Chapter X

Sanctuaries on Mount Penanggungan:
Candi Kendalisodo, Candi Yudha, and the Panji statue from Candi Selokelir – the climax

GEOPHICAL SITUATION AND LAYOUT OF THE SANCTUARIES

Mount Penanggungan (1,653 m), situated approximately 50 kilometres to the south of Surabaya, has a peculiar shape (fig. 10.1). It has one central peak, which is surrounded by four lower summits and four more hills on a lower level, such that it resembles a natural mandala.¹ The names of the four upper hills, starting from the one in the northeast and then proceeding clockwise, are Gajah Mungkur, Kemuncup, Sarahklopo, and Bekel (fig. 10.2). Most of the 81 sanctuaries or their remains are located on the northern and western slopes of the mountain.²

Many of the sanctuaries are grouped in such a way that their locations follow an ascending line on the mountain slope – for example, sites LXI, LXII, LXIV, LXVII, and LX on the western slope, starting from Candi Jolotundo (XXVII). Others are grouped together in close proximity – for instance, sites I, XVI, LIV, LII, LIII, LI, L, and IL on the upper western slope. Around Gajahmungkur ten sites are grouped close to each other: VII, XX, XXI, III, XIX, IX, XXII, XVIII, VIII, and LXIX.³ As not all the buildings are dated, we cannot conclude that these arrangements were the result of a plan. However, the addition of new sanctuaries may have allowed paths of procession and groups of sanctuaries to develop gradually. These sanctuary groups and lines may correspond with the so-called mandala which are mentioned in the Nagarakertagama.

¹ Compare my explanations on Mount Penanggungan in Chapter IV, sub-chapter ‘Water and mountain’.
² I use Romondt’s (1951) numbering of the sites in Roman numbers.
³ I visited most of these sites during several climbs on the mountain since 1993.
Fig. 10.1. Mount Penanggungan, seen from Trawas, from the south

Plate 10.2. Topographic map of Mount Penanggungan
(Van Romondt 1951, Gb.A. Peta sementara letak² kepurbakalaan di Gng Penanggungan)