



A SLICE OF THE GODS

METATAH (tooth-filing)

*...Ritual tooth-filing is believed to help control six bad traits, called **sad ripu**, that can lead to unhappiness in life...*

Tooth-filing or *metatah* is an important Hindu Balinese rite of passage. Every parent who has a child who has reached adolescence is obliged to carry out this ritual. If someone dies before having the *metatah* rituals, his family must perform this ritual before the body is cremated.

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KOMANEKA FINE ART GALLERY



Winged Lion Statue

...Art is infinite possibility...

Why should a lion not have wings if it adds to his majesty? In Bali, where art is deeply related to the religious practices of the Hindu Balinese, mythological creatures abound, from temple art to funerary biers and guardian effigies. One of the most prevalent magical beasts in all these forms is the winged lion (*singa bersayap*).

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WHAT TO READ



HONEYMOON CHIC: ASIA

"Everybody loves a lover"
- Doris Days song

There is no denying that some Asian Destinations are particularly made for romance. Bali has it all: chic resorts, secluded beaches, terraced rice fields and lush green highlands with enough mysticism, culture and traditions to impress even the most jaded traveler.

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A SLICE OF THE GODS

***METATAH*** (tooth-filing)

Tooth-filing or *metatah* is an important Hindu Balinese rite of passage. Every parent who has a child who has reached adolescence is obliged to carry out this ritual. If someone dies before having the *metatah* rituals, his family must perform this ritual before the body is cremated.

Ritual tooth-filing is believed to help control six bad traits, called *sad ripu*, that can lead to unhappiness in life. They are: lust, greed, anger, confusion, drunkenness, and jealousy.

The *metatah* ceremony is conducted in the family home, and is as lavish as the family can afford. The house is beautifully decorated in colorful textiles, and the candidates dress as if for a wedding. Indeed, the ritual is often carried out in association with other large family ceremonies, such as a wedding or cremation, and often in groups of six children or more.

In the actual tooth-filing, the tips of the top front six teeth are filed crosswise so that the teeth are even. This is done by a priest or other ritually qualified person, and it entails prayers and offerings. At the start of the ceremony, the child will ask for blessings on both parents. The tooth-filing is performed while the child is lying down on elaborate cloths; often the mother holds the feet. It is not painful, but many report a shivery feeling. At the end of the ritual, the youngster will be given an object to bite representing six flavors: sweet, bitter, sour, salty, spicy, and astringent. This is as a symbol that the child is ready to feel all the flavors that will be experienced in life.

Metatah is one of the many rituals still carried out by the Balinese Hindu community. As a part of Balinese society, Komaneka participates in the preservation of traditional culture, and we are happy to share this with our guests.

[back to Top](#)

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KOMANEKA FINE ART GALLERY



Winged Lion Statue

Why should a lion not have wings if it adds to his majesty? In Bali, where art is deeply related to the religious practices of the Hindu Balinese, mythological creatures abound, from temple art to funerary biers and guardian effigies. One of the most prevalent magical beasts in all these forms is the winged lion (*singa bersayap*). In traditional Balinese architecture it may be carved in stone as a plinth, or in wood as a king-post ornamentation.

The lion statue is a symbol of the ability to destroy the evil forces of asubha karma. In Balinese legend, the lion is the king of the forest. It is believed to be a protector and is usually associated in the form of Barong Ket as a symbol of goodness able to destroy, or counter-balance, evil. The city of Singaraja, on the north coast of Bali, has adopted the winged lion as its symbol, celebrated in the famous Singa Ambara Raja statue.

When you are exploring Bali, keep an eye out for the winged lion in traditional architecture. And you might find some around Komaneka Resorts.

[back to Top](#)

WHAT TO READ



HONEYMOON CHIC: ASIA

“Everybody loves a lover”
- Doris Days song

Honeymooner and romantic holidays come in all shapes and sizes, and what you and your lover end up doing on your getaway depends on what you enjoy together – walking along an empty beach, discovering a new city, climbing a mountain, exploring the wilderness, or experiencing a hybrid of several locations and activities. As the old Doris Days song goes, “Everybody loves a lover”. You will be amazed to find that no matter where you go, other people often get swept up in your enthusiasm for one another. It is the perfect opportunity to make the most of the romantic vacation possibilities on offer throughout Asia.

There is no denying that some Asian Destinations are particularly made for romance. Bali has it all: chic resorts, secluded beaches, terraced rice fields and lush green highlands with enough mysticism, culture and traditions to impress even the most jaded traveler. The abiding sense of history, beauty, culture and refinement found in ancient places such as Kyoto, Angkor Wat and Luang Prabang put them in a league of their own. Huge cities like Hong Kong, Bangkok, Seoul and Singapore offer an excitement, vibrancy and bustle that are infectious. Moreover, who could deny the appeal of one of the great testaments to love ever built, the Taj Mahal?

Some couples relish traditional romantic activities. Walk hand-in-hand along a deserted beach in the moonlight while sharing your dreams and wishing upon stars. Soak in a bathtub with scented bubble bath, surrounded by the glow of lots and lots candles. Take a sleigh ride through the snowy countryside and then warm up by a roaring fireplace. Active outdoor couples are more likely to dive straight into adrenaline adventures like skydiving, mountain climbing, bungee jumping or snowboarding. Still others choose the glam route: gourmet dinners, all-night dancing and endless shopping offered by big cities.

[back to Top](#)