



# The Philosophical Meaning of Kue Kucur and Lupis in Traditional Rituals as a Representation of Resilience to Natural Disasters

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## Abstract:

*Indonesia has an abundant cultural wealth in various aspects of life, including traditional culinary that plays a role in existing traditional rituals. This study aims to discuss the philosophical meaning of cucur and lupis cakes in the traditional rituals of the Ranon Village community and their relationship to resilience to natural disasters, especially earthquakes. Cucur cakes symbolize prosperity, togetherness, and mutual cooperation, while lupis cakes symbolize steadfastness, resilience, and hard work, according to the results of the study. In addition, making these two cakes together teaches the value of social collaboration in facing difficulties, such as natural disasters. The process of making cucur and lupis cakes can be analogized with an earthquake, this shows that there is a relationship between traditional foods and disaster mitigation methods based on local wisdom. This study shows that preserving traditional foods helps maintain cultural heritage and strengthen social resilience.*

**Keywords:** Cucur cake, Lupis cake, Traditional rituals, Disaster resilience, Local wisdom.

## Abstrak:

Indonesia memiliki kekayaan budaya yang melimpah dalam berbagai aspek kehidupan, termasuk kuliner tradisional yang berperan dalam ritual adat yang ada. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk membahas makna filosofis kue cucur dan lupis dalam ritual adat masyarakat Desa Ranon serta keterkaitannya dengan ketahanan terhadap bencana alam, khususnya gempa bumi. Kue cucur melambangkan kesejahteraan, kebersamaan, dan gotong royong, sedangkan kue lupis melambangkan keistiqomahan, ketahanan, dan kerja keras, menurut hasil penelitian. Selain itu, membuat kedua kue ini bersama-sama mengajarkan nilai kolaborasi sosial dalam menghadapi kesulitan, seperti bencana alam. Proses pembuatan kue cucur dan lupis dapat dianalogikan dengan gempa bumi, hal ini menunjukkan bahwa ada hubungan antara makanan tradisional dengan metode mitigasi bencana yang didasarkan pada kearifan lokal. Penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa pelestarian makanan tradisional membantu menjaga warisan budaya dan memperkuat ketahanan sosial.

## Kata Kunci:

Kue cucur, Kue lupis, Ritual adat, Ketahanan bencana, Kearifan lokal.

## INTRODUCTION

Indonesia has a rich culture that is reflected in various aspects of community life, including in traditional cuisine. Typical foods not only serve as daily consumption but also have a deep symbolic value in various traditional rituals. Traditional cakes are often used in traditional ceremonies as part of traditions passed down through generations. (SHELEMO, 2023, p. 104) In many cultures in Indonesia, traditional foods have philosophical meanings that reflect life values, such as resilience, togetherness, and well-being. Some types of food are even associated with hopes and prayers for the

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safety of the community, especially in the face of various life challenges, including natural disasters. (Penebangan et al., 2024)

In Probolinggo, such traditional rituals are also still very strong, one of which is in Ranon Village. Ranon Village is one of the villages that is still strong in maintaining its traditional traditions, including the use of traditional food in traditional rituals. For example, kue cucur is a round-shaped cake with a variation of a circle in the middle that is coloured like gorong, sweet and fat. This cake is often used by the Rejang tribe as a side dish in remembrance or tholibun events. In addition, lupis cake is a Betawi speciality made from sticky rice wrapped in banana leaves and cooked until done. It is usually served topped with grated coconut and liquid brown sugar, creating a distinctive combination of sweet and savoury flavours.

Kue cucur and lupis in Ranon Village have a philosophical meaning in traditional rituals as a representation of natural disaster resilience, especially earthquakes. The meaning of kue cucur in Ranon Village is a symbol of prosperity and blessings that come to the community. Usually this cake is made when there are harvest events, tasyakuran events, and earthquakes. If the round shape symbolises need and unity, if the golden colour symbolises prosperity and profit. The way it is made together illustrates the spirit of gotong royong that is the basis of the community here. The process of making it together is important in strengthening the relationship between residents and each other, especially when there is a big event. (Interview, 2025) In the context of earthquakes, kue cucur is a symbol of recovery and blessing after a disaster. With the round shape of kue cucur, it shows that people can co-operate and unite in the face of a difficult situation. (Kastanya, 2019)

The meaning of kue lupis senidir is that this lupis is a sign of hard work, keistiqomahan, and gratitude for all that has been given by Allah SWT. This cake is usually available during events related to gratitude during harvests and earthquakes. We make the cake very carefully, not only carefully, the sense of patience is also there when the cake is made. So that it can teach us not to rush into action. (Interview, 2025)

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

This research aims to explore the philosophical meaning of kucur and lupis cakes in traditional rituals as a reflection of community resilience to natural disasters. By understanding this traditional culinary symbolism, it is hoped that cultural values can be found that can be used as inspiration in strengthening social resilience amid increasingly complex environmental challenges. meaning rather than generalisation. (Safrudin et al., 2023) The methods used in this research are observation and interviews. Observation can be interpreted as one of the data collection techniques which is more specific than other techniques. (Pramono & Waluyo, 2023) Interviews according to Sugiyono, are used as a data collection technique if the researcher wants to conduct a preliminary study to find problems that must be studied, but also if the researcher wants to know things from respondents that are more in-depth. (Sompotan et al., 2023)

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

According to Mr Hori and Mrs Hori, kue cucur is a part of the custom that has existed for a long time. Kue cucur is not just for food, but has a deep meaning. It symbolises the welfare and blessings that come to the community. Usually this cake is made when there are harvest events, tasyakuran events, and earthquakes. If the round shape symbolises need and unity, if the golden colour symbolises prosperity and profit. And also the cucur cake is made together, every family must help when making cucur cake, so that it can strengthen brotherhood, it's not just about cucur cake but how the event provides lessons together. (Interview, 2025)

According to Mrs Hori, if you make kue cucur here, it is not just a habit but a custom here to make morals. How to make it together so that it illustrates the spirit of gotong royong which is the basis of the community here. The process of making using a joint method is important in strengthening the relationship between residents with one another, especially if there is a big event. This custom is not only for the elderly but children can also be included so that children know how to make and also know what meaning is in the cucur cake. We hope that the next generation can continue this custom if they have a sense of pride and respect for the customary heritage that already exists. (Interview, 2025)

According to Mr Imron, lupis has a very deep meaning here. This cake is usually available during events related to gratitude during harvests and earthquakes. We make the cake very carefully, not only carefully, the sense of patience is also there when the cake is made. So that it can teach us not to rush in doing things. And also appreciate every effort made. The sticky rice used in the lupis symbolises seriousness and persistence, besides that lupis is often given to neighbours and relatives as a symbol and also teaches us about giving and cooperation in this village. (Interview, 2025)

According to Ibu Hori, lupis is inseparable from events, every time there is a traditional event or a grand event lupis must be there. According to us, lupis is a sign of hard work, keistiqomahan, and gratitude for all that has been given by Allah SWT. Here, traditional lupis is made using glutinous rice that has been grated and wrapped in banana leaves and cooked in a way that the community has known for a long time. The method of making it is done together, because we believe that everything we get is done together. When children see how lupis are made, they learn that a good result requires a lot of effort. This has become a custom, because lupis is not only preserving typical food but maintaining the values of hard work and patience. (Interview, 2025) Kue cucur and lupis have a deep philosophical meaning in traditional rituals, according to interviews with a number of community leaders in Ranon Village. These two traditional culinary delicacies serve as both dishes and symbols of social, cultural and spiritual values that assist in disaster interpretation and response in the context of resilience to natural disasters, particularly earthquakes.

The results show that kue cucur symbolises prosperity and togetherness, while lupis contains the values of keistiqomahan and resilience. Both foods are always present in traditional events related to gratitude and post-disaster recovery, especially earthquakes. In addition, the process of making them in gotong royong emphasises

the importance of cooperation and social solidarity in dealing with the impact of disasters.

### **A. The Philosophical Meaning of Kue Cucur and Kue Lupis in Ranon Village**

#### **1. Kue Cucur as a Symbol of Prosperity and Unity**

Mr Hori and Mrs Hori said that kue cucur is an important part of the customs of the people of Ranon Village. They are not just food, they have a deep meaning of welfare and blessings given to the community.

In the context of the earthquake, kue cucur is a symbol of recovery and blessings after the disaster. With the round shape of kue cucur, it shows that people can work together and unite in the face of a difficult situation. (Kastanya, 2019) In addition, the golden colour of kue cucur symbolises the prosperity and benefits that will come after the natural disaster. (Raodah, 2015)

The process of gotong royong in making kue cucur is also a symbol of social resilience in the face of natural disasters. Ultimately, the community believes that working together can strengthen social bonds, which are crucial for recovery after an earthquake. (Dirman et al., 2023) This tradition is also passed down to children as a way to teach them the value of togetherness and social care that must be maintained. So the existence of this kue cucur is not just about making it but there are meanings in it that need to be understood such as, solidarity, togetherness, cooperation, social care to be real evidence in overcoming natural disasters that will occur.

#### **2. Lupis as a Symbol of Prosperity and Strength**

Mr Imron, on the other hand, stated that lupis cake has a very deep meaning towards resilience for natural disasters. Lupis is also often present in thanksgiving events to show gratitude, such as after a harvest or an earthquake. In addition to the manufacturing process that requires patience and precision, this cake teaches people to be patient and persevere in the face of difficulties. (Yuliani et al., 2022).

Lupis also serves as a symbol of prosperity and community strength. (Rosidin, 2016) Because this food is often shared with relatives and neighbours as a sign of social solidarity. The sticky rice used in making lupis also depicts determination and togetherness. This symbol shows that people must remain strong and help each other when facing natural disasters.

In addition, Ibu Hori emphasises that lupis are made in a traditional way that has been passed down from generation to generation. The process of making them together shows the importance of hard work and cooperation in facing challenges. By seeing and participating in the making of lupis, the children learnt that anything worthwhile can only be obtained with great effort; this is an important lesson that helps build resilience to disasters.

### **B. Kue cucur and kue lupis as representations of earthquakes**

The shape and formation process of kue cucur can serve as a representation of an earthquake. The bubbling centre represents the hypocenter (initial point of energy release) of an earthquake, and the indented edges represent seismic waves spreading to the surface. The pressure within the earth that triggers the movement of tectonic plates before causing an earthquake can be compared to the frying process that causes the dough to rise in the centre due to heat pressure. (Porwanto, 2022).

Meanwhile, the lupis cake shows the movement and interaction between tectonic plates. Its triangular shape resembles how plates can overlap or press against each other before energy is released, and its chewy texture reflects the elasticity of the earth's crust under pressure before it finally breaks and causes an earthquake. The coconut sprinkles that glue some of the cake pieces together can also show how the movement of interconnected plates creates earthquakes. (Chandra, 2022)  
So the existence of kue cucur and lupis is a logical analogy that reflects a phenomenon of earthquakes that could happen.

## CONCLUSION

This research emphasised the philosophical meanings of kue cucur and lupis in the traditional rituals of the Ranon Village community, which illustrate social resilience to natural disasters, especially earthquakes. The results show that these two traditional foods are not only eaten in traditional events, but also have strong symbolism of well-being, unity, hard work and resilience. In the community, kue cucur symbolises well-being and togetherness.

Meanwhile, lupis cake contains the value of persistence and resilience. Its sticky texture symbolises determination and patience in facing challenges. The tradition of distributing lupis to relatives and neighbours reflects the spirit of sharing and social care that strengthens community relations in the face of disaster. In addition, this study found that kue cucur and lupis can be interpreted as representations of earthquakes. Therefore, preserving kue cucur and lupis not only preserves culinary heritage, but also preserves cultural values that help communities defend themselves in the face of challenges, such as natural disasters. This research is expected to provide insights for cultural research and disaster mitigation based on local wisdom.

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