

SAI NGUGHA THE BRAVE
Sai Ngugha Si Pemberani

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SAI NGUGHA THE BRAVE

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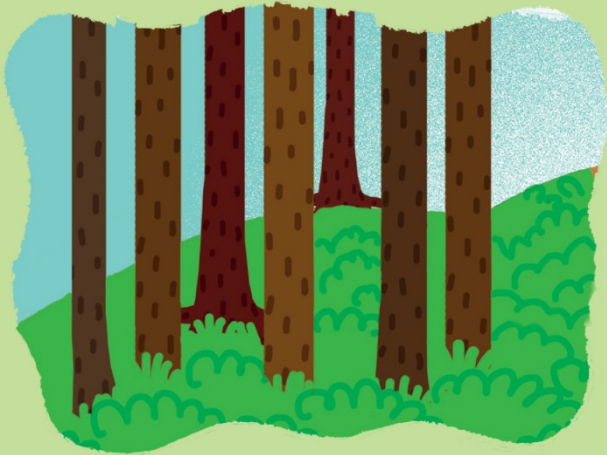
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Cerita Rakyat dari Lampung

Sai Ngugha Si Pemberani



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SAI NGUGHA SI PEMBERANI

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Foreword

Literature work is not only series of word but it also talks about life, both realistically and idealistically of human. If it is realistic, the literature work usually contains life experiences, good model, and wisdom which have been added various style and imagination along with it. Meanwhile, if it idealistic, the literature work contains moral lecture, good character, advices, philosophical symbols, culture and other things related to human life. The life itself is very diverse, varies, and full of various problems and conflicts faced by humans. The diversity in humans life also affects to the diversity of literature work because the contents are inseparable from civilized and dignified humans life.

The literature works that dealing with life utilizes language as medium of deliverance and imaginative art as its *cultural land*. On the basis of the language medium and imaginative art, literature is multidimensional and multi-interpretative. Using language medium, imaginative art and cultural dimension, literature deliver messages to be reviewed or analyzed from various perspectives. The outcome of that perspective depends greatly on who is reviewing and analyzing with various socio-cultural and knowledge background. There is a time when a literary reviewer reviews from the point of view of metaphor, myth, symbol, power, ideology, economy, politics, and culture can be refuted by other reviewers who see from perspective of sound, referent, or irony. Even so, Heraclitus said,

"However opposite they work together and from different directions, the most beautiful harmony emerges".

There are many lessons that we can get from reading literature, one of which is reading folktales that are adapted or reprocessed into children's stories. The results of reading literature always inspire and motivate readers to be creative in finding something new. Reading literature can trigger further imagination, open enlightenment, and add insights. For this reason, we express our gratitude for the processors for the story. We also express our appreciation and gratitude to the Head of the Coaching Center, Head of the Learning Division, and Head of the Subdivision of Modules and Teaching Materials and staffs for all the efforts and hard works carried out until the realization of this book.

Hopefully this storybook is not only useful as a reading material for students and the community to foster a culture of literacy through the National Literacy Movement program, but also useful as an enrichment of our knowledge of past life that can be utilized in addressing current and future life developments.

Jakarta, June 2016

Regards,
Prof. Dr. Dadang Sunendar, M. Hum.

Preface

Writing this folktale from Lampung entitled *Sai Ngugha the Brave* was not an easy thing, and quite consuming time and energy. However, when all was solved no more appropriate words to pronounce except gratitude immeasurably over all successfully achieved. I thank God, Allah Swt., for without God's blessing the story *Sai Ngugha the Brave* wouldn't have been able to be completed.

Sai Ngugha the Brave is adapted from a folktale entitled *Si Bungsu* and in another version, the story entitled *King of Nganak Pitu* from Lampung province.

In this opportunity I would like to thank to the many parties who have provided an opportunity to share this inspiring story ; to my child, Jauza Najla Naufalia. Suggestions, responses, and feedback from readers are welcomed to be used as consideration to improve the quality of this book in the future.

Lampung, April 2016
Diah Meutia Harum

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SAI NGUGHA THE BRAVE

The Seven Sisters

Long ago in Lampung, in a village at the edge of a forest, there lived a very poor family with seven stunningly beautiful daughters. The seven sisters lived with their parents in a humble little house.

Though it was a far cry from luxury, their tiny abode lay at the edge of a forest on the breathtaking slopes of the Bukit Barisan Mountains. The forest was lush and green and the air was fresh. Their quaint little house would have made anyone feel at home.

The seven girls were hard workers and had a penchant for gardening. Their house was bedecked with flowering bushes, planted here and there to make their charming little home all the more beautiful.

In addition, the hibiscus flower blossomed beautifully and the trumpet-like flowers hang over enchantingly to make the small house look nice. They charmingly decorated the relatively mini house.

As far as the eyes can see, a green view extended below the hill and valleys around their house. Only very few people lived there. There were only few houses along the way to the house of the

humble family.

The seven sisters in the poor family lived in harmony. Never did they have any quarrel among them. When one of them had a problem, her sisters would come to back up. Likewise, when one of them was sad, her sisters would come to soothe her. However, it seemed that their parents felt extremely sad due to the hard life.

Their sago-palm roofed house would be leaking in the rain. Rainwater would drop into the house. They suffered from cold weather at nights. The strong wind had damaged the house panelled with the decayed leaf and wood arrangement.

Although the house had been repaired frequently, most parts of it had been rotten. Such was also the case with their clothes. They did not have any nice clothes. They just wore old clothes manually sewn in an irregular pattern. Some patches were found everywhere. The faded colour indicated the chronic use of the clothes.

Every day, the seven daughters went along with their parents to the forest to collect daily food and some firewood. Time went by so quickly. They lived an awful life but they lived their life patiently.

All they did was nothing but going to the forest. They just collected whatever they could eat just enough to satisfy their hunger. Sometimes, they did not find any food materials at all to

be traded or sold. Since they had nothing to plant, they merely took the wild tubers and mushrooms in the forest. When they found some fruits or caught some animals, they would eat some part and brought some other part home. But sometimes they had nothing to eat. They lived that way for years. Until one day, the parents of the poor children decided to have a better life. They had suffered from difficulties and miseries for a long time. Nothing had changed although they had attempted to improve their life for years.

"We have a very hard life indeed. We remain poor till now," said Mak Salimah, the mother of the seven girls.

"We've passed prayers to God as well. This condition is unbearable. God has not answered our prayers and had not blessed our family," said Pak Sam, her husband.

"Shall we sacrifice anything like the case of Prophet Abraham who sacrificed Ismail as a form of faithfulness? If we have to do so, I'll do it," the mother looked at her seven daughters sadly.

Sai Ngugha, the youngest child, heard what their parents had said. The youngest child told about their parents' unhappiness to her sisters. They were all very sad. They thought about it days and nights. How hard their life had been. The seven sisters always thought how they could relieve their parents' misery.

"I'm willing to sacrifice myself for the happiness of our Father

and Mother," said Sai Ngugha to Sai Ratu, the eldest child.

"Me too. How painful and miserable our parents are! Will we just become a burden in their life? We can no longer bear their continuous complaints of poverty," said Sai Daing the middle child.

"But, what can we do to help our parents," asked the youngest child, Sai Ngugha. "I think I'll go to the village behind the hill to get a job. I hope somebody will hire me to work in the field."

"Good idea. If Ngugha is going to the village, I'll go along, Sister. The more people going to the village, it's more likely that we can get more works. Therefore, we'll earn much more money. By doing so, we can relieve Father and Mother's misery," said Daing enthusiastically. Her other sisters nodded in agreement.

Sai Ratu was stunned into a silent pondering. Her emotion was deeply affected knowing that her six younger sisters enthusiastically want to relieve their parents' difficulties.

For Sai Ratu, the eldest child, her younger sisters were her most precious and valuable belongings.

"My dear younger sisters, of course, we have to help our parents. However, if we all go to the village, then who will accompany our father and mother at home? We know that the work will take much time." Sai Ratu said haltingly. She could not say even a

single word. "All right, we'll discuss it tomorrow. It's already late of night."

They ended the discussion since the night was already late. Feeling powerless, the seven sisters fell asleep and had a dream. They only woke up when the next morning arrived.

On a bright day, Pak Sam took his seven daughters to hunt a deer. Sometimes, when the weather was fine, they could see a deer at the edge of the forest.

The girls always enthusiastically went along with their father. His father had particularly taught archery to Sai Ngugha, the youngest daughter because she was very dexterous and agile. Since Pak Sam had no son, he taught a hunting skill to his girl, Ngugha, in the way he would have taught to a boy.

It was easy to teach Sai Ngugha hunting because the smart girl learned fast. Sai Ngugha could shoot a target skilfully. She could accurately point the arrow to the targeted animal. Therefore, Sai Ngugha had always been successful in the hunting.

For a month, Pak Sam had not seen any deer at all anywhere. He wondered where the deer had been. He had been impatient to hunt the deer. After preparing anything that he needed for hunting, he left for the jungle with whatever he could find. On his way, they saw a deer near them. It was drinking some water in the stream of the jungle. The deer looked so thirsty that it did not recognize

their presence. Pak Sam moved stealthily and approached the deer. He was prepared to shoot the deer and brought it home. He was very happy to see that his target was not cautious.

He moved stealthily to keep his step from making any sound. It was so quiet. However, suddenly the scream of a gibbon somewhere in the distance distracted the silence. The deer looked up and saw that Pak Sam was there ready with his arrow pointed at it.

The deer ran off right away. Pak Sam's arrow missed the target. The deer ran as fast as it could. To chase the escaping target, Pak Sam ran after it. He went very far until he reached the edge of the river. He had left his seven daughters. Finally, he really left his seven daughters.

Meanwhile, Pak Sam's seven daughters were anxiously expecting their father to return from running after the deer.

"Father has left us for a long time. Perhaps he had forgotten where we are now. He has not returned yet. I'm afraid he gets lost in the jungle when he runs after the deer," Daing the middle child complained while embracing Sai Ngugha.

Sai Ngugha and her sisters decided to go on walking to search their father. They did not realize that they had gone too far into



the jungle that they were unfamiliar. Shaded by densely grown trees, the sun light could hardly illuminate the jungle ground. There could have been many wild animals in the jungle.

They incessantly called out their father. They attempted to trace the track that their father might have made when he was chasing the deer. Sometimes, they were excited when they heard a soft human-like voice. However, they turned blue when they realized that it was not human's voice. Instead, it was only the camouflaged sound of wind in their ear.

They looked at each other. Then, they decided to walk farther into the jungle expecting that they would be lucky to see their father again. They kept on walking without expecting what might happen to them.

In the Jungle

Sai Ngugha and her six sisters were totally lost in the jungle with densely grown trees where nobody had ever passed through. Large trees stood everywhere. When they went farther into the jungle, all they could find was merely thick moss everywhere. Of course, there might be wild animals as well. The river had clear water that splashed when it hit the rocks. They felt the extremely cold sensation when the water splashed their body.

They really got worried and frightened too because the jungle seemed to be unfriendly for them. It was horrible not because of the silence, but instead since they perceived as if several couples of eyes were watching them quietly.

"I've never been in this jungle. Listen to the sounds! They are annoying," said Sai Ratu anxiously. She occasionally heard forest animals' sound. To her, directly hearing the sound of the forest animal was more threatening than when she indirectly heard the sounds from their hut.

Seeing that their eldest sister looked scared, the girls were panicked. However, they had never gone away that far without their parents.

"We are the seven sisters. Nobody will disturb us. Never will we get a misery. Don't be afraid. God will always be with us," Sai Ngugha assured her sisters. However, she felt worried to be in the

strange place.

Dusk had come. The seven girls had lost their father in the jungle and they began sobbing. They were scared of living in the jungle that they had never known previously. The trees stood close to each other. The ground full of moss and incessant sound of forest animals made had resulted in a sense of horror among the girls.

The eldest child began lamenting. She mourned their poor destiny. She called out her father who had never returned since then.

"What should we do? Father is away from us. There are only seven of us in this thick jungle. Don't you hear the incessant sound of gibbons? Bats began flying over us. They led to the increasing intensity of horror when the evening turned into nights," said Sai Ratu. Her hair stood on end when she heard the sound of the forest animals.

Sometimes, she heard the bats and owls flying away. It was such a horrible experience. They were in an unexpected place away from humans. There were only the forest's wild animals ready to seize them.

"It's useless for you to call out Father. We don't know where he is now. He doesn't know where we are either. Father must be sad because of having left us here. He ran after the deer in this horrible forest," said Daing the middle child.

The youngest child Sai Ngugha attempted to soothe her six sisters. Suddenly, Ngugha was inspired by the birds' sound in the jungle. She remembered that before she left, she had put some corn for the birds in the jungle. If she were lucky, the birds would not have taken the corn. Therefore, they would be able to find the way home by tracing the scattered corns.

"Don't be sad, Sister. We'll meet our Father and mother again. Before we left for this jungle, I had taken some corn with me. I had put the corn along our way to this jungle. I expected that the birds would eat the corn. Now, let's pray and expect that the birds have not eaten the corn."

"Let's follow the track of the corn that I have put. I'm sure that we can meet our parents again," said Sai Ngugha to her sisters.

"If so, we'll meet our father and mother by tracing the corn along the way we had passed," said Sai Daing excitedly.

Then they attempted to find the way home by tracing the corn they had spread. Unfortunately, the birds had eaten all of Sai Ngugha's corn.

The seven girls turned blue. Initially they happily expect to find the way home. However, they were disappointed when knowing that whatsoever had taken the corns.



When the night got so late, the sounds of the forest animals were heard more clearly. The owls woke up and started calling out their friends. Occasionally, they heard the sound of bats flying near their ears.

The dark night in the forest had obscured their view. The seven sisters had to drag their feet. Sometimes their feet hit the roots extending along their way.

Finally, they gave up walking any longer. They cried one after another. They were frustrated of having to live in that extensive area of jungle.

The seven girls felt sad and powerless. They had to spend the night in the jungle. Sai Ngugha, the most dexterous girl among them, looked for the most comfortable shelter.

She looked for bushes to hide and prevent them from the attack of wild animals wandering in the jungle. They soon find a large tree with large roots. Some clumps had covered the roots. After they felt sure that they would be safe there, the girls decided to use the roots as their sleeping ground that night.

Sluggishly, the seven girls decided to take a rest before they went on their journey the next early morning to discover the nearest village.

"All right, we're leaving now. Let's discover the nearest village and escape from this jungle. We start leaving now, Sister," Sai Ngugha asked her sisters to leave when the dawn had broken.

The seven girls went on roaming the jungle. They had taken up all of the food supplies. Since that time, the seven girls had to learn which leaves and fruits were edible. Sometimes, by accident, they ate very bitter fruits.

They had learned which mushrooms were edible and which others

were not. Some kinds of edible mushrooms tasted delicious when they were burned.

When they were bored with mushroom, they caught fishes in the small river in the jungle. Although they did not put any spice on the food, they found that the fish was delicious. The food was just nice for their hungry stomach. In the end, the seven sisters realized that they had to live independently without any support from their parents whose location was unknown. Every time they prayed to God and asked that they would see their parents again.

Getting parted from their father and mother, the seven young girls had to be accustomed to living independently since they were not sure if they would meet their parents again. It was a horrible experience for the young girls to be separated from their parents. Perhaps, it was their destiny to live apart from their parents. They kept praying and expecting that they would live happily. They constantly prayed that someday they would see their parents again.

The seven sisters were mourning. They were scared of living independently without any support of their parents. Therefore, they sobbed together in the dark horrible night. The next day they went on their journey through the dark jungle. They walked in the mysterious and horrible jungle for days. Occasionally they met wild animals. They ran and hid in a tremble accordingly.

Sai Ngugha, having been experienced in hunting with her father, did not feel scared with the wildlife in the jungle. However, she pitied her sisters who had been accustomed to helping their mother to accomplish the daily chores.

In that condition, Sai Ngugha remained optimistic. Such optimism had strengthened them. Since they had consumed up all food supplies, they had to accustom to any food supplied by the jungle. They were accustomed to eating tubers, mushrooms, and whatever food they could find in the jungle. Their horrible journey ended only when they arrived at the area with fewer trees and sunlight could brightly illuminate the pathway and penetrate the thick jungle. They reached the outermost of a corn farm.

At another outermost of the corn farm, they saw a village through which a river flew. The seven sisters felt very glad since they thought that they finally would find a human life. However, they felt strange because the village was quiet and unoccupied.

Tiredly and slowly, they walked across the farm towards the edge of the river to take a bath. They would like to clean up their body after a very long journey. They would like to look clean and smell fragrant before entering the village opposite the corn farm.

The Seven Girls and the Gigantic Demon

When they reached the edge of the river, they saw two horrible gigantic demons bathing in the river. They were shocked and horrified. Therefore, they ran and looked for a hideout to keep them from being seen by the demon. They were afraid that the gigantic demon would see and attack them.

Never before had they seen such a horrible demon. In the hideout, they observed the two demons. What they saw could make everybody's heart beat faster.

The two gigantic demons were heavily built and pot-bellied. They had tousled hair and sharp and pointed teeth. They had sharp and curved nails that they had never cut.

The seven girls whispered to each other and enthusiastically described the gigantic demons that they had never met before. They usually heard such figures from stories.

"Sshhh... don't make any noise, Sister. They would hear us. The flame was still flaring up. We can smell the scorched meat from here. We had better hide and leave soon," said Sai Ratu nervously.

They had never met such a horrible gigantic demon. They were worried about their safety.



"Bones are scattered everywhere. Oh...the bones may be the residue of their foods," said Sai Daing in disgust.

They speculated about the unoccupied village when they arrived. The demon's hut was very large, even when it was seen from the distant place where they hid out.

Finally, the seven sisters decided to stay in their hiding place and arranged a strategy. They expected that the demon would not see them. However, they had to leave the place because if they stayed there for a longer time, they probably would have another problem.

When they were in the hiding place, Sai Ngugha and her sisters arranged a strategy to scare the demons bathing in the river.

The two gigantic demons did not realize their presence since they were too busy bathing in the river. They had ignored what was happening around them. The two gigantic demons splashed water on each other. The splash sound was extremely loud.

The seven girls thought hard to find a way of expelling the two gigantic demons. However, at that time, they needed a place to live. They thought that the village occupied by the two gigantic demons was appropriate for their residential place. To occupy the village, they would have to expel the gigantic demons.

Alternately, the seven girls proposed their ideas of how to drive

the demons away. Sai Ngugha suggested her sisters to dissolve some sugar palm fruit in the river. The solution of sugar palm fruit can result in an itchy sensation. The sugar palm fruit dissolved in the river would make the two demons feel itchy.

Sai Ratu thought that Sai Ngugha's idea was simple and safe for them. They collected sugar palm fruit and immediately dissolved it into the river.

"Keep your hand away from the solution," said Sai Ratu to Ngugha.



"All right, Sister. I'll soak it in the taro leaf. When it is enough, I'll pour it into the river," said Ngugha.

Then, the seven sisters went to the river to pour the solution of sugar palm fruit. They walked away stealthily to keep the demons from seeing them.

Soon after that, the two demons who were too busy bathing suddenly felt severely itchy. Their whole skin broke out into a rash. When they scratched the itchy parts with their sharp nails, the itchy sensation radiated to the whole parts of the skin.

Beside that, the two demons rolled around the ground. Then, they screamed and howled in pain. Perceiving that the area was no longer suitable for them, the two demons gave it up.

The river water had caused an itchy sensation and it hurt them. The two demons ran away to the jungle and they never returned since then.

Later they found previously, the large cornfields belonged to the people. The gigantic demons had taken it over from the people. Since the gigantic demons had left the village, the villagers could own and cultivate the cornfields. Soon after that, they divided the fields for the people. How happy they were. The people thanked the seven sisters.

"Take it, dear Ngugha. We hope that this red rose will be useful

for you," said one of the village leaders.

"Thank you. You have given us so much. We'll never be able to repay your kindness," replied Sai Ngugha.

Then the people shared a quite large piece of land to Sai Ngugha and her sisters.

Sai Ngugha was the most intelligent and creative girls among them. Such superiority helped Sai Ngugha in the cultivation of her corn farm. She grew fragrant flower plants in the field. The flowers attracted such small animals as birds to lay eggs and make a nest in the field.

Sai Ngugha remembered about her village and her parents. Since she had learned much from her bitter experience as a poor woman, she grew empathy and loved sharing her belongings. She earned abundant agricultural produce and she was happy to share it with other people.

One day, she met a bird that laid an extremely large egg. The bird stayed for several days in the field. Then it flew and left the egg.

Sai Ngugha wondered with that incident. She pondered and observed the bird's egg. She was sad when she remembered her own miserable destiny of being left by her parents. Then she took the egg.

One day, Sai Ngugha went to the field to pick up some flowers.

When Sai Ngugha returned home from the field, she smelled the aroma of some delicious food from her home. She wondered and rushed to find out.

She was so surprised to find nobody in her home. She just found an old heron in front of his cooker. The heron was actually beautiful, but since it was already old, the feather had fallen off and the skin was totally wrinkled. The heron had a baldhead and no feather was found along its neck.

"It's true. I'm doing the cooking for you. A witch cursed me since I had entered the jungle to hunt her beloved deer. Please help me," said the heron to Sai Ngugha.

"How can I help you, Heron? I don't have any miraculous magic capacity or power," said Sai Ngugha.

"Boil your red rose leaves, and bathe me in Way Rilau. However, there is a cruel old witch. If you get caught, you can be cursed as well," said the heron to Sai Ngugha.

Sai Ngugha needed some time to think about it. She had undergone a number of incidents to make her more cautious.

However, she knew that the heron looked weak. It looked at Sai Ngugha and begged for her a mercy. Sai Ngugha pitied it. She had a kind heart and accordingly, she would help it whenever she could. Sai Ngugha asked for permission to her sisters to leave for

Way Rilau.

"All right, Heron, if you think this is the only way to help you get rid of the magic spell, I'll boil this flower and bathe you in Way Rilau. I'll take the risk of getting caught by the old witch."

When she arrived at the edge of Way Rilau River, she saw the old witch sleeping under the silk-cotton tree. As soon as possible, Sai Ngugha took the chance to bathe the heron with the boiled red rose water. Suddenly, white smoke got out of the heron's body.



took several steps away. Then when the smoke disappeared, she saw a young handsome man in a full dress like a prince.

The young man had light brown skin and wavy hair extending until below his ears. He had neatly-arranged white teeth.

The tall man had bright eyes and a determined look. Anybody who met him would know that he was a good young man. No sign of heron was found at all in the young man's body.

The young man threatened the old witch with his sword and asked her to leave. The witch ran head over heels.

Finally, Sai Ngugha returned home with the handsome young man. They were matched to be a couple of lovers. If that were true, the six sisters of Sai Ngugha would support their relationship. Everybody was glad and happy.

The Loss of Sai Ngugha

The handsome young man introduced himself and claimed that he was hatched from the egg left in the field. A witch had cursed him to be a heron.

The black magic would end when a girl with a truly kind heart was willing to sacrifice for him and to bathe him with the red rose flower. If that happened, the handsome young man would turn back into a human.

"I'm very lucky to know a girl with a noble heart so that I am free of the witch's black magic." The young man named Raga started a conversation in that morning.

"Only today can I feel happy since I have been apart from our parents. So far, we have always been sad. Our memory with our parents has always come into our mind. That's why we are always very sad. We don't know when we will see them again," said Sai Ngugha.

Over time, the young man and young woman fell in love with each other. Raga, the young man, fell in love with Sai Ngugha's beauty and intelligence. However, what made him love even more was that Sai Ngugha had a noble heart. In addition, she had bright eyes just like the sun.

They were married and lived happily at their home. They began

their new life with a simple way of happiness.

One day, Sai Ngugha was doing the laundry at the riverside. Accidentally, she slipped into the river and the clothes were scattered at the riverside.

Sai Ngugha got much panicked. She tried to reach anything to hold when the stream carried away. She was too panicked to realize that a large fish approached and swallowed her. Sai Ngugha was trapped in the dark belly of the large fish. She had submitted her fate to wherever it would go. She did not fight at all. She let the large fish carry her body wherever it would go.

The large fish felt fully satiated after having Sai Ngugha in its stomach. Consequently, it became lazy to swim. The fish did not eat anything else for days after she took Sai Ngugha into her stomach. The sensation of satisfaction had led the large fish to strand at the riverside far away from Sai Ngugha's home.

Meanwhile, Nek Atu who was expecting the fish to enter the fish trap at the riverside was surprised to see a large fish stranded. Nek Atu was very excited to get an unexpected great fortune. Immediately she took a knife and cut the fish. She wanted to bring the meat home.

But although she had frequently tried to cut the fish body, she failed to cut the fish. The fish was too hard to cut as if it was made of knife-proof steel.

When she knew that she had failed to cut the fish, finally, she decided to take a rest for a while under a tree at the riverside. She was severely tired and finally she fell asleep.

When Nek Atu was sleeping, she had a dream. In the dream, she was told that however sharp a knife was, it would fail to cut the fish. Nek Atu had to get a belidang leaf to cut the fish. Any sharp knife would fail to cut the fish but a belidang leaf would do.

Nek Atu woke up from her sleep. She was shocked since she had a strange dream. Nek Atu was sure that the fish was a miraculous fish.

She hurriedly took a belidang leaf and cut the fish. A beautiful girl got out of the stomach of the fish. The girl had long hair and light skin. She looked weak because she had been in the stomach of the fish for days.

The old woman wondered why the girl, Sai Ngugha, looked fine. Nek Atu took Sai Ngugha to her house and treated her as her own daughter. Sai Ngugha lived for months with the old woman.

She helped the old woman do the daily chores. However, Sai Ngugha constantly remembered her beloved husband who certainly worried about her.

Sai Ngugha herself did not know where he was. When she asked Nek Atu about her husband Raga, Nek Atu did not know either.

She did not have the heart to leave Nek Atu alone since Nek Atu was already old and she had to live alone. Nobody helped her do the daily chores in her old age. Nek Atu lived alone and had no children. She had never got out of her village all her life long.

Raga's Roam to Search Sai Ngugha

Meanwhile, Raga, Sai Ngugha's husband was very sad about losing his beloved wife. He roamed in the jungles and villages to search his wife Sai Ngugha.

He had visited a number of villages and kampongs. He had crossed tens of rivers. However, he had not found Sai Ngugha.

He constantly passed prayers and asked for God's bless to unite him and his wife. Sai Ngugha's husband went on his exploration to search Sai Ngugha. He loved his wife very much. He remembered her noble heart. To him, only death would take them apart.

One day, Raga felt very tired. His long journey in the past week had taken up his energy. He had lost much energy due to the constantly changing weather.

He took a rest under a large tree near a kampong. The soft breeze had made Raga fall asleep. In his sound sleep, he had a dream.

In the dream, he met a young girl in a beautiful dress. She asked Raga to go to a particular beautiful place. There were many green fruitful trees and a clear flowing river. There were also twittering birds at the twigs and branches.

At the west end, there was a simple house. It was not quite large,



but it was clean and tidy. He was served foods and drinks there. Raga was very glad. He did not expect that suddenly Sai Ngugha appeared from the house. Raga was surprised and woke up from his sleep.

"Am I only dreaming? I felt as if Ngugha was near me. She was very close. But where is my wife now?" asked Sai Ngugha's husband to himself.

"I'm sure she must be in this village. But, how can I find my wife? I'm very tired, weak, and powerless. I could not lift my leg, let alone walk," said him quietly.

From a distance, he saw an old woman walking toward him. She was carrying a fish trap and fruits. The old woman, Nek Atu, approached Raga who looked weak and tired.

For a while, Nek Atu looked at Raga. She thought that he did not come from the village. She pitied the handsome young man who looked sick. Due to his long roam to search Sai Ngugha, Raga looked very thin. However, he still looked charismatic. Therefore, people would trust him and was not afraid of him although he was a stranger.

Nek Atu approached Raga and sat beside him.

"Son, do you come from a nearby place? I've never seen you. You look sick."

Raga smiled weakly. "No, Grandma. I don't come from this area. Actually, I am feeling unwell. I am on a roam, Grandma."

"Son, here are some fruits. Take them so that you can get some energy. Call on my house so that you can take a rest before you go on your journey," said Nek Atu to Raga.

In the end, Raga regained his power after eating some fruits given by Nek Atu. He decided to drop on the old woman's house and took a rest to recover her stamina. He fell asleep after taking some food and drink.

"Your body gets sunburnt. You looked worried and sad. I hope your problem will disappear and your life will get better." The old woman said to herself.

After Raga woke up, he told Nek Atu that he was sad about missing his beloved wife. Sai Ngugha heard the story of the man from inside Nek Atu's house.

She recognized Raga's voice. It was her husband's voice. She was rejoiced to know that Raga had taken every effort to search her.

"The young man had been in a roam to search his beloved one. He had crossed tens of rivers. He had passed nights and days. He had a strong belief that he would find his beloved wife." The old woman told Sai Ngugha about what she heard from the young man.

"Is he my husband, Grandma? We have been apart for a long time. I don't know how many months and days we have not met. I've passed some full moons and sunsets. I missed him very much. I believe that he is my husband," said Sai Ngugha. The old woman asked the young man to enter the house to see Sai Ngugha. Accordingly, he got into the house.

Happy Ending

After talking to the young man, Nek Atu asked Raga to enter the house. How surprised he was to see his beloved wife. He was extremely rejoiced to find his beloved wife in good health. The loving couple was really happy because they finally met after being apart for a long time. The old woman was emotionally affected. Her tears dropped. She had treated Sai Ngugha as her own daughter.

When her daughter found her happiness with her beloved husband who had been separated for a long time, the old woman felt happy as well.

Raga and Sai Ngugha returned to their hometown. They asked Nek Atu to go along with them, because Sai Ngugha had treated Nek Atu as her surrogate mother.

Soon after that, Sai Ngugha met her six sisters who had missed her and worried about her safety and missed her very much.

They had a better life as time went by. They had abundant agricultural produce and shared some of their income to subsidize other people. The people were very glad. They respected Sai Ngugha and her family and made them the leader in the village.



Life went on. Sai Ngugha and Raga had two children, a beautiful girl and a handsome boy. They were also kind and intelligent. The parents and the people loved them very much.

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