

Irony and mysticism: the role of "panakawan" in the Javanese shadow play (wayang)

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Abstrak

Panakawan is indeed a unique type of characters in Javanese shadow play (wayang). They are figures of the wayang theatre, the appearance of whom are usually accompanied by the laughter of the audience due to their physical ugliness, their characters and their behaviours. This essay will put forth, firstly, how the panakawan have been ridiculing the nature of human being, including their own selves. Secondly, that of even the brahmanas and ksatrias, due to their being "the sons of God".