

The Ilmu of Untung Surapati is about collecting power, and transformation. It has two fundamental aspects- receptive and creative, female and male.

The receptive aspect of the Ilmu allows us to be open to various influences. We identify different spiritual forces which may have something to teach us, or empower us with. These can be the four elements, ancestral spirits, or forces of nature. We are connected to all of these through Al-Batin, which is also connected to all these other things. We can then have a direct epiphany of these forces. This epiphany can influence us in the moment (how we move, etc.) and it can also influence the fundamental way we see the world. Having contact with such forces is transformational.

This receptive knowledge also allows us to create sympathetic connections with things, and perceive sympathetic connections between things. Once we have established such a connection, we can anticipate actions, and even influence actions.

The creative aspect of the Ilmu allows us to transform our reality. We condition the future, so that it will manifest a new situation which we need or want. This could be a personal transformation of the self, transformation of our life circumstance, or the creation of a certain event or phenomenon. We already perform this creative aspect right now, we just do not understand the dynamics which make it work. The Surapati Ilmu makes the mechanism explicit, so we can do what we are already doing, only with proper intention. The result is that our own natural power is more under our conscious control.

So there is a transformation which is achieved by harmonizing with and learning from certain forces in nature, and mentioned that we identify them. Pendekar Sanders says that this process of identification is done through the 'doctrine of signatures'.

When we observe the natural world, we see correspondences- patterns, shapes, process and events which have things in common. This lets us know what things can be useful in helping or teaching us. The doctrine of signatures is what allows us to know which Ilmu a keris is good for by looking at its pamur.

The Surapati Ilmu also contains certain sets of traditional mantras which enable the process of calling energies, and these are an important part of the lineage.

Because of the doctrine of signatures, the five-petal flower has a special significance in the Ilmu- it represents the five elements. It also represents the four siblings, with us in the middle. There are various meditations to perform with it, and various ways to ingest it, bathe in it, or use its essence.

Trees are also significant. They are rooted to the earth, and reach towards the heavens, so they symbolically participate in all realms of being. Trees

absorb the energy of the surrounding area, and the competent practitioner can tap into this store of wisdom and energy. Trees also act as giant antennas, magnifying our prayers, thoughts and mantras. Rituals done with the help of trees are much more effective than those done without it.

The Ilmu of Untung Surapati is about transformation, and collecting power. One must be open, balanced, and responsive to life. This means being in a constant state of transformation. But more than that, we transform ourselves by aligning with different powers. Surapati himself was able to transform into a Tiger. He grew physically larger, his clothes split from his body. This is the story they tell of him at his gravesite in Claper village. He never forgot the Hindu roots of his powers, and his main power was the power to transform himself.

Transformation is evolution, it is learning, it is life. We only have two choices- we move forward or we move backwards. If you aren't progressing, you're regressing.

It is the same with collecting power. The amount of personal power you have is always in flux, and if you aren't expanding your power, it is diminishing. We are always either generating or losing power, there is no other choice. An important part of Ilmu is teaching various ways of gathering power from different sources.

When we are born we already have a certain degree of power- it is genetic. The rest we generate by breathing, and transforming food and drink, and this replenishes the natural pool we were born with.

Gathering an excess of power gives special abilities. You can live a long, healthy life, you can heal others, or you could drain another person's energy long enough to defeat them, or simply escape. Energy attracts other energy, so if you have more than your opponent, it is easier to draw his and consume it for yourself.

So the key ideas are transformation and gathering power.