

THE LEGEND OF SILVER HILL
Legenda Bukit Perak

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THE LEGEND OF SILVER HILL

Once upon a time in the hinterland of Muarojambi, in one of regencies of Jambi, a highly respectable village headman lived there. The villagers usually called him Datuk Sengalo. Under the leadership of Datuk Sengalo, the people in his village lived in harmony, safety and prosperity. The people were extremely happy to be led by Datuk Sengalo who was always friendly, humble, behave assertively, and showed his concern to the community. Not infrequently, Datuk Sengalo asked his people to always help other people who were in difficulties.

In building his village, Datuk Sengalo also always asked the people to do mutual assistance. They helped one another, starting from building the village roads, bridges, houses, even harvesting the farmlands.

During Datuk Sengalo's village leadership, the villagers always lived in safety and prosperity. They lived in harmony and peace. The villagers had never been involved in a conflict with one another. They all lived like brothers and sisters, and like one big family. Their lived in serenity and prosperity.

In addition to his wisdom and knowledge in village leadership, Datuk Sengalo was also known for his supernatural powers. The people around him believed that Datuk Sengalo was the

descendant of *sanga* or the ninth descendants of a family of half-human half-god at that time. No one could match the supernatural power of Datuk Sengalo. Based on hearsay, the only thing capable of penetrating his skin was gun bullet. Other sharp weapons, such as daggers, swords, and spears could never penetrate or even hurt an inch of his skin.

With the power possessed by Datuk Sengalo, he was able to protect his village. The desire of the Dutch troops to gain control over their land never came to reality. Datuk Sengalo could always protect his village and people. The Dutch troops repeatedly wanted to launch attack to the village where Datuk Sengalo lived, but it always ended up in failure. At one time, the Dutch troops made a crafty strategy. They kidnapped the people of Datuk Sengalo when they went out of their village. The Dutch troops asked the villagers to take them into the village.

“If you do not take us into the village, you will pay the price!” threatened a Dutch officer to someone from Datuk Sengalo’s village.

“Fine, Sir! Don’t do anything to me,” cried the villager as if he was fear. As a matter of fact, they knew if the Dutch troops reentered their village territory, they would disappear. Datuk Sengalo had given protection to all of his people. Only foreigners who had good intention could enter Datuk Sengalo’s Village.

“Come on, show me the way to Datuk’s Sengalo Village,” said the Dutch officer as he held the helpless citizen at gunpoint.

Then, with the Dutch soldiers, the Dutch officer took the villager into Datuk Sengalo Village. However, the villager then disappeared from the view of the Dutch officer and the soldiers once he stepped inside the village border.

“Where did he go? Why did he suddenly disappear? Did anyone see him leave?” asked the Dutch officer in confusion.

“No, commander, we also cannot see it.”

They could not find where the villager was. There was only a grove of trees that seemed to have never been entered by humans. The Dutch had run out of idea to attack and occupy Datuk Sengalo’s Village.

As long as Datuk Sengalo was still protecting the village, the village will always be safe from people who wanted to do evil. It made Datuk Sengalo very well-known throughout the country. He was known as a powerful leader and capable of protecting his area from the evil threats of outsiders.

The greatness of a leader in protecting the village and the well-being of his people certainly did not make everyone happy to either see or hear about it. It made other leaders from other regions jealous. They felt unable to do the things done by Datuk

Sengalo. One of them was a Datuk who came from Dano Lamo Village. This Datuk from Dano Lamo Village was jealous because he felt he was as powerful as Datuk Sengalo.

As he was unable to guard his village from the Dutch colonizers, they constantly blackmailed and took the crops of Dano Lamo's villagers. This envy made Datuk from Dano Lamo Village unhappy with the village led by Datuk Sengalo.

Datuk Dano Lamo became arrogant instead. He never acknowledged the supernatural power of Datuk Sengalo that was superior to his power. He considered himself as a powerful and wise leader.



That day the forest landscape was so comfortable to look at. The green leaves of the trees were wide spread, giving the freshness of the morning's air. The splash of water flows and the chirping of birds that perched from one branch to another added the harmony of the nature and everything inside it. How the nature had given the place and air to all its inhabitants.

In the harmony of nature, the cheerfulness of a beautiful princess was shown as she was engrossed in playing with a white tiger. Sometimes, she jumped from one stone to another on the riverbank with shallow water. The animal did not look very fierce

in front of the princess. In fact, they appeared to be very familiar. It seemed like the beast was the Princess' pet.

The princess occasionally embraced the tiger and was busy chasing it as it ran and hid inside the bushes. There was laughter of the Princess when she found that her white tiger was hiding. There was no fear of that wild animal which was known as the king of the forest. The white tiger is the gift of her father whom she had kept with affection since childhood. That tiger was given by her father when he was in meditation in the foot of the mountain which was far enough from his village. After finishing his mediation, her father saw a little white tiger in front of him and a silver dagger. Then, he brought that little tiger home and gave it to the Princess as her playmate.

“I have a souvenir for you, my daughter.”

“Really, father? What is that, father?” asked the princess as she hoped joyfully.

“This!” said her father said as he gave a white tiger to the Princess.

“Keep this tiger well. He will be your best friend.”

Seeing the white tiger cub, the Princess immediately took and hugged it.

“Thank you, father. This tiger cub is so funny. Where did you get it? What’s wrong with its mother?” The Princess immediately asked the origin of the white tiger cub.

“I do not know. I saw that the tiger cub was under the stone where I was meditating,” Datuk Sengalo explained.

The Princess then returned to the forest and played with her tiger. While swaying the twigs and bushes in search of the white tiger which was hiding, her eyes instantly fixed on a group of people walking towards Dano Lamo Village. She crept slowly and the white tiger followed her. They hid behind a large tree. One member of the group made the Princess did not want to blink. He was a gallant and brave young man. He seemed to be the leader of the group. The young man’s handsomeness made the Princess no longer cared about the white tiger. For a long time, she was amazed to see that young man.

“Who are the handsome young man and his entourage? Where are they from and where are they going to?” asked the Princess to herself. Her amazement was finally interrupted by the white tiger that stroked her feet.

“Aaaaaaaah...!” The princess who shouted immediately closed her mouth.

“Who’s there?” asked the young man spontaneously as he pulled the dagger around his waist. The rest of the entourage members

instantly stopped and got ready with their wielding spears and aimed their rifles to the source of the sound.

“Who’s there? Come on, show yourself to me. Do not be like a coward!” the young man shouted again. “If you do not show up soon, I do not hesitate to hurt you.”

The princess was frightened to hear that. Instead of revealing herself, she ran back to the village and ignored the young man’s threat. Having heard the sound of someone running, the young man jumped aggressively, followed by his entourage. They tried to find the source of the sound they heard. Unfortunately, they did not find anyone.

“Split up! Surround this area. Do not let that person escape,” yelled the young man, giving order to his troops.

Some of the guards who had supernatural power jumped rapidly to four-way winds. However, after a few minutes going around the border forest areas, they found nobody. They did not see any animals, let alone human beings.

Indeed, Datuk Sengalo did not only fortify his people, but also all the animals inside the forest of Datuk Sengalo’s village.

It was done to protect the forest animals from the hunters outside the village. The forest animals in Datuk Sengalo’s Village could only be hunted by his own people.

“It is weird! Did you also hear the voice?”

“Yes, my Lord. We also heard it. It sounds like a woman’s voice, the entourage members responded.

“Where did she go? She disappeared fast. She surely is a supernaturally powerful person,” muttered the young man as he looked away toward Datuk Sengalo’s Village.

“Come on, let’s go back!” he ordered.

The entourage then left the place and returned to Dano Lamo Village. Upon arriving at Dano Lamo Village, the young man then told the incidence he experienced on the border of the village forest to Datuk Dano Lamo, his father.

“Perhaps that person was the people from Datuk Sangolo’s village,” replied Datuk Dano Lamo.

“You will never be able to see them if they have entered Datuk Sengalo’s area. That Datuk had fortified the village with his supernatural powers to make it invisible. Until now, I do not know what kind of supernatural power practiced by Datuk Sengalo to protect his village. If we can find out about it and get it, it will be possible to protect this Dano Lamo Village.”

“Why don’t we fight and stand up to those invaders ourselves, father?” the young man asked.

“We are less strong than them, not only in terms of the people number, but also the weaponry. Right now, to be safe, we can only submit to the Dutch provisions.”

“What if we join Datuk Sengalo?”

“Even if we join ten villages, we will still lose. The only way is to master and take over the power of Datuk Sengalo.”

“How can we do it, father?”

“Keep using the Dutch troops as a force if necessary in the battle against Datuk Sengalo. Besides, Datuk Sengalo reportedly has a daughter. With the good looks you have, I believe you can seize her heart and marry her. Through Datuk Sengalo’s daughter, we can get information about the power of Datuk Sengalo in giving protection to his village.”

“But how can I meet her, father?”

“That's what I have not thought about.”



In Datuk Sengalo’s village, the Princess was seen running as fast as she could. She ran inside to the house and headed straight for her room. Before entering her room, she was greeted by his father.

“What happened, my daughter? What made you look so scared?”
Datuk Sengalo asked in amazement.

As she panted and tried to catch her breath, she tried to explain what she encountered on the village border.

“I saw a fully-armed group of people who were crossing the border of our village and Dano Lamo’s village, father. They knew my presence while I was watching them. I decided to run back here. Fortunately, they did not find me though it was very close.”

“Fully armed? What kind of weapons did they carry?” asked Datuk Sengalo.

“They looked like riffles, Father.”

Datuk Sengalo was silent for a moment. “Has Datuk Dano Lamo been working with Dutch colonists?” muttered Datuk to himself.

““You don’t need to worry, my daughter. As long as the silver dagger remains on the border of this village, the invisible mantra will always protect us.”

“Silver dagger? What do you mean, Father?” asked the Princess in curiosity.

“Do you remember when I gave you the white tiger cub?”

“How can I forget it, father? It’s a very precious gift from you to me,” answered the Princess.

“I got that silver dagger when I was finishing my meditation, right next to that white tiger cub. “

“Then, what is the relationship between that silver dagger and this village, Father?”

“At that time, in my meditation, I met an old man. He said that the silver dagger I found should be planted on the village border because that old man seemed to know the village should be protected from the stranger’s threats. So, the dagger is a protector for our villager and villagers. That dagger has made the colonists unable to see the existence of our village.”

“What if the dagger is lost or taken away?”

“This village will be seen and found by people. If so, this village is in danger.”

“Danger? Danger of what, Father?” asked the Princess curiously.

“Danger from strangers who would take away our land, they do not only want to take over the land, but also to enslave the villagers,” answered Datuk Sengalo as he stared away into the forest.

The Princess contemplated her father’s words for a long time.

She had not really understood why there were people outside her village who wanted to take over their land and treated the villagers as slaves. She could do nothing but wondering about his father's silver dagger.

"May I know where the dagger is planted, father?"

"Will you keep this secret from anyone? Because if someone pulls and takes the dagger, the dagger's power in protecting the village will vanish, foreigners will be able to see this village. This land can be taken over and seized by those evil people."

"Yes, I will, father."

"Promise?" asked her father to make sure.

"I promise", I planted the dagger right under *rambe* tree."

"*Rambe* tree, Father? How does the tree look like?" asked the princess in curiosity.

"The tree is big with yellow, dangling fruits, my daughter."

"Is the fruit edible, Father?"

"Of course, they taste sour and sweet."

On a sunny day, a gentle breeze struck the Princess' long hair. She was sitting with a white tiger in the pavilion of her house. Every now and then, she smiled to see the villagers working

together to cultivate. Some of them planted corns, fruits, and paddy for their life necessities, while some went to the forest to hunt animals and firewood.

The life of the villagers was very harmonious. There was no gap between the rich and the poor. All the villagers fulfilled each other's needs. If one was in need, other villagers would help them. This harmony and togetherness was always maintained by Datuk Sengalo. He was even willing to lose his own family members rather than his villagers. For Datuk Sengalo, the people and the village were everything. His life and death were only for the villagers and the village. Therefore, Datuk Sengalo willingly risked his life to maintain his village and the villagers.

“Today seems so bright, White. Let’s go play into the woods again,” the Princess asked her white tiger.

The white tiger roared, giving a sign of agreement. Then, the white tiger jumped and ran fast into the forest. The Princess then chased her. The Princess was very happy with her pet tiger. That animal had become her friend for all this time. Wherever the Princess went, white tigers always accompanied her. Almost every day, the Princess played around with her white tiger in the village border forest. Being engrossed in playing, sometimes the Princess and the white tiger forgot to go home for lunch. Fortunately, sometimes they found fruit in the forest to eat.

Sometimes they also met people who were farming and hunting. The villagers who met the Princess always invited her to eat.

“Come on, Princess, have some lunch first. It is the time for lunch.” A woman who was farming invited the Princess to eat.

“No thank you. We will just go home.” The princess tried to refuse although she had started to get hungry.

“It’s still far away if you want to go home. Have lunch first, Princess. It’s not good to refuse gifts.”

“Well, okay if you ask me.”

Then, because the Princess was hungry she devoured the food provided by the woman. She ate with her white tiger. After they were on full stomachs, they said goodbye to the woman and went back to the forest.

That afternoon, the Princess and the white tiger went to play again. The white tiger really liked to hide from the Princess. While searching for a white tiger in his hiding, she was curious about the *rambe* tree where the dagger was planted underneath, as told his father. Her search was fruitful. She found a large tree that was surrounded by bushes. Yellow fruits were dangling on the tree. It seemed like there were plenty of fruits. She approached the tree in curiosity.

Perhaps this is the *rambe* tree that my father told me. The Princess thought as she tilted her head up towards the tree. This tree looks very fertile with plenty of fruits.

“White tiger, help me climb this tree.”

The white tiger immediately jumped and stood next to the tree. With the help of that white tiger, the princess managed to climb the tree. She took the fruit, peeled it, then she tried to eat it. It tasted sweet-sour.

“No doubt, this is the *rambe* tree meant by father.”

The sweet-sour taste of *rambe* fruits made the Princess addicted to eat them, until she would not stop eating it. Because she ate it greedily, she did not see there was a very huge *rambe* that she swallowed. The fruit seed got stuck in her throat. It made her difficult to breathe. She immediately went down and tried to walk looking for water source. Unwittingly, she had come out of the village border protected by the silver dagger. As she was unable to get water, in addition to unbearable pain, the Princess finally fell and fainted.

The Princess’ absence until late at night made Datuk Sengalo worried. After searching her in the room and around the house, he still could not find the princess. Datuk Sengalo asked about it to the villagers, but they also did not know the whereabouts of the Princess.

“The Princess usually plays with her tiger in the forest, Datuk,” said one villager.

“Yes, but it is very unusual of her not to come home until this late. She usually has returned home before sunset.”

“Let’s go find her together, Datuk,” one of the villagers suggested.

“All right, but we cannot cross the border of our village, because outside the village border, the invaders are hunting us. I do not want any of us to be harmed, as it will destroy our village. I would rather lose my daughter than the village and its people.”

The villagers paused to hear the words of Datuk Sengalo. His love for the village and his people turned out to be greater than his love for his own daughter. Therefore, the villagers helped to find Datuk’s daughter together. By using their torches, they combed out the forest up to the village border. However, the result was zero. The Princess had not been found. Datuk Sengalo grew more upset, but he could not do anything about it.

“Hopefully nothing happens to you, my daughter,” Datuk Sengalo murmured sadly.

In his long contemplation, Datuk Sengalo was startled by the arrival of a white tiger. The tiger directly bit Datuk Sengalo’s trousers and tried to pull him somewhere.

“My people, go back to the village. Let me continue the search for my daughter with the white tiger,” asked Datuk Sengalo to the people who were helping to find the Princess.

All of the villagers obeyed Datuk Sengalo’s order. They returned to the village. Meanwhile, Datuk Sengalo, without hesitation, immediately followed where the white tiger headed to. However, Datuk Sengalo only saw that the white tiger was circling a place as he roared.

“What’s the matter, White? Where is the Princess?” asked Datuk Sengalo to the white tiger. But, the white tiger just roared around the place. Datuk noticed there was a patch of flopped grass where the tiger went circling around.

“It seems like something has happened to my daughter, but where is her body?” Datuk asked to himself.



Somewhere, in a wooden house that is far from people settlement, a young man seated an unconscious young woman.

Then by using his inner power, the young man quickly patted the woman on the shoulder. A large seed stuck in her throat immediately got out. She was still fainted. The young man then laid her back. He waited until she gained consciousness.

“Where is it?” The princess shouted as she gained consciousness and found herself in an unknown place.

“You’re in my house, beautiful princess. Get some rest,” replied the person who had been sitting at the right side of the Princess’ bed. The Princess’ eyes glanced to her right side and found a young figure with a sturdy body and handsome face. That face was familiar to the Princess, the handsomeness that she had seen before.

“Who are you? How can I be in this place?”

“I found you fainted near the village border. I was afraid that something would happen to you because there are many wild animals in the forest. Therefore, I decided to take you to my home.”

“I have to get back to the village. I do not want my father to worry about me.” The daughter tried to rise from her bed. “Uuuggghhh....my throat sores.”

“Get some rest until you’re fully recovered. Only then you can go back there. Please drink it first,” said the young man while giving a drink that had been mixed into medicine for the Princess. Then, the Princess drank it.

“If I may know, what had happened to you that you fell unconscious?”

The princess breathed slowly while holding her neck. “I ate too many *rambe* fruits and forgot myself until I ate the big one. The fruit seed got stuck in my throat. I tried to remove it, but it was very difficult. Then I tried to find water, but I did not find it, until I could not remember what happened. Thank you for helping me,” replied the Princess in low voice.

“May I know who this beautiful princess is?”

“I’m the daughter of Datuk Sengalo,” the Princess answered quietly.

The young man was shocked, but he was able to hide his shock from the Princess. The young man remembered the story he had heard from his father, Datuk Dano Lamo.

For the young man’s father, the daughter of Datuk Sengalo could be used to find out what power hidden in Datuk Sengalo. The way to do it was of course by marrying the Princess.

“What a fortunate stroke of serendipity,” muttered the young man. The young man secretly arranged a tactic to seize the Princess’ heart.

“Get a rest first, O beautiful princess. The wound in your throat needs recovery time. I’m going to hunt first to prepare for our dinner.”

Then the young man left the Princess on her bed. The Princess who still felt weak then lied down again. Until a few weeks, the Princess was in the young man's house until she fully recovered. Every day, it was the young man who always prepared for food. The food cooked was the prey and plants grown on the yard of the young man. During the treatment, the young man always showed his kindness and attention to the Princess.

"I have been here for a long time, my Lord. Being here for too long will disturb you. My father must have been worrying too. I want to go back to my village. Thank you, my Lord. You have helped and cared for me. Now I have recovered. In what ways can I repay it? Your kindness is priceless."

Knowing that, the young man wanted to make use of the situation. He was about to do the tactic said by his father to marry the daughter of Datuk Sengalo.

"Your beauty has really captivated me. With sincerity, will you be my wife?" The young man kneeled before the Princess while holding her hands.

"Your kindness and handsomeness have made me unable to resist it, Sir, but I have to tell this to my father," said the Princess, blushing.

"No need for it, Princess, because if you inform this to your father, we may not be able to meet again."

“Then what should I do? How can we get married without my parents’ consent?”

“That’s right, but I cannot enter your village. Your father has fenced the village with invisibility mantra. You are the one who can go in there.”

The Princess paused for a moment, approving of what the young man said. She was overwhelmed with indecision. On one hand, she could not refuse the young man’s proposal; while on the other hand, she wanted to get the blessing from her father.

“Most importantly, we should get married first. After that, you can return to the village and ask your father for blessings. Then, you ask your father to come to this village.”

“All right if that’s what you want, my Lord,” said the Princess.

The wedding announcement was reported to all people of Dano Lamo Village. The Princess and the son of Datuk Dano Lamo finally got married. The wedding took place in Dano Lamo Village. Datuk Dano Lamo deliberately did not tell the news to Datuk Sengalo on the marriage between his son and the daughter of Datuk Sengalo. He planned it so that Datuk Sengalo always dissolved in his grief for losing his daughter.

Day after day passed, the princess and her husband still had not asked for blessing to Datuk Sengalo. Her deep love for her

husband made the Princess forget the love of her father who had raised her with affection. The princess was very faithful and too submissive to her husband. Until one time, the princess realized that she had not asked for blessing to her father.

“My husband, I do not know how long since our marriage that we have not asked for blessing to my father. Didn’t you promised it to me?” asked the Princess to her husband.

“That’s right, my wife. I forgot. Luckily you remember it,” the young man remembered his tactic again.

“When can we visit father? I miss him so much already,” said the Princess hopefully.

“Tomorrow morning. Before we see your father, will you tell me about your father, O my wife?”

“Father is a very wise and knowledgeable village head in performing leadership duties. The villagers really love him.”

“What do you know about his supernatural powers?” asked the Princess’ husband, starting his strategy.

“Nothing but just a little.”

“Can you tell me so that I can also be supernaturally powerful to keep and protect this village like your father?”

“If I tell you, I will break my promise to my father.”

The princess' husband did not run out of ideas. He always tried to beg the Princess to reveal the secret of Datuk Sengalo's power.

“Oh yes, I forgot. Can't I enter your father's village? How can we ask for your father blessing if you do not tell Datuk Sengalo's secret?”

The princess suddenly was overwhelmed with confusion again. Her heart was becoming more uncertain. She felt she had made a promise to her father not to tell about the silver dagger to anyone. However, if she did not tell the whereabouts of that silver dagger, her husband would never be able to enter her father's village. She thought about it for a long time.

“If you do not want to tell it, come back to your father and do not ever come back to me. Why should we get married if you still cannot trust your husband?”

“Do not say so, O my husband. Don't you know how much I love you all this time? For all this time, I have always obeyed your requests,” said the princess with a gloomy, anxious face.

“Then, why haven't you obeyed my request this time? Isn't my intention also good? I also want to protect Dano Lamo Village that is also now your village? Don't feel pity for the suffering of Dano Lamo villagers. They must pay tribute to the Dutch every

month. Would you let them have nothing in their own land? Your father's attitude cannot be justified as well, Princess. He lets the people outside his village suffer from the Dutch colonization."

The questions asked by her husband were like arrows that showered her heart. It was nauseating. It seemed that she could not argue with him. What her husband told her was true. The princess had no other reasons to keep the promise she made to her father. If she did not say it, she would be abandoned her husband. However, if she said it, she would betray her father.

"Fine, I will tell you, only you. But will you promise not to tell anyone?"

"Yeah, I promise."

The princess paused for a moment. She took a deep breath. She gazed out the window. She imagined her father's face and silently said, "I'm sorry, father. I do not keep my promise but I have to make devotion to my husband, too."

"The key to my father's power is on a silver dagger."

"Where is that dagger now?"

"That dagger is planted underneath a *rambe* tree, on the village border. That dagger has become a protector for our village. Through the invisibility mantra contained in that dagger, the

outsiders who have evil intention cannot see our village,” said the Princess, unwittingly shedding tears.

“Then, I will take the dagger and plant it in the middle of this village.”

“Do not do that, my husband!”

“Why?”

“Don’t we just want to enter the village and ask for father’s blessing?”

“No. I will take the dagger and plant it in this Dano Lamo Village,” said the princess’ husband, betraying her.

“If you pull out the dagger, my father’s village will be in danger. Do not do that,” the princess pleaded.

“What does it have to do with me? This Dano Lamo Village has been colonized for a long time. It is the time for this village to break free from the grip of the colonists. Datuk Sengalo and his people must feel what we have felt for years.”

Then, the princess’ husband immediately left his wife. He was determined to take the dagger. The princess could not prevent her husband. She just cried, regretting that she had broken up the promise that she made to his father. She was misguided because she really trusted her beloved husband. Apparently, her husband

had

evil intention against her father and her village.

“I’m sorry, father. I’m sorry that I did not keep my promise. Forgive your daughter. Thousands of forgiveness,” the princess constantly regretted her action.

However, the spoken secrets were irrevocable. She must be ready to bear it, the loss of her parents and those who loved her.



In the evening, the Princess’ husband gathered his troops. He announced that he had known the existence of the silver dagger which was the power of Datuk Sengalo. After announcing it, the Princess’ husband and his troops went along the village border until they finally found a tree filled with dangling *rambe* fruits. Without wasting time, he ordered his troops to cut and remove the *rambe* tree.

“Quickly cut down the *rambe* tree and pull it to the roots,” urged the Princess’ husband to the villagers whom he took there.

Together with the Dutch troops, he cut down the *rambe* tree and dug the ground where the roots of the *rambe* tree were planted. It did not take a long time for the young man to find the silver dagger that his wife told him.

“This dagger seems to be the power of Datuk Sengalo,” said the young man as he was about to take the dagger. But something peculiar happened, the dagger could not be retrieved. For naked eyes, the dagger was very visible, but could not be held. The young man repeatedly reached to it, but he still could not hold it. Other troops who tried it also could not reach it.

“Call my father Datuk Dano Lamo. It seems my father is the only one who can take it. Hurry up!” the young man commanded one of his soldiers. Then, the soldier rushed off the location to Datuk Dano Lamo’s residence. By running as fast as he could, the soldier arrived at Datuk Dano Lamo’s residence.

“Datuuuukk....! Datuuuukk..!” shouted the soldier.

“What is it, soldier? Why are you screaming in the middle of the night like this? What happened that you are looking for me?”

“Young master has found the key to Datuk Sengalo’s power. The key is a silver dagger planted under a *rambe* tree. However, the dagger cannot be held. The young master could not reach it.” The soldier tried to explain.

“Fine. Take me there,” shouted Datuk Dano Lamo.

Arriving at the location of the silver dagger’s finding, Datuk Dano Lamo began to close his hands. Then, his mouth was muttering. After that, he rubbed his hands. Slowly, he held the

silver dagger. It worked. Datuk Dano Lamo successfully held the dagger. All the soldiers were happy to see it and admired the power of Datuk Dano Lamo.

“Okay, now we go back to the village first. Tomorrow we will prepare the people to meet Datuk Sengalo,” said Datuk Dano Lamo to all soldiers.

In the darkness of the night and the light of the torch, the group led by Datuk Dano Lamo hurried back to their village. However, in the other village, Datuk Sengalo was suddenly awakened. He suddenly became worried. His body released cold sweat. He sensed a strange thing that had happened. He rose from his bed and looked out of his house. Then he went around the village to find out about his feelings

“Perhaps.....” Datuk Sengalo hissed.

Datuk Sengalo immediately jumped up to the village border. His worries turned into reality. From a distance, he saw that the *rambe* tree had fallen, the place where the silver digger had been planted underneath. Once he had reached the fallen *rambe* tree, he saw that the silver dagger was no longer in place.

“Who did this? This is bad. No time tomorrow. I must do it now so that all the villagers are safe,” Datuk Sengalo murmured. He immediately left the fallen *rambe* tree and dashed towards the

village. Arriving in the village, Datuk Sengalo soon woke up the villagers and told them what had happened.

“My beloved people, I don’t mean to disturb your sleep but there is something that I have to say to all of you. It is related to the state of our village,” said Datuk Sengalo.

The citizens looked at each other and there was a small uproar. They asked one another what had happened to their village.

“If I may ask, Datuk. What has happened to this village, Datuk?” asked one curious villager.”

“Yes, Datuk. What has happened? We will be ready to be with Datuk whatever happens,” said another villager. Another villager said, "Yes, Datuk. We are ready!"

“Thank you, my people. Your beliefs also become my beliefs. I want to tell you that the fence I made to protect this village has collapsed. The silver dagger I planted underneath the *rambe* tree has been stolen by a stranger. Our village is currently under threat. We only have time tonight because tomorrow the enemy will attack the village.”

All villagers were panicked and anxious, but Datuk Sengalo asked them to make a plan.

“Quiet. Calm down, my people. We have to make plans. Come with me. Take *plengki* in your homes and collect them in my house. I need your help.”

All citizens simultaneously ran to their homes and took *plengki*, namely the dustpan made of stemmed rattan. Then, they went together to Datuk Sengalo’s house. They believed that Datuk Sengalo’s plan must be for their good. The elderlies, young people, even children all worked together to help Datuk Sengalo’s plan.

“Come on! Pile up my house and leave a hole on it so you can get inside. I will cover the top hole. Before sunrise, we all have to be inside my house.”

With agile movement and all of their energy, the entire population worked hand and hand to pile up Datuk Sengalo’s house to resemble a hill that night. When they were done, they all went inside Datuk Sengalo’s house that had been piled up. Then, Datuk closed the hole.

The next day, Datuk Dano Lamo’s troops came with the Dutch troops to attack and destroy Datuk Sengalo’s Village. The Dutch came with full weapons, while Datuk Dano Lamo only brought a silver dagger. Datuk Dano Lamo’s soldier came with daggers and spears. Arriving at Datuk Sengalo’s Village, they were astonished. They saw that the village was in a deserted state. They

did not find anyone. All they found was only a towering hill in the middle of the village.

“Where are they? Did they know about our arrival?” asked the young son of Datuk Dano Lamo.

“Why is there a hill in the middle of this village?” asked one of the Dutch soldiers.

“When viewed from the ground, it looks like this hill has just been made. Maybe they are inside this hill?” said Datuk Dano Lamo.

“How can human beings live in the belly of the hill,” shouted one of the Dutch troops.

“He’s a supernaturally powerful man,” said Datuk Dano Lamo.

“Then what should we do, father?” asked Datuk Dano Lamo’s son.

“Datuk Sengalo, get out! You do not need to hide with your people. You and your people will not be hurt if they want to pay tributes. That is all. After all, your silver dagger is now in my hands. You cannot hide anymore,” persuaded Datuk Dano Lamo loudly to Datuk Sengalo. But, there was still no sound from Datuk Sengalo.

“Datuk Sengalo! I warn you. If you and your people do not come out of your hiding, we will dig and destroy this hill,” blustered Datuk Dano Lamo. However, there was still no answer. It made Datuk Dano Lamo angry.

“Fine, come on, let’s destroy this hill. Dig from the top,” ordered Datuk Dano Lamo.

All troops from Dano Lamo Village and Dutch troops worked hand in hand to dig the hill from its peak. In the meantime, others were on standby around the hill. They watched if any villager would escape. One meter, two meters, three meters, four meters, up to several meters of excavation, it seemed like they found a door and the door appeared to be unlocked. Then, they opened it. When they opened it, they were surprised. A muzzle of cannons was pointing towards them. They could do nothing but to feel stunned.

“Boooooommmmmmm....!!”

A huge explosion hit nearly all of Datuk Dano Lamo troops and the Dutch troops who were around the hill, including Datuk Dano Lamo with his son. They were all shattered to pieces. The silver dagger immediately came off of Datuk Dano Lamo’s grip and entered the hole in the hill. The dagger then disappeared from the view of Datuk Dano Lamo and other Dutch troops. The hill was then closed again. They could no longer see Datuk Sengalo and

his people because they were gone with that silver dagger. All that remained was a hill.

Upon hearing this, the Princess could only cry because she knew that her father and the people of his village had become a hill. She regretted her betrayal to her father, for not keeping her promise. However, regret always comes late. The princess could no longer meet her father and all the people of the village where she was born. Her husband was killed by the explosion of Datuk Sengalo cannon.

Since then, that hill which was nearly thirty meters high and wide, was named as Sengalo Hill or Silver Hill by the local community. This hill could be found in Muarosebo District, Muarojambi Regency, Jambi Province. To get to this hill, one should take the journey through Dano Lamo Village.

Source: The caretaker of Sengalo Hill and the local people.