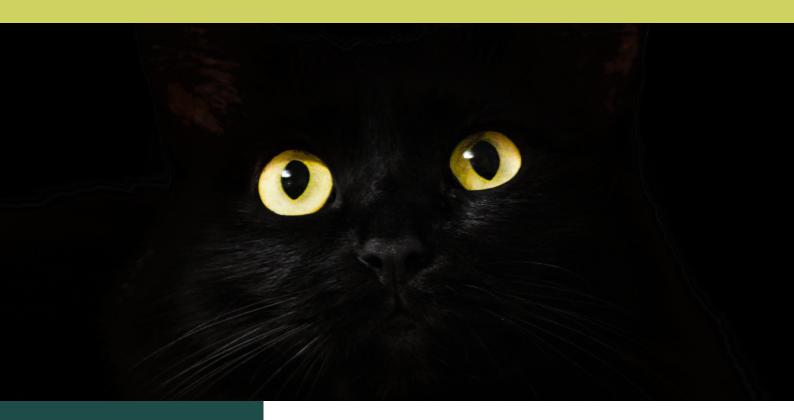
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INSIGHT

WTC COMMUNITY WEEKLY





Superstitious

Despite technological advancement and scientific findings, some of the customs in Indonesia are deeply rooted in superstitious beliefs.

Examples vary: asking for permission by saying "excuse me" when urinating on a tree, honk while passing a bridge, not wearing the colour green at Parangtritis beach, not playing outside after Maghrib for kids etc,

There are thousands of superstitions commonly believed by Indonesians, which is no surprise since the country is the home of more than 1,300 ethnic groups with diverse cultural backgrounds that gave birth to the country's wide array of folklores, legends, myths, taboos and even witchcraft.

Some of them are common, and are shared by many different communities globally, such as how opening an umbrella indoors will cause someone to die, which supposedly originated from an ancient Egyptian belief that doing so—away from the sun's rays—would anger the Sun God, Ra.

While some are no longer relevant over time, those associated with negative consequences are here to stay. Perhaps not so much because people believe it, but because it doesn't take a lot of effort and they just want to play it safe.

Do you have any superstitions you still hold dear?

Yours truly,