

THE INVINCIBLE INDRA MAULANA
Kesaktian Indra Maulana

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THE INVINCIBLE INDRA MAULANA

The Family of King Azam

Once upon a time, there was a great kingdom surrounded by hills and jungles. It was Azamnawi Kingdom. Its royal palace was adorned with glittering apparatus and the rooms were splendid. The King's name was Azam. He was a famous king. King Azam was a strong and fearsome adversary. He was benevolent and revered.

King Azam had a son named King Keinderaan. He was well-built, tall, valiant and handsome. King Keinderaan had three sons. They are High King Indra Mangindra, High King Jingga Mangindra, and High King Bujangga Mangindra. All of them were handsome, sturdy and gallant with olive skin complexion.

High King Indra Mangindra's wife was Princess Sri Bulan. High King Jingga Mangindra's wife was Princess Sinar Bulan Pagi and High King Bujangga Mangindra's wife was named Princess Dewi Asma.

Princess Sri Bulan was the daughter of High King Malila of Tanju Maya Kingdom. Princess Sinar Bulan Pagi was the daughter of Great High King Sri Sirna of Keratuan Kingdom, while Princess Dewi Asma was the daughter of High King Sialansyah of Mercu

Indra Kingdom. All of them had beautiful countenance, with a long, wavy hair and olive skin complexion.

Awaiting the Birth of a Child

The day turned to dusk. King Keinderaan was restless in his sleep. From time to time, he tossed and turned from one side to the other.

King Keinderaan was worried because he had no grandchildren, “O, God. Bless the sons of this servant with children,” he prayed. Not long after, King Keinderaan was fast asleep. The night grew deeper.

A few hours later, the palace’s gong was sounded, “Dong...dong...dong...” Night turned into dawn. Roosters crowed loudly in tandem.

The sun began to rise and emitted its light. Birds chirped on top of the trees that were swaying in the wind. The courtiers in the palace were getting busy with their respective works. At that time, the three sons of King Keinderaan had ascended to kingship. High King Indra Mangindra replaced High King Malila; High King Jingga Mangindra replaced Great High King Sri Sina, while High King Bujangga Mangindra succeeded his father, King Keinderaan.

That morning, King Keinderaan called out his sons. High King Indra Mangindra and High King Jingga Mangindra already

arrived at the family meeting room in the royal palace when High King Bujangga Mangindra was about to enter the room.

King Keinderaan gave a sign to High King Bujangga Mangindra to sit down. Afterwards, High King Indra Mangindra took a few steps forward, then knelt down, prostrated and asked, “Dear Father, may we know of your intention by summoning us?”

King Keinderaan replied, “Father has aged and is without grandchildren. Do pray that you are blessed with one.”

“It will be so by your blessings, Father. We hope that your prayers will be with us.”

At that moment, High King Indra Mangindra prayed, “O God ...grant this servant a valiant, brave and powerful son, amen.”

High King Jingga Mangindra stepped forward, following his older brother sat cross-legged and prayed, “O God, grant this servant a heroic son who is strong as a bull, amen.”

Likewise, High King Bujangga Mangindra also moved forward, sat cross-legged and prayed, ‘O God, grant this servant an invincible son with the strength of a great serpent, amen.’”

King Keinderaan watched as his sons made their voices heard in their prayers. He nodded three times each time one of his sons prayed. After the three of them finished their prayers, they talked and laughed. They spoke of their own experience while enjoying

delicious food and warm drinks. King Keinderaan gave advice to his sons to be a benevolent king who commands respect from their people. Furthermore, he also advised them to educate their children well once they were blessed with one.

The gathering ended with the ritual of chewing betel leaves and areca nuts. Later they sought permission to return home, accompanied by a procession of ministers and war generals. A few months later, High King Indra Mangindra's prayer was granted because his wife gave birth to a baby boy who was named Indra Maulana.

Since he was just a few days old, Indra Maulana grew very fast. He could eat a *ketupat* - rice cake wrapped in palm leaves, and had a nimble body unlike the other infants. A few weeks later, Indra Maulana could eat lots of *ketupat* and any kinds of food near him. High King Indra Mangindra was not aware that his prayer to Allah asking for a child with invincible power had been granted.

Thus, that was how Indra Maulana grew up until he reached twelve years old. He was considered an odd child at his age. When seeing his son's development, High King Indra Mangindra felt sad. The king was afraid that his son was abnormal. He had to make a considerable food provisions in the palace due to his son's huge appetite.

Then, a whisper of the evil influenced High King Indra Mangindra, “Kill the child, Sire.” He was surprised to hear the whisper, but succumbed to the evil’s wishes and started to think of harming his own his son. High King Indra Mangindra said to himself, “So be it, I will remove him silently, but how?”

The next day, High King Indra Mangindra tried to figure out ways to get rid of the child. Then, he told his wife that he will go fishing with his son. The wife of High King Indra Mangindra said, “Do bring guards to accompany you, Husband.”

The wife of High King Indra Mangindra said unsuspectingly, “As you wish, Husband. I wish you a safe journey.” Later, High King Indra Mangindra and his son, Indra Maulana went off in a boat. The King paddled the boat slowly. They sailed quite far. When they almost reached the middle of the sea, Indra Maulana said, “Father, why do we fish here in the middle of the sea? There are plenty of eels here. They eat everything around here.”

The High King Indra Mangindra answered, “We will get plentiful fish here. Big ones. Please hold this fishing rod, Son. I will go into the sea.”

Indra Maulana moved quickly to hold his father’s right hand as he said, “Do not jump down, Father. You could be preyed on by them. Allow me to jump into the sea instead. If I do not return, it means the eels have devoured me.”

The boat was slightly rocking when Indra Maulana tried to prevent his Father from jumping out. Then, High King Indra Mangindra took off his right hand from his son's grasp, "You're still too young, Son."

Indra Maulana said, "Father is a king, what will happen if you are gone? Who will lead the kingdom? Let me help you, Father, to show my gratitude for having been raised by you."

High King Indra Mangindra was shocked at the words of this tender child. He could not say anything. Eventually, Indra Maulana jumped into the sea. The seawater churned when Indra Maulana was in, as if a fight had broken out between him and the eels. High King Indra Mangindra saw what happened with a pounding heart from atop of the unsteady boat. He was waiting for his son for awhile. Still, Indra Maulana did not appear. High King Indra Mangindra thought Indra Maulana had died, but the seawater did not show any sign that his son was wounded.

At last, that afternoon, High King Indra Mangindra came back to the palace. Upon arriving, he recounted the terrible event to his wife. His wife fainted once she heard the story from her husband. A few moments later, she returned to consciousness after a lady-in-waiting dabbed rose water over her face. The ladies-in-waiting were instructed by High King Indra Mangindra to prepare a mourning ritual by cooking mutton, carabeef, chickens, and ducks to be shared with the people.

During the funeral ceremony, Indra Maulana appeared bringing with him a large eel fish. His father was surprised to see his son returned. High King Indra Mangindra and his wife hugged their son.

“Forgive your father for leaving you out in the sea, Son.”

“The Creator of Heaven and Earth is still protecting me, Father.”

Later on, a bit embarrassed, High King Indra Maulana walked while hugging his son and inviting him to drink and eat everything that was served on the table. In the end, their grief turned into joy with Indra Maulana’s return to the palace. The celebration was concluded with Malay art performances. After the event was over, silence descended over the palace once more. The night grew darker.

A week later, High King Indra Mangindra fell ill because he thought too much about his son. He still wanted to kill him despite his son’s good behaviour. According to the diviners, High King Indra Mangindra would recover if he ate Pujenggi flowers.

High King Indra Mangindra thought to himself, “There is still a chance. I’ll have my son searched for the flowers to keep me away from him.”

The evil’s voice still pestered High King Indra Mangindra to kill Indra Maulana.

Hence, the young child was sent by his father to seek out the flowers. High King Indra Mangindra's wife did not agree if her son was to be given the task to search for Pujenggi flowers. However, Indra Maulana still wanted to look for it. "Allow me to search for the flowers so that Father can be healed and lead this kingdom well."

Before leaving, he said goodbye to his mother, "Mother, please pray for my safe journey."

"I will pray for you, Child. Go safely and be careful. Do not forget to pray."

So, Indra Maulana departed, bringing along his supplies and a longsword to defend himself. Now, the story shifted to where High King Jingga Mangindra resided. His wife gave birth to a baby boy who looked like a bull.

"My wife, what sins we have committed that our child looks like a bull? Just throw it away. I feel disgraced."

"If you want it, the child can be thrown into the mountain or jungle."

And so, the prime minister and guards brought the Bull into the jungle and placed it under a tree. The prime minister returned to the palace. Now, it was the story of High King Bujangga Mangindra's wife. The prayers of King Keinderaan's sons had

been granted. The wife of High King Bujangga Mangindra gave birth to a golden-scaled Dragon with claws of lodestone iron. After giving birth, Princess Dewi Asma fainted. High King Bujangga Mangindra was startled when he saw the child. He ordered four royal guards to take the child away to the Azamnawi Hill.

The Dragon was brought by the four royal guards to the Azamnawi Hill and placed under a lush tree. Then, they returned to the palace. Princess Dewi gained consciousness. She forlornly asked about her son. Her husband answered that her child had passed away. Indra Maulana rested under a shady tree.

He sipped water from his flask as he wiped the sweat from his forehead. Suddenly, an old woman approached him, “Indra Maulana, let this old woman sit next to you.” Indra Maulana was wondering why the old woman knew about his name, “Venerable Brahmani, have a seat. Your servant was looking for a cure made of Pujenggi Flowers.”

Indra Maulana Looking for Pujenggi Flowers

“Your father wants to kill you. Go and meditate for forty days. Afterwards, this old woman will teach you.” Indra Maulana accepted the Brahmani’s request. They walked into the Brahmani’s palace and he was invited to take a seat. Brahmani thought to herself, “She knew my name.”

After having his meal, he took a bath and changed his clothes. Then, he meditated for forty days. Following that, the Brahmani taught him all of her knowledge. One day, Indra Maulana sat on the hill in contemplation. He remembered his quest to search for Pujenggi flowers. He headed into the palace and prostrated, “Grandmother, this servant wishes to say goodbye, to continue my journey to seek out the Pujenggi flowers.” The Brahmani embraced him, “Call out this Grandmother’s name if Grandson has a wish.”

“Go walk for seven days. You shall find a big bull. The bull is the son of High King Jingga Mangindra, your uncle.”

“When the bull asks to be taken care of, aimed your arrow on its head and call out Grandmother’s name. He will turn into a human being,” the Brahmani gave her words.

“Later, you will meet a dragon. It is your kin, the son of the High King Bujangga Mangindra.”

“Take care of the dragon. It will accompany you in searching for the cure. These bow and arrows are for you. This weapon could transform an object into something you desired. Remember to call out Grandmother’s name.”

“This weapon could transform an object into something you desired. Remember to call out Grandmother’s name.”

Brahmani hugged Indra Maulana, saying “Be safe. Do not forget to pray.”

Indra Maulana said his goodbye and walked down the hill together with a dog that was given by the Brahmani. There was a story about a bull calf being thrown out.

It was raised by the animals in the jungle until it matured. The bull wandered through the grassland. Suddenly, the bull heard a voice, “Hey, Bull! Wait for forty days here.”

”A man will come. Ask him to keep you and you shall turn into a human,” the voice continued. The bull was shocked upon hearing the voice, “Whose voice is that? Am I a son of human?”

The bull stayed under a verdant tree and there it waited for someone to come. It meditated under the tree for forty days. Forty days later, the bull came out of its hideout. The bull headed towards the vast grassland. Unexpectedly, a human was seen there. It turned out to be Indra Maulana. The bull ducked its head. “Oi, Bull! Why do you block my journey?”

“O Master, you are what this servant has been waiting for. Would you be willing to keep me, Master?”

Indra Maulana remembered the message of the venerated Brahmani, “Bull, are you willing to die?”

“Whatever Master commands me to, this servant shall obey.”

And so, Indra Maulana aimed his arrow at the bull's head, shot it while calling out the Brahmani's name. The bull transformed into a human. A handsome man knelt down, "Let this servant follow you."

"As you wish. I name you Banteng Alam. Come with me to search for Pujenggi flowers."

Indra Maulana resumed his journey in the company of a bull and a dog. It is time to recount the story of the Dragon that was kept by four war generals at the Azamnawi Hill. When the Dragon was walking to the top of the Azamnawi Hill, it suddenly heard a voice saying, "Dragon! Go and meditate for forty days. If you meet a human, ask him to keep you. Then, you shall be human."

The Dragon's heart was pounding hard. It was shocked by the voice and walked slowly while looking to the left and to the right. Panting, the Dragon wondered inside its heart, "Am I a son of human?" Then, it meditated for forty days. Once the Dragon finished meditating, at the top of the hill, it saw two men walking by. Indra Maulana finally met the dragon.

The Dragon whipped its tail around intending to fight. "Oyyy, Dragon! Why do you block our path?" asked Indra Maulana. The Dragon was angry and so a fight ensued. Indra Maulana jumped away to evade the dragon's tail strike.

The fight that broke out between the Dragon and Indra Maulana lasted a long time. Suddenly, the Dragon heard a voice, “Do not fight him for he is the one who will turn you into human.” The fight stopped, “This servant humbly asked for your forgiveness. Would you keep this servant, Master?” Indra Maulana was stunned. He remembered what the Brahmani said.

“As you wish, but take us across the sea.”

Then, the Dragon took Indra Maulana’s party across the sea. The undulating sea made the people on top of the dragon’s head sway. Before long, they reached the nest of a Garuda that had abducted Princess Ratna Kemala. Princess Ratna Kemala fled when she saw the dragon. “Don’t run! The Dragon is actually a human. We are looking for Pujenggi flowers. Do you happen to know about it?” Indra Maulana asked.

Princess Ratna Kemala then told her story. She was a daughter of King Syaidil who was abducted by a Garuda. She wished to return home. If Indra Maulana could help her, she would show him where the flowers are. Indra Maulana promised to help the princess if they could find the flowers. So, Indra Maulana’s party walked along with the princess to a certain place. Upon arriving, the princess plucked several stalks of pujenggi flower and gave the flowers to Indra Maulana.

After that, they returned to the Dragon and climbed onto its head, heading to the land beyond the sea. That afternoon, when the sun shone brightly, a pair of Garudas were seen flying to the island where Princess Ratna Kemala was found. Once they reached the island, those garudas did not find the Princess. They flew up again while directing their eyes down on the land below. At that moment, Princess Kemala was singing in joy as she had been set free. Suddenly she cried out, looking at a pair of Garudas circling above.

“Brother! We’re doomed! The Garudas that have captured this lowly sister are above us.”

“Sister, don’t cry! We will fight these birds. Brothers, we have to fight the birds that are flying above us!”

“Very well! We will pull over to the side so that the princess and the dog can be hidden,” answered the Dragon.

Princess Ratna Kemala Abducted by Garuda

The Dragon and Indra Maulana’s party landed ashore. On the land across the sea, Princess Ratna Kemala and the dog were led into the bushes. Princess Ratna Kemala gave a ring to Indra Maulana, “Brother, please return and bring this sister home.”

Indra Maulana waved his hands as he left Princess Kemala.

One of the Garudas said, “Human! How dare you take my child away?”

“You are the kidnapper! I will slay you!”

The Garuda was enraged. It flew and tried to grab Indra Maulana. He avoided the Dragon’s attack by jumping around while holding a long sword. The battle went for seven days and seven nights until the Garudas were exhausted.

“Hey human! We better stop the battle now. It is nighttime already. We should continue tomorrow.”

Indra Maulana agreed. The garudas flew away. Indra Maulana met Princess Ratna Kemala and together with his party brought the princess back to the Haibar Palace, where her parents dwelt. Now, Princess Ratna Kemala was back in the bosom of her parents and Indra Maulana’s party continued the journey. One day, Princess Ratna Kemala was out picking flowers in the garden. She sang merrily. Both her parents were looking at her with joy.

All of a sudden, from the distant sky above a pair of garudas swooped down and seized Princess Kemala. She was carried away. Her parents were in distress seeing their daughter abducted by the garudas. Everyone in the royal palace gathered. His Majesty issued an edict to search for his daughter. Whoever found the princess should have the kingdom and obtain her hand in

marriage. It was told that the Garudas were fighting with Indra Maulana. The battle went for a long time.

By noon, the Garudas were exhausted, “Human! You do not want to lose out, heh. Show us your supernatural power!” Indra Maulana smiled.

He shot the Garudas and the arrows hit their heads. The Garudas fell down and died. The Dragon said, “Master, would you keep this servant?”

Indra Maulana remembered the Brahmani’s message, “Are you willing to die?”

“Whatever Master commands me to, this servant shall obey. “Indra Maulana shot the Dragon’s head. At once, the Dragon turned into a handsome man. Indra Maulana named him Naga Pertala. And so, they continued the journey. Indra Maulana’s party finally arrived at Janur Kingdom.

Indra Maulana’s Happiness

The sovereign of Janur Kingdom, King Cindra Rasa was troubled because his people were afflicted with swelling sickness. They got sick when they bathed in the river. A large decayed fishbone was in that river. His Majesty ordered the prime minister to issue an edict that whoever cured his subjects would have his daughter’s hand in marriage and be the ruler of his kingdom.

After the prime minister prepared the edict and announced it, strong and powerful men began to flock up the river attempting to remove the rotten fishbone. They took actions to remove it from the river upstream, but they did not succeed. Indra Maulana heard the proclamation. So, he intended to help Cindra Rasa in curing his people. Indra Maulana removed the rotten fishbone by piercing it with his longsword and simply threw it away from the river.

The fishbone was finally gone. The people who witnessed what Indra Maulana did hailed him. Indra Maulana invited the people of Janur Kingdom to bathe in the river. The result was effective. When the people of Janur Kingdom bathed in the river, the people of Janur Kingdom were cured. King Cindra promised to make Indra Maulana his son in law when his daughter had grown up, but he refused. So, Banteng Alam would be their future son-in-law in his stead.

Indra Maulana's party moved forward and stood before King Cindra Rasa. His Majesty King Cindra Rasa welcomed them and conveyed his gratitude. Then, Indra Maulana's party excused themselves and resumed their journey. Their quest continued. They reached Kingdom Binam Sahi. The sovereign of Kingdom Binam Sahi was High King Hardan Darus. He had a wife named Sri Dewi and one daughter called Princess Nila Ganti.

The kingdom was shrouded in sadness because the populace got blind due to the river water. The King held a contest and promised that whoever cured his subjects, would have his daughter's hand in marriage. Many diviners came to the Kingdom Binam Sahi to take part in the contest to cure the blindness, but none of them succeeded.

As usual, Indra Maulana liked to help people who were in need. He intended to help King Hardan Daus. Indra Maulana and his party bounded for the river. Indra Maulana smiled to himself looking at the decayed fishbone that he had thrown from the river upstream in Janur Kingdom ended up in this river. So, using his invincible power, Indra Maulana pierced the big fishbone with his longsword and flung it into the deep sea. King Hardan Daus's people recovered from their blindness after bathing in the river. As King Hardan Daus promised, Indra Maulana would be his future son-in-law. But he refused and Naga Pertala was taken instead.

Indra Maulana heard the news that Princess Ratna Kemala was kidnapped by a Garuda. They resumed their journey to look for Princess Ratna Kemala. The party was finally arrived on the garuda's hill. The Garuda was furious upon learning that a human party was trying to rescue Princess Ratna Kemala. The Garuda flapped its wings. It wanted to chase Indra Maulana out. A fight inevitably broke out. Indra Maulana shot the Garuda to its death.

Indra Maulana then took Ratna Kemala's hand and escorted her to Kingdom Syaidil Arifin. Since Ratna Kemala previously held the Pujenggi flowers, she gave the flowers to Indra Maulana.

Upon arriving in the Kingdom, Ratna Kemala ran to hug her father and mother. As Syaidil Arifin promised, whoever found his daughter shall have his daughter's hand in marriage. In the end, Indra Maulana was willing to marry Ratna Kemala when she grew older. Indra Maulana bid his farewell to King Syaidil Arifin to continue the journey. His party eventually came back to his father's palace.

Indra Maulana's party journeyed back to his kingdom. They walked through the jungles and mountains until they reached their destination. Upon arriving at the palace, Indra Maulana searched his father and mother in the family room, but both of them were not there. So, he headed to his father's living quarter. He opened the door slowly. As it opened, he saw his father lying on the bed. And so, he entered.

High King Indra Mangindra saw his son coming back with Pujenggi flowers. "Come here, Son. I have been waiting for you for a long time."

Indra Maulana approached his father and kissed his right hand. He did the same to his mother who sat next to his father. Both his parents took turn to hug Indra Maulana. "Forgive me for taking a

long time to search for the flowers. I wish to share numerous stories of my experience to Father and Mother, but first... these are the Pujenggi flowers that Father needs to cure the illness.”

The wife of High King Indra Mangindra took the flowers from his son’s hands. Then, she asked her lady-in-waiting to boil the flowers and pour the decoction into a glass. High King said, “Forgive me, Son for having troubled you.”

“It is a child’s duty to help the parents, Father.” Not long after, a lady-in-waiting entered with a cup of Pujenggi Flowers decoction to be given to the High King Indra Mangindra.

High King Indra Mangindra got up and sat on the bedside. He drank the flower water one sip at a time until he finished it all. A few hours later, High King Indra Mangindra’s health gradually recovered. The courtiers in the palace were filled with joy. High King Indra Mangindra learned to walk and move his limbs again. He lifted his hands and his knees up and down.

Now, High King Indra Mangindra was healthy again. He was able to lead his subjects well. High King Indra Mangindra was ready to hear Indra Maulana’s stories and experience with his party. Indra Maulana told his story from beginning to end. High King Indra Mangindra and his wife listened raptly to it. From time to time, the High King Indra Mangindra would nod and smile when listening to his son’s story. At times, he would be amazed,

especially when he heard the part when Indra Maulana battling a garuda.

In the end, High King Indra Mangindra found out the identity of the bull and the dragon that were shot by Indra Maulana. They were actually his nephews. Indra Maulana was an invincible, patient, and benevolent prince. His sacrifices and acts of kindness to his fellow man had created something.

Due to Indra Maulana's forbearance and his kindness, the Creator of Heaven and Earth returned his favor and protected him from all dangers. Do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. All deeds of men are under the watchful eyes of the Maker of Heaven and Earth.