

Notes on Weyewa Stone

Wey(j)ewa live on island of Sumba, part of Eastern Indonesia. Small agricultural settlements where grow rice, maize and millet, raising water buffalo and pigs. All aspects of life **interconnected with ancestors** – obeying “word” of ancestors. If fail to follow, misfortune befalls family.

Lende Mbartu’s wealth measured in terms of relations, not material possessions. Call upon his relations to move a 25-ton rock to honor his father’s spirit – over 400 men respond – he then feeds and gifts, giving up his belongs to them and is thus richer for it.

“There must be exchange of favors, of knowledge, of labor. I am in your debt, you are in my heart. I am in your heart, you are in my debt.”