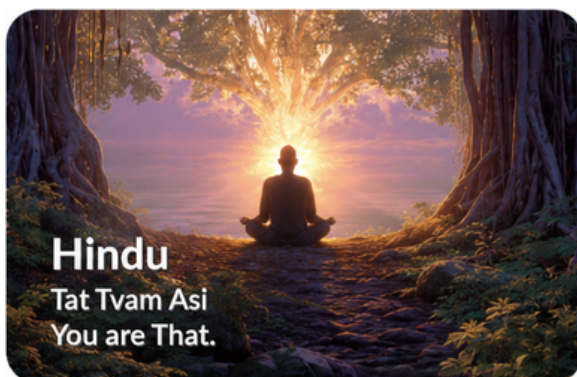


Philosophical Foundations and Life Values

From Paticca Samuppāda to Interbeing in Nusantara

Vesak Festival 2026 is rooted in the Buddha's teaching on *paticca samuppāda*—that everything arises because of interrelated causes and conditions. “When this exists, that comes to be.” No life stands alone.

This understanding is expressed in a contemporary way through the concept of *interbeing*: that to exist always means to inter-exist. From this awareness, compassion, social responsibility, and ecological care grow naturally. The values of *interbeing* are universal and present in various traditions:



In Indonesia, this value lives within Nusantara wisdom: *gotong royong*, *Tri Hita Karana*, and the practice of living in harmony with nature. Vesak Festival 2026 bridges Buddhist teachings with interfaith and cultural values, making it an inclusive meeting space relevant to modern society.



We are invited to understand that what in Buddhist teachings is called *emptiness (sunyatā)* is not a void that separates humans from the world, but an open space of awareness for seeing the interconnection of all things clearly. Within the framework of *paticca samuppāda* and *interbeing*, emptiness actually reveals the reality that no human life, society, or nature stands alone. Everything exists because of causes and conditions that support one another, forming a living and dynamic web of life.

From this space of awareness, we learn to see life as it is, without attachment to ego, narrow interests, or exploitative ways of viewing nature. When humans realize that they are formed by relationships—by the soil they cultivate, the water that flows, the air they breathe, and the communities that support them—wisdom emerges for living more harmoniously with the environment. From the perspective of *interbeing*, harming nature means harming the web of life that also supports our own happiness.