

Brahala Putih

Date

1992

Primary Maker

Enthus Susmono

Medium

Water buffalo hide, water-based paint and dyes, ancur, water buffalo horn, gold leaf, wood

Description

Shadow puppet, very large male figure with white skin and fiery orange-gray hair. Arms and torso are wrapped with purple and green snakes, batik skirt with ruffle decoration. Gold fanged mouth, long fingernails.'

Performer and Designer: Ki Enthus Susmono Artist:

Rasimin Place and Date Made: Surakarta, 1992

Brahala Putih (Very Large White Giant) is the character

Puntadéwa, the eldest of the five Pandhawa brothers.

Puntadéwa is said to have white blood and the ability to

transform into the fierce but rational Brahala Putih. In the Mahabharata episode, "Déwa Amral" [The Story of Déwa Amral; Puntadéwa Transformed into a Giant] Puntadéwa becomes Brahala Putih to spiritually connect with the mighty Brahala Ireng, who is Kresna transformed into a furious Black Giant. Kresna and Puntadéwa are cousins and close friends Brahala Putih is able to calm Brahala Ireng, bring him back to his senses and stop him from destroying everything in his path. Brahala Putih also appears in "Pandhawa Pitu" [The Seven Pandhawas: The Story of Sumbadra and Srikandhi] Brahala Putih and his counterpart Brahala Ireng, are from the Yogyakarta tradition. Today, they are popularly used by many Solo-style dhalang who enjoy them either for display on the banana log or for use in performances.

Dimensions

Overall: 49 5/8 x 26 3/4 in. (126 x 68 cm)

