiritual dan simbolis yang terkandung di dalamnya, serta dampak sosial dari ritual tersebut. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah kualitatif dengan pendekatan deskriptif melalui observasi langsung, wawancara mendalam dengan tokoh adat dan pemuka agama, serta dokumentasi tradisi terkait. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa masyarakat Seunebok Padang memaknai *Batee Sumpah* sebagai simbol moral yang mengajarkan kejujuran, tanggung jawab, serta pentingnya menjaga keharmonisan dan keadilan. Dampak sosial dari ritual ini terlihat dalam terjaganya kerukunan masyarakat dan penyelesaian konflik secara damai. Keberlanjutan kesakralan *Batee Sumpah* dipertahankan sebagai upaya melestarikan warisan budaya yang mengandung nilai luhur, menjadi pedoman hidup, dan memperkuat identitas kolektif masyarakat.

**Kata Kunci:** *Batee Sumpah, Simbol Kesakralan, Tradisi Masyarakat*

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### A. Introduction

Indonesia is a nation characterized by extraordinary cultural diversity (Abdullah & Irhamna, 2023), where each region possesses unique traditions and cultural symbols imbued with profound meanings. These symbols not only reflect the spiritual and social values of local communities (Sinta Dewi, 2022) but also play a crucial role in preserving and transmitting cultural heritage across generations. One particularly intriguing cultural symbol is *Batee Sumpah*, located in Seunebok Padang Village, Teunom District, Aceh Jaya Regency. This stone is not merely a historical artifact; it holds a high degree of sacredness and is deeply intertwined with various customary rituals believed to influence the spiritual and social lives of the local community (Atmodjo, 1982).

For years, *Batee Sumpah* has remained central to various belief systems and local traditions. It is regarded as a symbolic entity with the power to influence different aspects of community life, including customary law, social order, and spirituality (Salman Varsie, 2015). However, with the rapid advancement of modernization and the pervasive influence of globalization, traditional values associated with *Batee Sumpah* are facing significant challenges. Changes in societal perspectives driven by technological advancements and broader access to information have reshaped the way people perceive traditional symbols (Lauw & Pandrianto, 2024). While the older generation continues to uphold the sacred significance of *Batee Sumpah*, younger generations tend to adopt a more critical stance, questioning its relevance in contemporary life.

This challenge reflects a broader phenomenon of significant social transformation. Modernization has introduced more pragmatic and rational ways of life, which at times conflict with long-standing customary beliefs (Fatihatur Rohmah & Legowo, 2022). In this context, it is essential to understand how the Seunebok Padang community manages, interprets, and possibly adapts the role of *Batee Sumpah* to maintain its relevance amid changing times. Thus, this study aims not only to examine *Batee Sumpah* as a symbol of sacredness but also to explore its role as a reflection of the ongoing social dynamics within the community.

This research focuses on *Batee Sumpah* within the Seunebok Padang community, offering an in-depth exploration of its sacred symbolism and its comprehensive impact. By tracing historical records, archaeological landscapes, spiritual dimensions, and social dynamics, this study seeks to reveal the essential role of *Batee Sumpah* in shaping communal identity and collective life. Furthermore, by gaining a deeper understanding of continuous social transformations and the challenges posed by modernization, this study also investigates the implications of traditional practices related to *Batee Sumpah*.

In contrast, research on *Batee Sumpah* in Seunebok Padang emphasizes the stone's symbolic role in strengthening social bonds and customary law, focusing on its impact and significance within the indigenous community. Thus, the distinction lies in the ritualistic aspects and social structures of Sedekah Bumi compared to the legal symbolism and customary law implications associated with *Batee Sumpah*.

## **B. Method**

This study employs a qualitative research methodology with a descriptive approach (J.R Ranco, 2010). This approach is selected to gain an in-depth understanding of the social and cultural phenomena related to the existence of *Batee Sumpah* within the Seunebok Padang community, Aceh Jaya Regency. Data collection techniques include direct field observations, in-depth interviews with key informants such as traditional leaders, religious figures, and local residents, as well as documentation from various relevant sources. The informants are selected through purposive sampling, ensuring that individuals with direct involvement in customary practices and beliefs surrounding *Batee Sumpah* are included in the study. The collected data is analyzed thematically through three key stages: data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing, to comprehensively understand the significance and role of *Batee Sumpah* within the social and cultural dynamics of the community.

Additionally, this study integrates both primary and secondary data sources to enrich the analysis. Primary data is gathered through interviews and direct observations, while secondary data is obtained from books, journals, historical documents, and previous relevant research (Khilmiyah, 2016). Data validity is ensured through the triangulation method, which involves cross-referencing multiple data sources to confirm accuracy and consistency. The data analysis process follows an inductive approach, where field

findings are utilized to construct a theoretical understanding of the symbolism and social impact of *Batee Sumpah*. Through this approach, the study provides a comprehensive perspective on how traditional values and modernization interact within the daily lives of the Seuneubok Padang community.

## C. Results and Discussion

### 1. Interpreting the Sacredness of *Batee Sumpah*

Within the community of Gampong Seuneubok Padang, Teunom District, Aceh Jaya Regency, there exists a stone deeply embedded in local traditions and beliefs. Initially known as *Batu Tengku Diba'tee*, it is now more commonly referred to as *Batee Sumpah*. Its presence not only carries historical significance but also serves as a sacred symbol passed down through generations (Surbakti, 2016).

In the past, *Batu Tengku Diba'tee* played a crucial role in resolving disputes within the community. According to local tradition, individuals involved in conflicts were required to swear an oath before the stone as a means of proving their honesty (Yansah, 2021). The community believes that the stone is guarded by a mystical entity in the form of *Tengku Diba'tee*, a supernatural crocodile said to possess metaphysical powers capable of punishing those who lie. This belief is rooted in oral traditions passed down through generations, including stories of crocodile sightings around the swamp where the stone is located. The reverence for *Batee Sumpah* remains strong to this day, reflecting the moral and spiritual values that continue to shape the social fabric of the Seuneubok Padang community.



Figure 1. Map to *Batee Sumpah*

*Tengku Diba'tee* Stone is not merely a silent witness to numerous resolved conflicts but also serves as a symbol of justice within the community. It is believed that anyone who takes an oath before this stone cannot lie without facing consequences. This oath-taking ritual has positioned the stone as a crucial element in maintaining social harmony and upholding honesty within the society (Kurniawan, 2020).

Over time, *Batu Tengku Diba'tee* underwent a name transformation to *Batee Sumpah*, reflecting its increasingly significant role as a medium for distinguishing truth from falsehood. Despite the passage of time and societal changes, this tradition has

persisted as a valuable cultural heritage. *Batee Sumpah* not only serves as a reminder for the community to uphold honesty but also functions as a peaceful conflict resolution mechanism, eliminating the need for external intervention.

To this day, *Batee Sumpah* remains a living symbol in Gampong Seuneubok Padang. It is not only an integral part of local history but also a testament to how the community preserves traditional wisdom passed down through generations. With its sacred significance, *Batee Sumpah* reinforces the enduring values of honesty, truth, and justice as fundamental pillars of communal life.

#### 1) *Community Understanding of Batee Sumpah*

*Batee Sumpah* is a sacred symbol that holds a significant place in the lives of the Seunebok Padang community. More than just an ordinary stone, it represents spiritual, historical, and cultural values passed down through generations. It is believed to possess a protective force that maintains social harmony and serves as a fundamental pillar in local traditions and beliefs (Sari et al., 2018). As an ancestral heritage, *Batee Sumpah* is not merely regarded as an inanimate object but as a guardian of moral and cultural values that strengthen social bonds within the community. Its presence is central to various customary rituals that reinforce communal unity and ensure the continuity of long-established traditions over centuries.

##### a) Knowledge of *Batee Sumpah* in Seunebok Padang

*Batee Sumpah* in Seunebok Padang is an integral part of the local community's social life. Initially known as *Batu Tengku Diba'tee*, this stone is believed to possess spiritual power, originating from a sacred guardian spirit in the form of a mystical crocodile. In daily life, *Batee Sumpah* serves as a medium for conflict resolution, affirming truth, and legitimizing significant agreements. Through oath-taking rituals performed before the stone, the community instills values of honesty and responsibility, reinforcing its status as a revered sacred symbol within various customary ceremonies.

##### b) The Significance of *Batee Sumpah* for the Seunebok Padang Community

*Batee Sumpah* plays a crucial role in maintaining social balance and harmony within the Seunebok Padang community. It serves as a medium for peaceful conflict resolution through oath-taking rituals, which are believed to possess both spiritual and social power to bind the involved parties.

Furthermore, *Batee Sumpah* acts as a bridge between past and present traditions, strengthening social relationships among community members and passing down cultural values to future generations (Fauzi, 2022). As the focal point of various customary ceremonies, *Batee Sumpah* embodies moral and spiritual principles that serve as the foundation for fostering community solidarity.





Figure 2. *Tengku Diba'tee Stone (Batee Sumpah)*

c) The Sacredness of *Batee Sumpah*

The sacredness of *Batee Sumpah* lies in its role as a bridge between the spiritual and social realms of community life. It is believed to possess the power to uphold truth and justice through the oaths sworn before it. Various rituals, such as oath-taking ceremonies and stone purification rites, are routinely performed to preserve the spiritual values embedded within it. The role of traditional and religious leaders is crucial in maintaining its sanctity, both through the execution of ceremonies and by educating younger generations (Zifamina, 2022). Additionally, the mystical narratives surrounding *Batee Sumpah* further reinforce the community's belief in its function as a symbol of wisdom and honesty.

d) The Influence of *Batee Sumpah* in Daily Life

*Batee Sumpah* holds significant influence over the daily lives of the Seunebok Padang community. It serves as the focal point of various traditional rituals that not only reinforce local cultural identity but also contribute to maintaining social harmony. In conflict resolution, *Batee Sumpah* is frequently used as a site for oath-taking, a practice believed to ensure honesty and justice between disputing parties. Moreover, the presence of *Batee Sumpah* instills moral values, such as honesty and responsibility, in younger generations. Through customary ceremonies and oral traditions passed down across generations, the community continues to preserve this tradition despite the challenges posed by modernization.

*Batee Sumpah* in Seunebok Padang is not merely a historical relic; it also holds profound spiritual significance for the local community. This stone serves as a guardian of tradition, a symbol of morality, and a pillar of harmony in daily life. Its presence bridges the past with the present, strengthening the community's cultural identity while ensuring that ancestral heritage remains preserved and relevant. Beyond its historical imprint, *Batee Sumpah* stands as tangible evidence that the noble values passed down by predecessors continue to be upheld by future generations. In an interview with the Geuchik (village head) of Seunebok Padang, he stated:

“*Batee Sumpah* in Seunebok Padang, known as *Batu Tengku Diba'tee*, is an integral part of a tradition with profound spiritual significance. The stone is

believed to be guarded by a sacred crocodile and is used in rituals to resolve social conflicts. Its presence not only maintains communal harmony but also plays a crucial role in preserving traditions passed down by ancestors. Through the guidance of traditional leaders, *Batee Sumpah* instills values of honesty and responsibility, making it a symbol of wisdom that remains relevant amid the challenges of the modern era.” (Interview with Mahdi HR, Geuchik of Seunebok Padang, November 29, 2024)

*Batee Sumpah* in Seunebok Padang, more commonly known as *Batu Tengku Diba'tee*, holds a significant position in the life of the local community. This stone is not only revered as a cultural heritage but is also believed to possess spiritual power, safeguarded by a mystical entity in the form of a sacred crocodile. In everyday life, *Batee Sumpah* is used in rituals to resolve social conflicts, where individuals involved in disputes take solemn oaths to prove their honesty.

Beyond its physical existence, *Batee Sumpah* serves as a symbol of the preservation of ancestral traditions. The noble values embedded in this stone, such as honesty and respect for customary laws, continue to be upheld by traditional leaders who guide the community in performing these rituals. *Batu Tengku Diba'tee* acts as a bridge between the past and the present, forming the foundation of strong social and cultural resilience for the people of Seunebok Padang.

## 2) The Ritual Form of *Batee Sumpah*

The *Batee Sumpah* ritual in Seuneubok Padang is an integral part of the local customary tradition, playing a crucial role in maintaining social harmony and reinforcing moral values. Additionally, this ritual serves to preserve cultural heritage that has been passed down through generations. Beyond its spiritual significance, the *Batee Sumpah* ritual also functions as a means to strengthen social bonds among community members while ensuring justice and truth within the society. Typically, this ritual is performed in various significant circumstances, such as reaffirming an oath that was inadvertently made or as a mechanism for conflict resolution. The stages of the *Batee Sumpah* ritual include: a. Coordination with Traditional and Religious Leaders, b. Personal Cleansing, c. Ritual Commencement, d. Oath Declaration or Statement, e. Ritual Closure and Consequences of the Oath. Furthermore, in cases where an individual violates their oath, they are required to undergo an oath reaffirmation process to atone for their transgression. The stages of this process include: 1. Admission of Guilt, 2. Ritual Preparation, 3. Collective Prayer, 4. Moral Guidance. By adhering to these structured ceremonial practices, the *Batee Sumpah* ritual remains a vital tradition that upholds ethical values and sustains the communal integrity of Seuneubok Padang.

The involvement of the younger generation in the *Batee Sumpah* ceremony is crucial to ensuring that this tradition remains alive and preserved within the community. Their role can be observed in several aspects, including participation in

the oath-taking ceremony, learning customary values, and maintaining the continuity of traditions. By actively engaging in the *Batee Sumpah* ritual, young individuals become part of the custodians of tradition, playing a vital role in safeguarding customary practices. This engagement ensures that the core values of honesty, responsibility, and solidarity embedded in the ritual are preserved and passed on to future generations. In an interview with a young resident of Seuneubok Padang, he stated:

“In the implementation of the *Batee Sumpah* ceremony, the role of the younger generation is vital. They not only assist in preparing ritual elements such as prayer tools and offerings but also help organize the event and encourage community participation. Through this involvement, they learn important values such as honesty and responsibility, which are imparted by the elders. Consequently, the *Batee Sumpah* tradition can remain alive and relevant, ensuring the continuity of cultural heritage and social harmony within the community.” (Interview with Irhamna, Youth of Seuneubok Padang, November 29, 2024).

From this statement, it can be concluded that the younger generation plays a crucial role in preserving the continuity of the *Batee Sumpah* tradition. Through their involvement, this tradition not only remains alive but also undergoes a regeneration of the noble values embedded within it. By ensuring its preservation, *Batee Sumpah* continues to serve as a significant symbol in maintaining the spiritual, social, and cultural balance of the Seuneubok Padang community.



Figure 3. Researcher in Front of the *Batee Sumpah* Monument

## 2. The Social Impact of the *Batee Sumpah* Ritual on Society

### a. The Influence of the *Batee Sumpah* Ritual

The *Batee Sumpah* ritual in Seuneubok Padang is not merely a religious ceremony but also serves as a crucial element that shapes social structures and interpersonal relationships. This tradition is deeply embedded in the daily lives of the community, reinforcing not only the spiritual connection between individuals and God but also strengthening social bonds among community members. The people of Seuneubok Padang perceive this ritual as a valuable opportunity to gather, interact, and share profound moral values, ultimately preserving and enhancing social harmony.



Through participation in the *Batee Sumpah* ritual, community members not only reaffirm their commitment to moral principles such as honesty, responsibility, and purity but also strengthen existing social relationships. This ritual serves as a means to cultivate a sense of solidarity and collective cooperation, which are highly valued in the cultural fabric of Seunebok Padang society. Furthermore, by honoring the sacredness of *Batee Sumpah*, individuals are encouraged to reflect and renew their commitment to the common good, ultimately enriching social interactions and reinforcing emotional bonds among community members. The following is an interview with Tengku Imam of the local mosque, who stated that:

“According to Tengku Imam’s explanation, the *Batee Sumpah* ritual plays a crucial role in strengthening social bonds within the Seunebok Padang community. This ritual extends beyond a mere religious ceremony, as it serves as a medium through which community members instill values such as honesty and responsibility, ultimately reinforcing social cohesion. The sense of unity fostered through this tradition enables conflicts to be resolved peacefully. Additionally, the ritual contributes to the preservation of cultural identity and the continuation of traditions passed down through generations. The *Batee Sumpah* ritual also cultivates a strong sense of pride and enhances connections with external communities”. (Interview with Muhammad Wali, Tengku Imam of the Mosque, November 30, 2024).

Based on the interview with Tengku Imam regarding the *Batee Sumpah* ritual in Seunebok Padang, several key conclusions can be drawn that highlight its significant social impact on the community. The *Batee Sumpah* ritual has a profound influence on interpersonal relationships among the residents of Seunebok Padang. Through this ritual, the community gathers and shares moral values such as honesty and responsibility, thereby strengthening social bonds and mutual trust. This ceremony provides an opportunity for residents to deepen their relationships, which in turn fosters social harmony within the village.

The *Batee Sumpah* ritual has a positive impact on the community’s social life. It enhances solidarity and togetherness while reinforcing commitment to moral values. Additionally, the ritual contributes to conflict resolution by encouraging peaceful problem-solving and reminding the community of the importance of mutual respect. Following the *Batee Sumpah* ritual, there is a noticeable shift in social interactions, with an increased sense of unity and solidarity among residents. The oaths taken before the *Batee Sumpah* reinforce adherence to moral principles, reducing social tensions and fostering a more harmonious and respectful communal environment.

Furthermore, the *Batee Sumpah* ritual also influences the community’s relationships with external groups. The dignity and respect demonstrated during the ritual enhance the village’s reputation in the eyes of outsiders. Participation in this ceremony strengthens social ties with external parties involved and expands the village’s social networks. Additionally, the ritual plays a crucial role in reinforcing the identity of the Seunebok Padang community. Through this tradition, core values such as honesty,

responsibility, and integrity are transmitted across generations. The ritual fosters a collective sense of pride and fortifies social cohesion, while simultaneously preserving cultural heritage and shaping a strong and cohesive community identity.

b. The Role of *Batee Sumpah* in Preserving Traditional Values within the Community

The *Batee Sumpah* ritual in Seunebok Padang plays a crucial role in preserving the continuity of traditional values that have been passed down from generation to generation. In its practice, this ritual serves as a reminder of the moral principles that underpin communal life, such as honesty, responsibility, and integrity. These values not only form the foundation of the local culture but also function as guiding principles that the community continues to uphold in their daily lives. The ritual is not merely a ceremonial event; rather, it serves as a medium for fostering a sense of pride in cultural heritage and reinforcing the community's collective identity (Hindaryatiningsih, 2017).

Furthermore, this ritual serves as a symbol of solidarity, strengthening interpersonal relationships within the community. Through collective participation, residents ensure that this tradition remains relevant and respected by each generation. For the younger members of the community, their involvement in the ritual becomes a crucial moment to learn from the elders, allowing them to understand and internalize the moral values that have long guided communal life. Thus, *Batee Sumpah* not only preserves the continuity of tradition but also serves as a means of passing down knowledge and shaping the character of future generations. The continuation of this ritual helps the people of Seunebok Padang maintain their cultural identity despite the currents of change and the challenges of modern times. The following is an interview with the Tuha Peut (village elders) of Seunebok Padang:

“According to the Tuha Peut, community participation, especially among the younger generation, in the *Batee Sumpah* ritual is essential for strengthening social relationships in Seunebok Padang. Their involvement in the preparation and execution of the ceremony not only fosters a sense of togetherness but also reinforces mutual trust among residents. This ritual serves as a medium for instilling moral values such as honesty and responsibility, which contribute to maintaining social harmony. Moreover, the *Batee Sumpah* ritual plays a crucial role in preserving traditions and reinforcing the community's cultural identity, as younger generations learn from the elders to ensure the continuity of their cultural heritage”. (Interview with Safrial Nur, Tuha Peut of Seunebok Padang, November 30, 2024)

The *Batee Sumpah* ritual plays a crucial role in strengthening social bonds in Seunebok Padang, particularly through the active participation of the community, especially the younger generation. Their involvement in preparing and conducting the ceremony fosters a sense of togetherness, reinforcing mutual trust among residents. Furthermore, this ritual imparts moral values such as honesty and responsibility, which serve as the foundation of social harmony within the community. Through its practice,

younger generations not only learn from village elders but also gain the opportunity to preserve traditions and reinforce their cultural identity. Thus, the *Batee Sumpah* ritual not only ensures the continuity of local cultural heritage but also maintains its relevance amidst societal changes, ensuring that these noble values remain alive and are passed on to future generations.

c. The Involvement of Religious and Traditional Leaders

The *Batee Sumpah* ritual in Seunebok Padang has a significant impact on the status and role of traditional and religious leaders within the community. As key figures in this ritual, these leaders not only serve as guardians of traditional values but also as maintainers of social harmony. They are highly respected by the community, as they are regarded as moral and spiritual symbols who uphold the sacredness of the ritual (Istiyanto & Sunarti, 2022). In fulfilling their responsibilities, traditional and religious leaders gain considerable trust and respect, further strengthening their position within society. This ritual, with its profound significance, provides them with an opportunity to assert their authority as protectors of cultural and moral values, which are deeply revered by the community. Therefore, through the implementation of the *Batee Sumpah* ritual, the status of traditional and religious leaders in Seunebok Padang becomes even more established, and they play a crucial role in maintaining social stability while preserving the cultural values that have been passed down through generations. The following is an interview with Tengku (Religious Leader) regarding the *Batee Sumpah* ritual in Seunebok Padang:

“The *Batee Sumpah* ritual plays a crucial role in strengthening social relationships in Seunebok Padang, particularly through the active involvement of traditional leaders. Their participation in the preparation and execution of this ritual reinforces communal solidarity and mutual trust among residents. Through this ritual, values such as honesty and responsibility are instilled, which in turn sustain social harmony and preserve traditions. Traditional leaders, through their roles, ensure that existing cultural values remain alive and relevant for future generations.” (Interview with Johan Harun, Religious Leader of Seunebok Padang, November 30, 2024)

The *Batee Sumpah* ritual in Seunebok Padang plays a crucial role in strengthening social relationships among community members. Traditional leaders hold a central role in leading and preparing the ceremony, fostering a strong sense of togetherness within the community. Their involvement reinforces social bonds and mutual trust, contributing to greater communal harmony. Moreover, this ritual imparts essential moral values, such as honesty and responsibility, teaching the community the importance of maintaining social cohesion. Under the guidance of traditional leaders, the cultural values embedded within this ritual are preserved and passed down to future generations, ensuring both the continuity of tradition and its relevance in the future.

### 3. *Reasons the Community Preserves the Sacredness of Batee Sumpah*

#### a. *Preserving the Sacredness of Batee Sumpah*

For the community, the sacredness of *Batee Sumpah* is preserved because it is believed to possess mystical power, serving as a guarantor of social harmony, a mediator in conflicts, and a protector of the village. As evidenced by an interview with a Tengku who plays a role in administering the oath:

“The sacredness of *Batee Sumpah* in Seunebok Padang plays a crucial role in preserving the community’s cultural and social values. This stone is not merely a symbol of historical heritage but also serves as a reminder of the importance of honesty, responsibility, and solidarity. Traditional and religious leaders act as guardians of this tradition, while the participation of younger generations in the ritual is key to its continuity. If the sacredness of *Batee Sumpah* is not maintained, the community risks losing its cultural identity and weakening social solidarity, which could ultimately impact collective well-being.” (Interview with Ibnu Hajar, Religious Leader of Seunebok Padang, November 30, 2024)

*Batee Sumpah* in Seunebok Padang plays a crucial role in preserving the community's cultural and social values. This stone is not merely a historical symbol but also serves as a medium for instilling values such as honesty, responsibility, and solidarity, which form the foundation of harmonious relationships among residents. Traditional and religious leaders play a vital role in safeguarding this tradition, ensuring that these values remain intact despite the passage of time and societal changes.

#### b. *Motivating the Preservation of Traditions Related to Batee Sumpah*

The motivation of the Seunebok Padang community to preserve the *Batee Sumpah* tradition is influenced by several key factors that reflect their collective awareness of cultural and social values. First, the community holds a strong sense of duty to safeguard and maintain their cultural identity and ancestral heritage. Second, the *Batee Sumpah* tradition embodies moral values highly esteemed by the community, such as honesty, responsibility, and integrity. These values are not only regarded as guiding principles for life but also serve as the foundation for building strong individual character and ensuring collective well-being within the community.

Moreover, *Batee Sumpah* is considered a spiritually significant site, even believed to have been a place of worship for Aulia Allah (saints of God). This belief adds a sacred dimension to the tradition, further reinforcing the community’s commitment to preserving *Batee Sumpah* as a symbol of sanctity and a place of reverence. Thus, the motivation of the Seunebok Padang community to sustain the *Batee Sumpah* tradition is rooted in their responsibility to protect cultural heritage, the significance of moral values in social life, and the drive to strengthen social bonds and solidarity within the community. In an interview with a resident of Seunebok Padang, Mr. Khairuddin stated:

“The people of Seunebok Padang feel responsible for preserving the *Batee Sumpah* tradition due to their collective awareness of the importance of cultural and social values. They regard *Batee Sumpah* as a historical symbol that connects

them to their ancestors. This sacred stone teaches honesty, responsibility, and integrity, which strengthen individual character and contribute to the community's well-being. Furthermore, as it is believed to have been a place where an Aulia Allah once performed prayers, the community strives to uphold its sanctity.” (Interview with Khairuddin, Resident of Seunebok Padang, November 30, 2024)

The community of Seunebok Padang feels a strong responsibility to preserve the *Batee Sumpah* tradition due to their collective awareness of the significance of cultural and social values. They regard *Batee Sumpah* as a historical symbol that connects them to their ancestors and as a heritage that must be safeguarded to maintain their cultural identity. This tradition is believed to strengthen social bonds among community members and reinforce moral values in communal life.

#### 4. Reasons for Involving the Younger Generation in Preserving Sacredness

The reasons for involving the younger generation in preserving the sacredness of *Batee Sumpah* can be observed from three key aspects:

a. Lack of Active Participation from the Younger Generation

Although efforts have been made to involve the younger generation in the *Batee Sumpah* ritual, their participation remains suboptimal. This poses a challenge, as the younger generation is responsible for preserving this tradition (Lubis, 2020). Modernization and changing times often divert their attention from the values embedded in *Batee Sumpah*. Without active involvement, this tradition risks losing its significance and relevance in the future.

b. Lack of In-Depth Understanding

One of the key reasons why the involvement of the younger generation is crucial is the declining understanding of the values embedded in the *Batee Sumpah* tradition. Without adequate education on the significance of *Batee Sumpah* and the moral values it conveys, the younger generation may fail to fully appreciate and preserve this cultural heritage (Pohan et al., 2022). Therefore, more in-depth education is essential to instill a strong awareness of these values.

c. Limited Direct Experience

The involvement of the younger generation in the *Batee Sumpah* ceremony provides them with the opportunity to directly experience the values and meanings embedded in this tradition. Without active participation, they may not develop a deep emotional and spiritual connection to the tradition. Direct experience also strengthens their sense of responsibility in preserving and safeguarding this cultural heritage.



#### D. Conclusion

*Batee Sumpah* in Seuneubok Padang is not merely a physical object but a sacred symbol that plays a crucial role in maintaining social order and resolving conflicts. Its existence reflects the community's deep-rooted belief in moral and spiritual values passed down by their ancestors. Through oath-taking rituals, *Batee Sumpah* serves as a social mechanism that reinforces honesty, responsibility, and solidarity within the community. This tradition not only strengthens communal bonds but also engages younger generations in preserving noble values. By safeguarding the sanctity of *Batee Sumpah*, the people of Seuneubok Padang demonstrate that preserving cultural heritage can serve as a guiding principle for building a harmonious and sustainable society amidst the challenges of modernization.

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