

**RATNA KOMALA AND THE MAGICAL SAGO  
PALM**

*Ratna Komala dan Rumbia Ajaib*

Property of the State  
Not for Commercial Use

**Language Development and Cultivation Agency  
Ministry of Education and Culture  
Republic of Indonesia  
2018**

# **RATNA KOMALA AND THE MAGICAL SAGO PALM**

Translated from  
***Ratna Komala dan Rumbia Ajaib***  
written by Saksono Prijanto  
published by  
Language Development and Cultivation Agency  
Ministry of Education and Culture  
in 2016

This translation has been published as the result of the translation program organized  
by The Center for Language Strategy and Diplomacy Development,  
Language Development and Cultivation Agency, Ministry of Education and Culture  
in 2018

Advisory Board	Dadang Sunendar Emi Emilia
Project Supervisor	Dony Setiawan
Translator	Tanti Susilawati
Reviewer	Aditya Nugraha
Editor-in-chief	Theya Wulan Primasari
Editorial team	Andi Maytendri M., Ayu Dwi N., Didiek Hardadi, Ferry Yun, Hardina Artating, Herfin A., Lale Li Datil, Larasati, Meili Sanny S., Putriasari, R. Bambang Eko, Rizky Akbar, Roslia, Saprudin Padlil, Syukron Ramadloni, Toni Gunawan, Yolanda

All rights reserved.  
Copyrights of the original book and the translation belong to  
Language Development and Cultivation Agency,  
Ministry of Education and Culture, Republic of Indonesia.

Language Development and Cultivation Agency  
Ministry of Education and Culture, Republic of Indonesia  
Jalan Daksinapati Barat IV, Ramangun, Jakarta  
Telepon (021) 4706287, 4706288, 4896558, 4894546  
Pos-el: badan.bahasa@kemdikbud.go.id  
[www.badanbahasa.kemdikbud.go.id](http://www.badanbahasa.kemdikbud.go.id)

# **RATNA KOMALA AND THE MAGICAL SAGO PALM**

## **The Kingdom of Khairan Langkawi and the Adventure of King Johan Syah**

As the story goes, the Great Kingdom of Khairan Langkawi was famous in the four corners of the world. This kingdom, which was blessed with abundant natural resources, had vast fields, vegetable gardens, and orchards. The coastal areas that extended from west to east were so rich with various fish. The people lived in peace, prosperity, and happiness under the leadership of the Great King Bikramasakti and Queen Sinar Bulan, or commonly called Princess Indra Juwita.

In his leadership, the King was wise and kind to his family and the royal courtiers, as well as the inhabitants of the land. The Great King of Bikramasakti had one son, named Johan Syah, and one daughter, named Princess Ratna Komala.

In order to get closer to his people, the King often made visits to paddy fields, farms, and plantations throughout the country. When it was time to harvest, the people in this country had a tradition of holding a thanksgiving ceremony. All the people, old, young, big, small, men, and women would gather together and

pray with the royal courtiers in the palace of the Great Kingdom of Khairan Langkawi.

The King would congratulate and thank the people for their hardwork, and give them advice and encouragement to do better in the future. "...Thank goodness, this year we're able to gather together here. My People, go and work harder in the coming year so that we will have more abundant results, and we will live more prosperously." The people enjoyed listening to the King's instruction and clapped their hands applauding his advice.

Time ticked by, and a few weeks later there was news that the Great King Bikramasakti was seriously ill.

In his final hour, the King gave this exhortation to his son, "I hope that you will be strong when I'm gone. My task in this world is finished and that means that you must be able to replace me afterwards."

The King also told Johan Syah to take care of his wife and Ratna Komala.

A few moments later, the King breathed his last breath, mentioning the name of God, "God is great," followed by a simultaneous remark from all who were near his bed, "We surely belong to God, and to Him we shall return."

The period of mourning ended forty days after the King's death.

The royal courtiers returned to work as before.

Three months later, the Queen also fell ill and lost her appetite. Her body temperature was high because she hadn't eaten for one day and one night. Her son and daughter had tried to make her eat even just a little. Family members and Islamic students joined in prayers and recitation of the Quranic verses, and at last she too passed away in peace. "We surely belong to God, and to Him we shall return," that saying resounded again. The people were surprised to hear the news of the Queen's sudden death. Ratna Komala, the twelve-year-old girl, fainted, unable to accept the heavy burden which she had to bear. At that time, Ratna Komala was only eleven years old, and Johan Syah was fifteen. Prince Johan Syah sobbed as he hugged his unconscious sister, "Wake up, oh My Dear Little Sister! How could you leave your brother alone? You must be strong, My Little Sister! Please wake up, God is great, God is great...!" That was the effort of a brother to make his sister come round.

### **Johan Syah's Adventure**

It had been three months since Queen Sinar Bulan passed away. However, Ratna Komala was still covered with deep sorrow. She became despondent and was very afraid of losing her brother. Being aware of that, Johan Syah built an art studio for young

people to study and do some creative works. The art studio was used by Ratna Komala as a place to learn how to read the Quran with her friends. Besides that, she also developed her artistic talents, such as playing *gamelan*<sup>1</sup> and dancing, and even practicing martial arts. Ratna Komala was very intelligent and quick to understand every lesson.

"What would have been of me if Brother Johan Syah had not built this art studio?" Ratna Komala muttered. "After losing my father and mother, my enthusiasm to live seemed to vanish into thin air, like a tree that has been uprooted from the ground. This studio made me realize that the world is bigger than what I have thought," so said Ratna Komala, who had just shaken off her sadness.

Ratna Komala cleverly carved a plan for her future. She enjoyed the activities in the art studio so much that her face looked radiant, because she was no longer continually reminded of her late parents. She became very much attached to her maid and to the prime minister's wife who loved her very much.

"Fortunately, Aunt Prime Minister is always around me, and so I feel safe and can lean on her affection." The prime minister's wife smiled affectionately as she grabbed her hand and hugged the girl.

---

<sup>1</sup> traditional ensemble music of Java and Bali

Prince Johan Syah was also very attached and close to Uncle Prime Minister. The Prime Minister and his wife were considered as their own parents. Because he was only fifteen years old, Johan Syah refused to be crowned as his father's successor. However, thanks to the Prime Minister's convincing words, Johan Syah was willing to become a king. The Prime Minister told him that the coronation was only symbolic in nature.

"You don't have to worry, Your Majesty. You can leave all affairs to us, the elders!"

Hearing the Prime Minister's promise, King Johan Syah was deeply touched.

"Oh no, Uncle, though I don't have any experience, I will work hard with you. Therefore, I hope you are willing to guide me," Johan Syah implored.

Hearing the words of the Young King, the prime minister Prime Minister was moved and proud at the same time. He immediately embraced the beloved orphan.

"All right, My Son, indeed you are the true son of King Bikramasakti. I'm proud to hear what you have just said."

The King's coronation ceremony was held in simplicity because the kingdom was still in mourning. Festive celebration was held

only when the harvest season had come, and the people would have fun together.

After the coronation ceremony was over, some courtiers immediately announced the coronation to all people throughout the kingdom. They went around the country with their gongs, announcing the good news. The farmers in the fields were joyful when they heard the news. They thanked God and hoped that King Johan Syah's leadership would be as good as that of his father. Young people made some plan to have meals together.

"Oh yes, yes, I agree. Who wants to come?" They happily went to Mbok Inem's food stall.

The female owner of the food stall was wondering, "What's going on here?" she asked.

They replied immediately, "Well Mbok Nem, you're always in the kitchen, so you haven't heard the news that our king has been crowned, King Johan Syah, Son of King Bikrama Sakti."

The woman immediately replied, "Oooo, I see..., I heard the gong sounded repeatedly, but I did not know what the announcement was about. I thought there would be a puppet show." Mbok Inem served the farmers gladly. They ordered some plates of rice accompanied by a mixture of dishes and young coconut water.



After the coronation, the people worked as hard as ever, so that their crops would always increase. King Johan Syah did the same duties as what his father, King Bikramasakti, had done. For a few days, the Young King had been reforming the work in the palace, assisted by the Prime Minister. They listened to the officers' complaints in doing their work. Johan Syah carefully, intelligently, and wisely considered and solved the problems with the prime minister. Johan Syah gave his uncle this instruction concerning his people, "Uncle, do not hesitate to report to me complicated things and the things that must be addressed immediately. Do not give a report just to please me," said the Young King. Johan Syah also asked the high administrators in agriculture, livestock, and plantation to make reforms, so that their work would be more orderly and smooth. They were ordered to look for superior seeds and fertilizers, and to plant pasture grass for cattle in dry lands.

Although Johan Syah had reigned for only one year, he planned to go abroad to study the science of agriculture in another country. The Young King was ambitious to make his country prosperous in a very short time. The plan was conveyed to the Prime Minister. "Uncle, let me go abroad to study agriculture in a foreign country! The agricultural science in our country is so far behind compared to that in other countries." The proposal was approved, but the Prime Minister suggested that it would be better if another man did it, and not King Johan Syah. The prime

minister didn't want the king's son to go away from the palace, considering that his sister was still a teenager, and needed his companionship.

But Johan Syah insisted, "I consider you as my own father, Uncle. Therefore, I entrust my sister and the people of Khairan Langkawi in your hands," said Johan Syah.

The old man smiled but remained silent, a sign that he was thinking. "All right, tell your sister all this to find out what her opinion is about you leaving. As a parent, I will always try to keep you safe as a King of Khairan Langkawi."

That morning, the sun as bright as Princess Ratna Komala's heart, who was showering under the fountain. Because Johan Syah couldn't wait any longer, he went to the fountain and teased her. Ratna Komala exclaimed, "Maid, who threw this pebble, huh?" Johan Syah smiled and immediately answered his sister's question, "It is your brother who is bothering you. Please hurry up! We need to talk for a while!" Hearing her brother's words, Ratna Komala immediately cleaned herself up and went to meet her brother.

They chatted and joked around in the palace garden. The girl told him about her daily activities at the art studio, especially the recitation of the Quranic verses which she was very fond of. Until noon, Johan Syah dared not tell her his intention. "I don't have

the heart for it, Uncle," the boy later confessed to the Prime Minister.

"I understand your sister's situation. However, I also know your problem as a young king, who is still eager to gain knowledge outside the palace." Then they left the dining room for the noon prayer.

In the evening, King Johan Syah went to meet his sister again in her chamber. After being next to her brother, Ratna Komala asked immediately, "Why have you been searching for me since this morning, Brother? Apparently there's something you want to talk to me about."

Johan Syah also wanted to respond quickly, but instead he fell into silence again before his sister. He tried to tell her the truth. After sitting on the rocks, he said while holding his sister's fingers, "As your brother, I beg you to think wisely. Haven't we grown up? And hasn't God predestined us to live without our parents?" Ratna Komala's heart was pounding as she listened to her brother's words. Johan Syah continued his words with great caution.

"My Dear Little Sister, aren't you better now because you already have many friends? I built that art studio on purpose, so that you can make friends and benefit from that friendship. You can guide the women and the teenage girls here, so that they are able to

preserve the making of woven fabrics and various traditional clothings, as well as some types of arts in our area, such as traditional dancing, singing, and martial arts.

Along with that, I also want to develop the science of agriculture and animal husbandry as our father has pioneered. The farmers in this country deserve to be successful and prosperous in their agricultural cultivation activities."

"I want to go abroad, looking for superior seeds, and learning how to do animal husbandry better. Please allow me to go just for a while to fulfil my desire!" While he was still talking, Ratna Komala's tears had started rolling down her face.

Her brother immediately hugged the girl, saying, "May I not? If not, tell me the reason. I want to know."

The smart Ratna Komala replied immediately, "As far as I know, you haven't learned any martial art and Quranic recitation well, Brother. I am afraid that you will face difficulties in your journey because you don't have yet any skill to fight. So far, you only work in the palace with Uncle Prime Minister," so said the clever and wise Ratna Komala.

King Johan Syah considered his sister's words for a moment. "But, to go abroad, I don't have to possess any knowledge or skill

to recite the Quran well," he thought, negating his sister's objection.

King Johan Syah said, "If my departure is postponed because I have to learn martial art first, the interests of the people will be impeded. I'd better go as quickly as possible, and when I return, then I'll study Quranic recitation." Johan Syah in fact was not so fond of learning martial art.

Ratna Komala answered while sobbing, "But what about me, Brother? I do not want to be left alone. Moreover, we have just lost our father and mother. Why should I now also lose you?"

King Johan Syah sighed and said softly, "I do not mean to leave you alone. Haven't we considered Uncle and Aunt Prime Minister as our own parents? You are not alone. You still have friends in the art studio, while I might just invite three guards to be my travel companions." Hearing her brother's explanations and seeing his determination, Ratna Komala finally gave in and let Johan Syah go.

Ratna Komala considered her brother too naïve in his knowledge regarding the crime which could be done by people outside.

The girl surrendered herself to God and begged Him to protect her brother always. The Prime Minister and his wife were also worried that the King would be in trouble.

The Prime Minister said to Johan Syah, "Actually Uncle and Aunt are very hesitant to let you go. We are worried that we would be blamed by all the inhabitants of this kingdom. And the people might think that we didn't give you any advice and didn't prevent you from leaving, Son. People will have those bad thoughts in the future if you experience something we do not want to happen to you."

However, the young man still insisted on going abroad, so he tried again to explain to the Prime Minister of Khairan Langkawi Kingdom.

"I am sorry to have troubled you, Uncle. And all this time, I may be too spoiled because you always fulfill all my desires. I realize that you have become a substitute for my parents. You and Aunt have sacrificed so much for us. My sister and I can not forget your kindness. Therefore, in order for me to become an adult and no longer a crybaby, please allow me to go to get much experience outside the palace! I hope this experience can be useful as a lesson for me to become an excellent king in the future."

The Prime Minister caressed King Johan Syah's hair with sincere affection, as he embraced him and prayed for the child's safety. He instructed the King, "Do not forget to keep close to the

Almighty God, because only God who is looking after us!" so advised the wise Prime Minister.

Three days later, King Johan Syah left the palace with his three friends. They were Rahman, an intelligent and industrious young man, and Bino, who was very patient and good at cooking. Johan Syah also took Fudoli with him because he was considered an elder, good at reciting Quranic verses, and agile. Several bags of clothings, some dinars for some unforeseen needs, and long-term food supplies, were available on board. The courtiers, Ratna Komala, Uncle and Aunt Prime Minister accompanied them to the shore. They parted ways, feeling overwhelmed and having much concern.

Imperceptibly, one week had passed since Johan Syah started his journey with his friends. As far as their eyes could see, only the blue ocean was seen in front of them. They began to feel bored. Various fish dishes had been served to get rid of their boredom in eating.

One morning, Fudoli shouted, "Island, island! See those green trees growing on the island!" With binoculars, Johan Syah could see clearly the island in front of him. Then the ship was directed towards the island. The closer it got, and the shallower the water was, the more clearly they saw what was on the island. They were amazed at a tree bearing red fruits. The fruit was called sago

palm. Johan Syah agreed to land ashore on the island to taste the sago palm.

"Well... let's just land ashore on the island to get rid of our boredom." The ship soon arrived onshore. They swiftly jumped to the ground, with some tools in their hands. They couldn't wait to run to the sago palm tree. It turned out that the fruit had a strange taste. The first taster was King Johan Syah himself.

He exclaimed in amazement, "Hey guys! See the seed of this sago palm which I threw away. The seed grows instantly, and even directly bears fruit. What about your throws, Rahman, Bino, and Fudoli? Please leave your work for a while! Eat the fruit, and throw away the seed to the ground!"

Each of them ate the sago palm, and then threw away the seeds to the ground. They were astonished to witness such a miracle. "Holy is the Lord, God is great!" they exclaimed almost in unison.

They couldn't believe their eyes. The seeds grew into a tree and bore fruits. After meals, they tried to throw away the seeds again without talking much. They just looked at each other in amazement.

Fudoli invited his friends to do a ritual prayer together. But Johan Syah was not interested in his invitation. He was just wondering



if the magical seeds could be shown in other countries, and be used as a bet. "I will definitely succeed in developing the areas of my kingdom." Johan Syah forgot that his original purpose in going abroad was to study the science of agriculture and animal husbandry.

Fudoli was annoyed at Johan Syah's behavior. "Indeed, this Young King always behaves strangely. I invited him to do a ritual prayer, but he refused. Alright then..., I'll do the ritual prayer by myself," Fudoli grumbled. The young man did a ritual prayer himself for their safety.

The next day they continued their journey, taking many sago palms with them. They hoped that Johan Syah would show the magic of the sago palm seeds in the country which he would visit. Feeling happy and hopeful, Johan Syah imagined that his journey would be successful. Without remembering the Creator and begging for His guidance, the ship kept going until it finally stopped at a kingdom called Berangta Indra. The King of the land was given a title of the Wise King Digar Alam. He had a son named King Bikrama Indra.

To prevent something bad from happening, Johan Syah used a pseudonym, namely Captain Lela Genta, while Rahman's pseudonym was Badu, Bino's was Soleh, and Fudoli's was Sukro. They kept their origins secret, and even Johan Syah kept secret of

his identity as a king. King Digar Alam was glad to welcome Captain Lela Genta who was very polite and handsome. Bikrama Indra, who was of the same age as Johan Syah, was given a task to accompany the guests. The host held a banquet to honor them.

On that occasion, Lela Genta told King Digar Alam what his purpose was in coming to see him. He asked the King to take a bet on the magical sago palm seeds which were taken from Rumbia<sup>2</sup> Island.

The King was at first worried about the risk of a heavy bet, namely the loss of his country. However, King Digar Alam was willing to fulfill Johan Syah's desire. "If I lose my bet, I must surrender my kingdom. But if I win, Johan Syah will become my slave, and the ship and everything in it will be mine." After making an agreement, they determined the time and place of the bet.

With confidence, Captain Lela Genta stood in the middle of the palace courtyard, smiling proudly, with all the royal courtiers and the people of the kingdom ready to watch the thrilling bet. After that, Lela Genta tossed a seed of the sago palm into the palace courtyard. All eyes were on the seed. One minute, two minutes, up to half an hour, the seed did not grow.

---

<sup>2</sup> sago palm

"Oh my goodness, what on earth is happening? The seed wouldn't grow. I'm defeated!"

Johan Syah seemed to be worried. His face went pale with fear. His friends, Badu and Soleh, also tossed the seeds, but they wouldn't grow either. Finally, the audience cheered and clapped for the victory of their King. One of the courtiers immediately came forward and spoke in a loud voice.

"Apparently, this bet is won by King Digar Alam. Captain Lela Genta, please submit all the treasures which you have promised, namely the ship and everything in it."

Some people from the audience were concerned when they heard the words. They didn't have the heart to witness the sadness of their four guests. The three friends of Lela Genta just bowed their heads in shame. Sukro prayed quietly for his lord, that he would be given strength to undergo this heavy trial. Johan Syah also felt sad when he remembered Ratna Komala and Uncle Prime Minister, who had prevented his departure. He was very sorry for his carelessness.

"I was so stupid for not willing to listen to the words of my sister and the Prime Minister. O my God, have I sinned against my sister and Uncle Prime Minister? I pray that You would still allow Your servant to search for knowledge in a foreign country!" so the Young King hoped. Despite the difficult circumstances, he

kept trying to endure all the difficulties. He hoped to learn the science of agriculture.

In fact, Captain Lela promised to serve the King until the end of his life. The words of Captain Lela greatly surprised his friends. They were getting more depressed by having to follow the Young King's decision, especially Fudoli, who was considered an elder. His invitation to do ritual prayer had been always slighted by Johan Syah. He thought that Johan Syah was careless.

Fudoli murmured, "Why didn't Johan Syah ask his friends first about this? I object to being Digar Alam's slave for life."

Digar Alam gladly took their treasures and accepted the service of the four slaves, and gave them a task to keep horses in the palace. Nevertheless, to Johan Syah's delight, King Digar Alam provided enough facilities for them in form of several horses and vast farmland to work on, with all the tools.

Johan Syah and his three friends succeeded in farming. They made superior plant fertilizers in a better way so as to produce tastier vegetables and fruits. The horses which they were keeping also grew healthy. The royal family and the people around the kingdom praised the sweet fruits that they produced. Meanwhile, King Bikrama Indra protested his father for giving Captain Lela Genta work that was too hard, whereas Captain Lela's

temperament was very soft, and his hands looked like the hands of a person who never did manual labor.

Bikrama Indra implored his father to allow the King's slave to become his friend. King Digar Alam refused his son's petition regarding the work, but he allowed him to be close friend of Captain Lela Genta.

King Bikrama Indra looked disappointed to hear Digar Alam's answer. However, King Digar Alam told him to invite Lela Genta and his friends once in a while to stay in the palace for a few days, to get rid of their boredom working in the fields. Bikrama Indra took this opportunity by organizing art events to entertain Captain Lela Genta and his friends. He also gave them an opportunity to get acquainted with the dancers. However, they declined the offer. As Islamic students, they were not interested in the female dancers. Johan Syah's effort to study agriculture, martial art, and Quranic recitation kept thriving.

Suddenly, in the morning, King Bikrama Indra's messenger came to see Captain Lela Genta, bringing a variety of delicious food to him and his friends. They ate the food immediately. King Bikrama indeed often visited Captain Lela Genta in his hut to discuss martial art, which turned out to have been mastered by the clever Lela Genta. They were getting closer to each other and often studied together diligently.

King Digar Alam was very pleased that his effort to give young people an opportunity to develop their skills had succeeded. Some of their crops were offered to the King. However, the Wise King returned all of them to Johan Syah. The money obtained from the crops was used to expand his prayer house so that the people of the kingdom could learn Quranic recitation in the hut of Captain Lela Genta.

### **Ratna Komala Released Johan Syah**

Seven years later, after Johan Syah had gone abroad, Ratna Komala was now nineteen years old. Being a tough fighter, she was very tall and strong. She still looked beautiful and her skin had a stunning olive complexion. Her skill in fighting was supported by her ability to read Qur'anic verses very well. Her voice was melodious and echoed throughout the kingdom so as to charm the listeners. Ratna Komala who was cheerful and friendly pleased everyone who knew her. Her joy and laughter always made her friends miss her. But this time Ratna Komala looked dejected, and she didn't want to talk much. She was fasting to cool down anger and sadness in her heart. She was angry, but she didn't know whom she was angry at, because her brother hadn't returned for so long.

"O My Brother Johan, have you forgotten this sister of yours? It's been so long since we parted. Is everything okay with you?" so Komala thought.

The Prime Minister's wife, who took care of her, secretly noticed the restlessness of the beautiful girl. She thought, "What is it that makes her refuse to eat for these past three days?" Finally, she found out that the girl missed her brother, Johan Syah. She also reported to the Prime Minister that the princess was missing Johan Syah.

When the Prime Minister and his wife came to the girl and called her gently, tears immediately fell down her face as she said, "I cannot stand it anymore, Aunty! I want to go to find Brother Johan. I am afraid that something has happened to him, Uncle. It's been seven years since he left without any news," so said Ratna in a very low voice, showing her sadness.

The old couple understood the girl's sorrow. They also apologized because they had been too busy taking care of the country, so they never thought about what might have happened to Johan Syah. The old couple was still trying to prevent the girl from leaving, because they were so worried that the Princess would not return to the palace just like her brother. But Ratna Komala was good at convincing the rulers of Langkawi Khairan Kingdom.

Finally, they agreed to divide the tasks. The Prime Minister would stay in the palace to carry out the task of the King of Khairan Langkawi while Princess Ratna Komala would look for her brother accompanied by his wife and five girls who were Komala's friends, as well as two young men as the guards of the group. All of them, without exception, dressed as men. They disguised themselves as men so that the journey would be successful.

Before leaving, the clever and energetic girl excused herself and thanked the Prime Minister for his wisdom and loyalty. Aunt Prime Minister, assisted by some of the royal relatives, prepared the supplies and put them into the stand-by ship. Ratna Komala's five friends were all very good at fighting and reciting Quranic verses. They were all tough and reliable women. Ratna Komala disguised herself as a man by the name of Captain Muda.

After one week voyage, they made it to an island which was overgrown with sago palm trees. Just like King Johan Syah and his friends, they came to the island to get rid of their boredom. They rushed off the boat to approach the beautiful trees that had red fruits like apples and tasted the fruits without hesitation.

After admiring the fresh and sweet taste of the fruits, they were amazed when the seeds of the fruits were thrown away to the ground. Suddenly, the seeds grew quickly into a big tree, and bore



fruits. This made them amazed. "Hey... look at that, my goodness... the seeds grow up instantly. Look, look, it is miraculous!" so they exclaimed in wonder. Their eyes were fixed on the growing tree.

When the clever Ratna Komala saw it, she immediately thought, "Oh, this is it that must have trapped my brother Johan Syah. He must've bet on planting this sago palm tree without carrying a piece of soil to plant it in. It is impossible for the seed to grow in another soil. He must have lost the bet," so the girl thought. Ratna Komala immediately ordered her friends to haul some sacks of soil off the island. Some of them grumbled with exhaustion, unable to understand the clever Ratna Komala's way of thinking. They laughed at her among themselves and whispered to each other, "What is Princess Komala thinking? Why do we have to carry the soil? That female captain is so strange. Do we really want to start cultivating plants in the boat, ha ha....," so they laughed among themselves.

"Never mind, just do what the Princess told you," said the Prime Minister's wife, smiling and pretending not to hear their naughty conversations. Meanwhile, Ratna Komala was still grieving and didn't talk much. She always communed with the Creator, asking His blessings and guidance. Her hands were stroking her beloved parrot, a pet which was very good at talking to her. When they

almost arrived at Berangta Indra palace, the Princess or Captain Muda immediately released her parrot.

"O Cunning Parrot, fly to the city of Berangta Indra Kingdom! Find your master King Johan Syah, and report to me about his condition!"

The bird nodded and flew away looking for his master. Captain Muda smiled proudly. She continued her prayer for the safety of the bird's journey. After lunch and doing ritual prayer together, Captain Muda went into her small cabin on the ship, waiting for the bird to come back. The woman smiled cheerfully when she saw the bird perching on the window looking for her. Then, it immediately reported what it had seen.

"My lord the King is on a horse ranch belonging to King Digar Alam in Berangta Indra Kingdom. My lord the King and his three friends are herding horses belonging to King Digar Allam." Hearing the bird's report, Ratna Komala grew sadder and all her body felt weak. She had guessed correctly, her brother was in the grip of a cruel king.

"O God, please protect my brother, and give him fortitude in doing such a miserable job!" so Ratna Komala prayed to God to calm her. In that very night, after the ship docked, Ratna Komala and Aunt Prime Minister went to the King's horse ranch. Because of her longing for her brother, Captain Muda walked so fast that

her aunt couldn't keep up with her, and was almost out of breath. "Do not walk too fast. I'm a very old lady, My Daughter, he... he...!" her aunt protested.

Ratna Komala's arrival surprised Johan Syah and his friends. She immediately hugged her very dear brother as they were both weeping. Meanwhile, Aunt Prime Minister was listening very keenly to Fudoli's story about Johan Syah's journey, so that she could tell Ratna Komala and the Prime Minister about it later on. The girl cursed King Digar Alam and accused him as a cruel king. She would take revenge, but King Johan Syah calmed his sister's anger with soft words. Meanwhile, Aunt Prime Minister was very satisfied to hear of Johan Syah's success in developing his farm, animal husbandry, and plantation. "That's the most important thing," the Prime Minister's wife thought. "If Ratna Komala is able to release King Johan Syah, everything will be alright." The wise woman immediately asked Captain Muda to go back to the ship.

At first the girl refused. She wanted to sleep with her brother in the ranch hut because she wanted to be close to him. Aunt Prime Minister whispered to the smart girl, advising her. "Please understand, Dear, you still have a lot of work to do! Don't let the people find us out here. Tomorrow you'll have to go and meet the King, and put a bet to release your brother." Ratna Komala let go of her brother's grasp on her hand and excused herself to return to

her ship. Johan Syah smiled and felt relief, when he remembered their reunion.

The next day, the seven women who disguised themselves as sailors went to meet King Digar Alam. Having told him what their purpose was, they immediately demonstrated the magic of the sago palm seeds in the presence of the King.

The King smiled while watching the handsome and gentle young men in action. He thought to himself, "These young men will be my slaves just like Captain Lela Genta," who was King Johan Syah. King Digar Alam was sure that the young men's bet would be unlucky too.

Meanwhile, the seven young men used their strategy by first preparing the soil which they had taken from Rumbia Island, so that the seeds could grow instantly as they would in their original place.

"This time I should not make mistake like my brother," so the smart girl thought. She and her friends then carefully put the soil into pots and large vessels.

The thrilling betting began. Ratna Komala distributed the sago palms. Then, by pronouncing the name of God, she began to eat the sago palms with the other guests. Then, her friends and she tossed the seeds one by one into both small and big pots. Their

hearts were beating fast while they waited. Suddenly, the first five seeds that had been spread out grew and bore fruit quickly. The other guests also spread out the seeds to the pots that had been lined up there, to see the seeds grow like the other ones. King Digar Alam and all the guests were astonished when they saw those magical sago palm trees.

"Ooooh, it is strange but amazing. How is it possible?" so the King thought. He was very happy to see the miracle of the tree. However, his heart sank instantly because he was on the losing side and had to surrender his kingdom to Captain Muda.

"Oh, here comes my doom. I lost my bet. Soon my family and I had to move somewhere else." His face became pale instantly when he thought about the future of his family.

As usual, they held a banquet. After the meal, they talked about the handover of the kingdom. The King requested that the guests and Captain Muda be willing to make the royal family their subjects. With a sweet smile, Captain Muda told Digar Alam, "I hope you will just stay here in peace. I do not want the palace, much less the royal throne."

Then she went on, "I also hope that the Berangta Indra Kingdom is still ruled by King Digar Alam. As a reward for the bet, I want the King to be willing to release four horse keepers along with

their ship and everything in it, which belonged to Captain Lela Genta. Release him and let him return to his home!"

King Digar Alam immediately granted her request, and he felt relief that he did not have to lose his throne.

The following day, King Digar Alam handed over the four crew members led by Captain Lela Genta along with the ship and everything in it. In that meeting, Captain Muda still kept her disguise. Captain Lela Genta acted as if he hadn't known Captain Muda.

Only after King Digar Alam went away from that place, then Captain Muda and Lela Genta talked freely like a brother and a sister. Aunt Prime Minister said, "Fortunately Ratna Komala asked us to go quickly to look for you, Your Majesty, else you would be a lifelong slave."

King Johan Syah smiled and felt touched to hear the old woman's words. However, Ratna Komala felt differently. She was sad to see her brother, whose skin now was tanned and who was wearing worn-out clothes. But he was rather thick and looked healthy, she murmured in her heart, feeling sad and thankful at the same time. She was relieved because she had succeeded in releasing her brother, so that Johan Syah could become the King of Khairan Langkawi again. Now, Ratna Komala was thinking

again about what she should do so that they could go back to their kingdom as quickly as possible.

They returned immediately to their own ships after having spent enough time together. The three followers of King Johan Syah asked him to bathe and change clothes first. After that, they had meals together and devised a strategy so that they would be allowed to go home safely. Captain Muda made sure to let her parrot go to listen to all the talks of King Digar Allam with his son, King Bikrama Indra.

It was said that in Berangta Indra palace, the parrot saw King Bikrama Indra think of Captain Muda who was so refined and polite like a woman. He was sure that Captain Muda was actually a female. Captain Muda had a slender waist, without Adam's apple, and his fingers were slim like a porcupine's spines. Bikrama Indra muttered, "If he were a woman, I would make her my wife." However, King Digar Alam dismissed his son's assumption about Captain Muda. Meanwhile, the bird was listening keenly to a conversation between a father and his son about Captain Muda behind the window. Digar Alam gave his son an instruction to prevent Captain Muda from leaving if he still hoped to build a friendship between them.

"Invite him to have a meal together! If he's finicky in eating, then he is a woman. But, if he eats greedily, tastes all the dishes, then

he is a man." The conversation was reported by the parrot to its mistress, Ratna Komala.

The following day, Captain Muda came to the banquet, fulfilling the invitation. He firstly bowed in reverence to King Digar Alam. But the cruel King refused to receive the honor, because he thought he was now Captain Muda's subject.

The woman just gave him a sweet smile. "The important thing is that I have freed Captain Lela Genta so that he can come back to his country soon," so Ratna Komala declared. They started to have meals together. The seven women ate ravenously that they even seemed so greedy. However, after that, they were holding their stomach, because they felt too full. Bikrama Indra just paid attention to Captain Muda's behavior, and then reported to his father that their guests ate to their hearts' content. So Digar Alam was more suspicious and thought, "Could he be a woman?"

But King Bikrama was still not satisfied. He would ask Captain Muda to go and see diamonds in the store. His father told him, "If it takes time for Captain Muda to choose, and he takes only some of them, then he is a woman. If he doesn't want to take even one, or if he wants to take all, then he is a man." So, the next day, Captain Muda decided not to take any diamond, obeying the parrot's advice. Bikrama Indra's effort still failed, because the



parrot was very careful at listening to the conversation between King Digar Alam and his son.

During the night, Captain Muda could not sleep. Apparently she was interested and flattered by the friendly attitude of King Digar Alam's son. The beautiful woman started to be interested in and fall in love with the handsome young man. But she had to keep her disguise to avenge her brother. "I won't be willing to accept Bikrama Indra's love. I must not love him," without her realizing it, tears were falling down her face. From the depths of her heart, she was actually interested in and falling in love with King Bikrama Indra who was handsome, wise, and kind-hearted to her. There was a conflict between personal and family problems in her heart. She loved and honored her brother very much. Thus, she was not pleased that her brother had been treated cruelly by King Digar Alam.

"I'm determined to destroy the King's son to take revenge," so the courageous Ratna thought. To avoid the event which Bikrama Indra had prepared, Captain Muda went to meet the King to say goodbye. She had to leave immediately and sail towards the Kingdom of Khairan Langkawi.

"Excuse me, Your Majesty. I must depart immediately from this palace. I'm given the task to make a proposal to Sultan Mengindra Sakti's daughter in Langkadura palace. The girl will

be given in marriage to King Johan Syah. Therefore, he must sail off immediately and continue his journey." Hearing Captain Muda's explanation, the King's son looked sad and begged to come with them in the voyage.

Captain Muda pretended not to understand anything, but she actually realized that it was difficult to deceive Bikrama Indra. His instinct was very strong and he believed that the young man in front of him was in fact a woman. He was very sure that Captain Muda was a woman. He even shed tears for fear of being left behind by Captain Muda. When holding Captain Muda's hand, Bikrama Indra squeezed the Captain's soft fingers which were like those of a female. In fact, the young man did something more daring. He put his hands on the Captain's shoulders and seduced her. Captain Muda's heart was beating so fast but she immediately dodged it and pretended to want to sit on the rocks near the flower garden. The young man still insisted on holding a horse riding event. If Captain Muda were a woman, she would have some trouble in holding the reins on her horse. However, the next day, it turned out that Captain Muda was very good at riding the horse. The performance of the courageous woman was very stunning. She was good at controlling the horse because she was a fighter and a dancer. Her body was so light in that attraction that the whole audience applauded and was amazed when watching her. So she won the horse riding contest and was awarded with a

pair of black and strong horses which had been taken care of by Johan Syah.

But Ratna Komala was upset because it was very difficult to escape from the power of King Digar Alam. The next day, the parrot reported that King Bikrama Indra would invite Ratna Komala to bathe together in the palace garden.

Hearing the news from the parrot, the whole family in the ship was confused. King Johan Syah even sobbed. "O God, have mercy on my sister! Give her guidance, and free her from the problem she has in dealing with Bikrama Indra!" He understood how heavy the trial which Ratna Komala had to endure. The strong-hearted woman consoled her brother.

"Be patient, Brother. I am okay and will be able to endure my trial, God willing. Please pray for me, Brother!" However, Ratna Komala cried silently when she was bathing. And then she wore layers of clothings and sash to bandage her breasts so as not to be conspicuous. After that, she ordered the crew to stock up coconut shells near the ships, and then the two ships were prepared for sailing.

She gave instruction, "If the parrot orders you to burn the coconut shells, burn them and prepare to sail. We'll leave after I get on board," so the Princess ordered.

Upon arriving at the palace garden, Captain Muda refused the invitation to eat with Bikrama Indra, the King's son who was so infatuated with her, by telling him that she had already had breakfast with her friends. As a matter of fact, she was afraid of eating and being full, because that way, her stomach would become bigger, and her clothes thicker. She deliberately didn't bathe right away. After having a conversation in the flower garden, she refused to bathe in the palace. She preferred to bathe on the beach near her ship which would be leaving soon. Then they went together to the beach for a friendly chat before they parted. Captain Muda always evaded the young man when he persuaded her to let him go sailing with her. Her excuse was because she had very much work to do there, and she was worried that she wouldn't be able to serve King Digar Alam's son very well. Captain Muda explained that she had to serve one son and one daughter of the King, namely Johan Syah and Ratna Komala, and so it was impossible to let Bikrama Indra come along with them.

Arriving at the beach, Bikrama Indra gazed at Captain Muda's face, who was smiling with closed lips. The wind was blowing hard. Captain Muda's hair which was loosened up made the young man want to kiss her all the more. He immediately persuaded her, "Let's just bathe here. The place is wider and the view is beautiful."

Quietly, the parrot was ready to fly to tell the crew, after it saw Ratna Komala undress the first layer of her clothing. The two ships docked not far from where Captain Muda and Bikrama Indra would bathe. With a pounding heart, Captain Muda took off the first layer of her clothing. She pretended to play around by splashing water on Brarama Indra's body, so that he wouldn't ask her too many questions about her layered clothes. But the young man noticed that Captain Muda's clothings were layered.

Bikrama Indra's heart was beating fast when he saw the young man, whom he was sure was a woman, undress. The young man was ready to embrace the woman after she had undressed herself. But he was surprised when, suddenly, Captain Muda splashed water all over his body. It was too late for him to escape it, and so he was drenched.

Not long after that, when Captain Muda would take off her second layer of clothing, suddenly there was a fire on Captain Muda's ship. They were surprised, "Oh, what happened to my ship?" so Captain Muda exclaimed, pretending to be surprised. The woman immediately ran to her ship, while King Bikraman Indra was shaken up to see the incident. Still feeling confused, he went back to the palace to inform his father about it, and asked the courtiers to help extinguish the fire on Captain Muda's ship.

Without delay, Captain Muda jumped onto the ship that was just starting to leave. She took a deep breath and was moved when she remembered King Digar Alam's son who was so infatuated with her. She whispered in her heart, "Forgive me for hurting you. May God make us meet again one day!" thus she hoped and prayed.

All the crew was relieved because they had escaped from the grip of King Digar Alam's family. The two ships of Khairan Langkawi Kingdom started to sail away.

The parrot was left behind with a task to accomplish. The bird observed Bikrama Indra's sadness in his palace. The whole members of the family of Berangta Palace were running to help Captain Muda's ship that was on fire. When they got to the beach, they only saw the ruins of the ship that had become ashes. As a matter of fact, it was just charcoal from wood and coconut shells that had been burnt. They were deceived by Ratna Komala. Bikrama Indra thought the woman had been burnt with her ship. They scattered themselves to find the ruins of the ship. Meanwhile, Bikrama Indra returned to the palace garden, reflecting about Captain Muda's leaving.

Suddenly, a parrot came and greeted him, "Hey, King Bikrama Indra! Don't be sad, because Captain Muda has sailed away towards the Kingdom of Khairan Langkawi."

Bikrama Indra replied immediately, "O Parrot, will you come near me here? I want to ask you a question. Who is that Captain Muda? Whose son is he? And which kingdom is he from?" The parrot was only hovering around Bikrama Indra because it was also going to sail away to the Kingdom of Khairan Langkawi. "I cannot tell you the Captain Muda's origin. But I can tell you that she was indeed a royal princess." Now Bikrama Indra was left alone, thinking of his brokenheartedness.

Several days had passed and the young man would neither talk nor eat. Bikrama Indra had already suspected that Captain Lela Genta was Captain Muda's older brother. King Digar Alam was also very sorry that he had made his son suffer. He had been too cruel to King Johan Syah, so that Princess Ratna Komala had to punish Bikrama Indra in such a way. King Digar Alam had to apologize to his son. Bikrama Indra was heartbroken. He did not want to marry anyone but Captain Muda. The world seemed to be crumbling down. Only God could calm him at such a difficult time. He kept praying and praying.

### **Johan Syah Returned to the Palace of Khairan Langkawi**

King Johan Syah's and Ratna Komala's ships docked at the port of Khairan Langkawi Kingdom. The courtiers and the people of the kingdom welcomed the arrival of King Bikramasakti's son.

Uncle Prime Minister was glad to welcome the royal family. They were happy to be reunited.

After a short rest, King Johan Syah gathered together the royal courtiers. The Young King told them all the experience which he had undergone, especially about farming, animal husbandry, and plantation. He also told them gladly his experience in keeping horses. The minister of agriculture asked him one question about the sago palm, whether he had a chance to bring the fruit to the palace of Khairan Langkawi Kingdom. Gladly Johan Syah answered him that the soil and the sago palms which they had brought with them would be planted in the garden, behind the hills. Besides for decoration, the fruit was also efficacious to cure various diseases.

In his visit to various regions, King Johan Syah was always accompanied by Ratna Komala. The woman was proud to see King Johan Syah's cleverness, wisdom, and leadership. She murmured in her heart, "Johan Syah's journey for seven years was not in vain after all. He was really good at making the most of his time. He has indeed gained much experience in various things." Thus Ratna Komala was very grateful for the events that had happened to them while they were searching for knowledge.

While his sister praised his expertise and wisdom in leading, Johan Syah praised the loyalty of his sister who had made effort



to rescue him from the grip of that harsh and strict king. On that occasion Ratna Komala reminded her brother to immediately propose to his fiancée who had long been engaged to him by their late father. King Johan Syah followed his sister's advice gladly. He intended to marry his fiancée soon. King Johan Syah told the Prime Minister about his wedding and then they immediately formed a committee that would help organize the King's wedding day. And the event went smoothly without many obstacles.

Ratna Komala thought to herself again, that King Digar Alam could not have been blamed. As a wise king, King Digar Alam had given Johan Syah a chance to learn many useful sciences.

"I've been guilty because all this time I had assumed that King Digar Alam had tortured Johan Syah. As a matter of fact, all of this happened because of our own fault. We both didn't tell the truth that we are both son and daughter of the Khairan Langkawi King," so Ratna Komala thought. To lessen the burden of her guilt, Ratna Komala prayed to beg for forgiveness from the Creator of the world.

"O God, this helpless servant of Yours had to go a long way to achieve success. May You be willing to guide us and show us the clear way!"

So the Princess prayed. Apparently his brother was serving his punishment willingly until his sister came and released him. It

was just that both of them did not want to tell the truth that they were the son and daughter of King Bikramasakti of the Langkawi Kingdom in disguise as humble ordinary people. There was no use to regret, though. Ratna Komala just prayed that everything would be okay.

Meanwhile, in the country of Berangta Indra, King Digar Alam's son had suffered long enough, and it was hard for him to communicate with other people. Bikrama Indra's friends came to the palace to comfort the young man. Finally, feeling bored of living in a golden cage, Bikrama Indra planned to go abroad to look for his beloved. But King Digar Alam and the queen were worried to let their only son go.

At last, having thought about it for a while, King Digar Alam allowed his son to go. He gave him an instruction, "Remember, you are the only heir of Berangta Indra Kingdom. As your father and mother, we beg you to come back to the palace after attaining the knowledge you're looking for, and keep us informed about your condition, My Son!" Thus his father instructed him, and Bikrama Indra promised to obey his parents.

After that, he prepared for all the required things, such as clothings and supplies. He also took some jewelry as merchandise to trade. On the day of the departure of King Berangta Indra's son, his parents hugged him tight and shed some tears when they

let him go. Bikrama Indra and his fellows planned to sail to Dentaloka Kingdom.

Meanwhile, Khairan Langkawi palace was preparing for the marriage of King Johan Syah with Indra Midani, King Syah Alam's daughter from Langkadura Kingdom. The bride and the groom were like the sun and the moon surrounded by the stars scattered across the sky. The event lasted for a week. They enjoyed art performances and special foods.

Princess Ratna Komala, Uncle Prime Minister and his wife were so glad that they had led King Johan Syah to his marriage. The King of Khairan Langkawi now had a queen.

Meanwhile, Bikrama Indra and his fellows had arrived at Dentaloka Kingdom, where they were welcomed with great fanfare. They enjoyed the art performances and abundant dishes. Nevertheless, it seemed to Bikrama Indra that the people of the kingdom were just having fun. He thought that the banquet which was very lavishly organized was of little use to him. The King of the land even challenged him to bet on a domino game. The young man's concern was vindicated. It turned out that King Dentaloka, who was very good at playing domino, managed to persuade him to play and beat Bikrama Indra who was not so good at it. Finally, the jewelry, which he had planned to be traded as merchandise, was spent at the gambling table. Feeling

disappointed, Bikrama Indra asked his friends to go back to Berangta Indra Kingdom. They would be divided into several groups and disguise themselves as common people. Bikrama Indra was happy that two of his friends were willing to accompany him. He was very grateful that he still had faithful friends. Bikrama Indra used his pseudonym, namely Lela Syaheran, and his two friends used the names of Genta Sura and Syah Barma. They walked across many lands and now they had been on their journey for three days. Towards morning, while they were still sleeping, Bikrama Indra had a dream. An old man in a white robe approached him and asked him where they were heading for. Bikrama Indra was confused and couldn't answer because he was feeling restless. The old man laughed loudly and said.

"All right, Young Man, I know what your purpose is, looking for your beloved, isn't it? You should see a hermit named Darman Syah Menjana on the Mount Arduloka." After saying so, the old man quickly disappeared. Bikrama was hesitant for a while to continue the journey, but now he determined to look for his beloved. He realized that God would always guide and protect His people who were willing to make an effort. They immediately continued their journey to meet Darman Syah on Mount Arduloka.

When they arrived at Mount Arduloka, it was already dark. However, it appeared to them that one food stall was still open. There was an old man eating, and Lela Syaheran asked him immediately, "Is the top of Mount Arduloka still a long way from here?" The old man answered him casually, "Well, depending on the speed of your own feet. If you are fast, you will get to the top in one day."

After giving some instructions, the old man went away from the food stall. Genta Sura was hungry and so he asked to be served first for dinner. That night they asked for permission to sleep in the food stall.

Early in the morning, they continued their journey and by late afternoon they arrived at the abode of Darman Syah. They were surprised to see him at first, but then they smiled and nodded their heads several times. The old man in the food stall yesterday turned out to be the one Bikrama had sought as his future teacher. "If I'm not mistaken, you also appeared in my dream." The old man just smiled happily, accepting the prospective student who would learn from him. The old man was very touched to hear the story of Lela Syaheran's meeting with King Johan Syah and Ratna Komala. The old man also understood that the young man in front of him loved Ratna Komala very much. But he pretended to not know anything about it, and he would help the young man learn some skill from him to fight the enemy of King Johan Syah.

The old man began to teach various martial arts which were needed by Lela Syaheran. And now Lela Syaheran had mastered several techniques, namely steel shield movement which could protect him from the blows of the enemy. And next he learned the blow of the sun movement which could burn the enemy, as well as the silent wind movement which would enable him to go places in the blink of an eye. Time passed by and now they had been stayed with Darman Syah for three years. The teacher told them that they had learnt enough and now it was time for them to practice what they had learnt to help those in need.

On the last night, Darman Syah Menjana told them that King Johan Syah was in deep sorrow. He had to face the enemy, but he was not good at war, while the enemy whom he had to fight was very powerful and ruthless. King Gordan Syah Dewa was angry at Ratna Komala who had refused his marriage proposal. King Johan Syah defended his sister who did not love the giant king. Bikrama Indra was reminded of King Johan Syah from Langkawi Kingdom, and when he remembered Captain Muda, the young man became enthusiastic to help King Johan Syah.

After arriving at the palace of Langkawi Kingdom, Lela Syaheran happened to meet Jani Mardani, the son of the Prime Minister. Lela Syaheran spent the night at the Prime Minister's house, and they were very welcomed there. Lela Syaheran could not close his eyes to sleep and so he walked in the yard looking for fresh air.

Incidentally, the Prime Minister was also being troubled at the difficulties which King Johan Syah was facing. He could not help thinking, "Why on earth did Johan Syah, who was not good at war, dare to challenge King Gordan Syah Dewa? Moreover, their royal army was very weak." The Prime Minister continued to think about King Johan Syah, his foster son, day and night.

Suddenly, Lela Syaheran was surprised to see the Prime Minister already near him. They greeted each other and went together to the wooden chair in the garden. They had some small talk, and it turned out that they were having the same concern. They really understood King Johan Syah's action to protect Ratna Komala, who had rejected the proposal of the cruel king. That very night Lela Syaheran promised to help King Johan Syah fight his enemy. The Prime Minister was glad to receive help from Lela Syaheran. The old man was amazed that King Johan Syah always found the way every time he had a problem such as facing King Gordan Syah Dewa. King Gordan Syah Dewa had magical power, yet Johan Syah had bravely challenged him. Fortunately, now there was a young man who would like to help him. The Lord God Almighty had really heard and helped His people.

## **The Fight for Ratna Komala**

The next day, the Prime Minister introduced Lela Syaheran to King Johan Syah. Lela Syaheran and his friends were delighted to be introduced to King Johan Syah. The Young King was surprised and wondered if the man was Bikrama Indra, but he saw the man's skin was darker and his body looked sturdy. Lela Syaheran just bowed his head, pretended not to know him, and kept chewing betel. He thought, "Is it true that the King is Johan Syah, known as Captain Lela Genta?" In that meeting, Lela Syaheran promised that he and his two friends, together with Jani Mardani, would help him fight King Gordan Syah Dewa. In fact, King Johan Syah was even not allowed to go to war. The King was very grateful for the young man's help. They immediately devised a war strategy against Gordan Syah Dewa.

After that, the King welcomed his guests with a dinner party. During that time, Lela Syaheran looked restless, thinking about the girl he'd been looking for all this time. Not long after the dinner party had begun, he saw a glimpse of a woman passing by with her two maids.

The young man immediately excused himself to try to chase that figure to no avail. He only found the two maids, who were joking around. The woman disappeared in the darkness of the night. Meanwhile, Ratna Komala smiled sadly behind the shady trees in



the garden. The woman felt sorry when she saw Lela Syaheran's restlessness.

"O God... is this love? I feel sorry that he's been looking for me all this time. Forgive Your servant, O God. Give me a chance to meet him again if he is indeed the one for me!" so she prayed after escaping into her room. Meanwhile, Lela Syaheran asked himself, "Is it true that Captain Muda is a princess and sister of King Johan Syah?"

Secretly, the clever Ratna Komala told her beloved parrot to go to Berangta Indra palace, to make known to the people there that Bikrama Indra was in Khairan Langkawi palace. The young man was there to help King Johan Syah fight King Gordan Syah Dewa. After the parrot had done its job, Ratna Komala felt relief that she had helped King Digar Alam's wife.

King Digar Alam's family immediately held a meeting, and the king finally decided to go with his troops to Khairan Langkawi palace to help his son fight against a powerful enemy. They immediately prepared the troops and all the supplies.

In his war strategy, Lela Syaheran ordered his soldiers to make trenches and holes for storing weapons. Near big shady trees, holes were provided for keeping arrows, swords, and shields. Towards dinner, Lela Syaheran heard a supernatural whisper that Gordan Syah Dewa would kidnap Ratna Komala. Gordan Syah

Dewa, who looked like a giant, would disguise himself as a courtier of Khairan Langkawi palace.

Lela Syaheran attempted to capture Gordan Syah Dewa and to thwart his abduction plan. But Gordan Syah Dewa, who had appeared as a courtier, disappeared and went away from the Princess' chamber, and so his abduction attempt failed. Genta Sura said, "Well..., never mind. He indeed has a magical power and is good at disappearing. If he had got caught tonight, there would be no war tomorrow," so Lela Syaheran's men said gently. But they were wondering why Lela Syaheran was so eager to defeat Gordan Syah Dewa. Lela Syaheran just smiled. The time had not arrived for them to know his secret love relationship with Ratna Komala.

During the war, King Gordan Syah Dewa used an open war strategy by sending troops to the Kingdom of Khairan Langkawi.

The commander in chief of Khairan Langkawi Kingdom countered the attack with a three-pronged spear strategy. The small number of troops directly pierced the enemy's main defense, like the tip of a three-pronged spear. The courage of the commander in chief was commendable. Lela Syaheran, with unyielding spirit, was on the front line. He obediently did what was commanded to him by his teacher to look for the traces of his

beloved. He was even willing to die. Ratna Komala's face was always in his eyes, encouraging him to fight as a commander.

The commander in chief of Khairan Langkawi Kingdom ordered his troops to take the weapon supplies. Some of them climbed up the tree. They tried not to use too many arrows to shoot the enemies with. Suddenly there was a trumpet sounding and a drum hammering, a sign that the enemy was approaching. Meanwhile, Jani Mardani along with Genta Sura and Syah Barna were near Lela Syaheran, leading the troops on the front line. They raged so valiantly that the forces of the enemy were overwhelmed. Though there were only a few of them, they were so strong. Seeing this, Gordan Syah Dewa also took the arrows to shoot the soldiers of Khairan Langkawai from a high place, so that many of them were killed.

Lela Syaheran scoffed at Gordan Syah Dewa, "If you're a real man, let's fight! Do not hide yourself in the back. You kidnap like a thief. You are lucky that I did not catch you!"

Hearing Lela Syaheran's ridicule, the brutal and ruthless king was greatly provoked. With his chariot, he started to chase Lela Syaheran. But the young man got away quickly. Syah Dewa tried to shoot Lela Syaheran insistently with his arrows, but none of them was successful. King Syah Dewa asked curiously, "Who on earth are you? Why are you preventing me from fighting King

Johan Syah? Do you also want Ratna Komala, so that you are willing to die for your beloved?" Syah Dewa asked.

Lela Syaheran's anger was also provoked. He reciprocated by shooting the magical *gumarang*<sup>3</sup> arrow, and it precisely hit Gordan Syah Dewa's chariot. The chariot was broken and Gordan Syah Dewa fell to the ground. Lela Syaheran laughed out loud to provoke his opponent's anger. "No need of chariot, just use your horse!" Lela Syahdewa shouted. Finally, Gordaan Syah decided to end the unbalanced war.

"All right, Young Man. Tomorrow we will fight again so that one of us will die," so he exclaimed in despair.

Lela Syaheran burst out laughing. "Don't think too highly about yourself. You just rode the chariot for a few seconds, and already toppled to the ground miserably."

After the battle, Lela Syaheran took a rest. Soon, King Johan Syah called him to come to the palace immediately. They had not been in the veranda for too long when King Digar Alam's troops suddenly came. Lela Syaheran and his two men were wondering why his father and mother, and the royal troops, came to the palace. King Digar Alam and the Queen embraced their only and stubborn son. They explained that they had received the news

---

<sup>3</sup> a legendary horse

from the parrot regarding their son's whereabouts in Khairan Langkawi Palace. In addition, they were told that the parrot belonged to Princess Ratna Komala, King Johan Syah's younger sister. Lela Syaheran was happy to hear his parents' explanation. He really wished that the girl he had caught a glimpse of inside the palace yesterday was indeed Ratna Komala, the one he had been looking for all this time. He was more determined to fight the war the next day.

Knowing that, the wise and patient King Johan Syah was very happy and grateful. It did cross his mind, and he had suspicion before, that Lela Syaheran was in fact King Bikrama Indra. However, as a king, at that time he didn't want to reveal the relationship between Ratna Komala and Bikrama Indra. The banquet lasted until late at night because they talked about the battle that took place that day.

The following day, the auxiliary forces of Berangta Indra Kingdom immediately joined the forces of Khairan Langkawi, and so they looked livelier. That morning King Johan Syah insisted on confronting Gordan Syah Dewa directly. But Lela Syaheran immediately curbed the enthusiasm of Johan Syah, who was still a young man himself. Lela Syaheran told him that he intended to fight Gordan Syah Dewa for his dignity. "Before my spirit leaves my body, you do not need to fight King Gordan Syah

Dewa, Your Majesty," so Lela Syaheran exclaimed to King Johan Syah.

Meanwhile, the situation in the Princess' chamber also heated up. It abated when Ratna Komala heard the news that the royal troops of King Digar Alam had arrived at Khairan Langkawi palace. But the girl couldn't meet King Digar Alam's wife because she was still in seclusion. And so her desire to meet the Queen was getting stronger and stronger. Ratna Komala was very pleased to hear the parrot's story about Lela Syaheran's bravery in the battle.

Lela Syaheran's father and mother spent the night at the Prime Minister's house, because the young man had been made an adopted son of the Prime Minister. They talked intimately until late at night. The following day, they prepared to wear war clothes and weapons. That morning Lela Syaheran murmured to himself why Ratna Komala always hid herself as if she did not want to meet him. He prayed to God instantly to make him patient and to give him inner strength to face King Gordan Syah Dewa later.

The war drum was immediately sounded when the two sides had been facing each other, and the war was about to begin. They stabbed each other, drew their swords, and shot their arrows at each other, so that the sounds of screams, cheers, and excitement were heard in the battlefield. The number of their troops seemed

to be balanced after the arrival of the forces of Berangta Indra Kingdom.

They looked fierce and tried to knock each other out. King Johan Syah and King Mengindra Dewa Laksana went out of the palace to see the battle from the top of the tower. The two kings carefully watched the movements of their armies. The opposing troops attacked each other, smashed each other with clubs, and stabbed each other, so that there were many people wounded and killed in the battlefield. The war heated up after Jani Mardani, Genta Sura, and Syah Berma entered the battlefield. The enemies lay sprawled on the ground, and blood was flowing like a creek. Many of the enemy troops ran helter-skelter.

Lela Syaheran came forward with an arrow which was given him by Darman Syah, the old man. The sound of the thrown dart was like a thunderbolt splitting the earth. The ray coming from the bow was like a red, hot, and glowing sun ball. Seeing the effectiveness of the enemy's weapon, King Gordan Syah Dewa was furious, especially when he saw that all of his soldiers were killed. Horman Syah Peri, who was helping the armies of Belanta Dewa Kingdom, joined himself in the war to attack the enemy. They shot arrows at each other, creating a clamorous sound.

After facing each other, Horman Syah Peri said to Lela Syaheran, "Don't you run away until one of us is killed!"

Lela Syaheran replied, "You have your wish. Surrender your weapons, I am now only serving your wish."

After the death of Horman Syah Peri, the war was suspended temporarily. They took a rest, and made the best of it. The following day, Lela Syaheran went to see King Johan Syah, because on that third day he would try to end the war. Lela Syaheran asked for King Johan Syah's blessing.

King Johan Syah embraced Lela Syaheran closely like a brother before letting him go. On that day, Lela Syaheran would fight Gordan Syah Dewa to the death of either one of them. By the middle of the war, the two powerful knights had come face to face. The soldiers paused to watch the fight between Lela Syaheran and King Gordan Syah Dewa.

To disrupt the enemy's concentration, Lela Syaheran shouted loudly, "Hey Gordan Syah Dewa, after asking for help from your two brothers, Gentar Alam and King Haidan, now who else do I have to face?" so Lela Syaheran challenged him.

"Don't talk too much! Save your arrogance! Let's just fight now, Little Brat! You are such a sly person," King Gordan Syah Dewa replied.

Each one of them drew their own magical weapons, both were ancient heirlooms. King Gordan Syah Dewa was armed with a



single-edged sabre, while Lela Syaheran was armed with a short two-edged spear. They stabbed, slashed, and gave each other a blow, and it went as fast as lightning. But, thanks to their balanced magical powers, the fight was thrilling. King Gordan Syah Dewa was indeed formidable. He used the heavy single-edged sabre very skillfully, as though it weren't heavy at all. Then the single-edged sabre disappeared, and what was seen was only a flash of silvery white light, rolled around Lela Syaheran's body. But the young man was agile to dodge King Gordan Syah Dewa's attacks which came at him like one storm followed by another.

Lela Syaheran was indeed momentarily confused to fight his opponent who flashed around him so quickly. But his belief in the righteousness of the mind, together with the training and the discipline which he had undergone during his learning in Darman Syah's abode, saved him from death. King Gordan Syah Dewa kept changing his ways of attack, but Lela Syaheran always managed to escape, so that the brutal and ruthless king was now exhausted. The cruel king tried to provoke Lela Syaheran's anger by mocking him.

"You're really tricky, Young Man. You just keep avoiding me by running around. Actually I just want to fight King Johan Syah. So back up, and I will forgive you. Just forget your dream to marry my sweetheart!"

Hearing the mockery, Lela Syaheran replied. "You are nothing but a perverted old man! You already have tens of concubines, but as old as you are now, you still don't have a queen. Apparently you do not sell well even though you're near your death. Mark this, Old Man! Ratna Komala is not willing to marry a wrathful man like you. You'll never see a beautiful woman like Princess Ratna Komala, much less touch her!"

Hearing the young man's challenge, King Gordan Syah Dewa was furious. He clenched his teeth. He wanted to end the battle as soon as possible. The cruel king retreated three steps, while his lips quivered, mumbling a spell. Not long after that, a cloud of smoke came out of his body. King Gordan Syah Dewa rubbed his palms. For a moment, both palms were smoldering and forming a fireball, which was then thrown at the enemy. Lela Syaheran still had a chance to jump into the air, but when his feet were about to land on the ground, suddenly the enemy was already near him. Gordan Syah quickly grabbed Lela Syaheran's waist and threw the young man's body away, while giving a scream that echoed throughout the battlefield. "Feel my throw, Young Man. Go rotting in hell!" All the soldiers were terrified to see his terrifying supernatural power.

King Johan Syah, who was watching from the tower, was shocked. All of his body felt weak without any energy left in it. Lela Syaheran disappeared for a moment. King Johan Syah was

so dispirited and his heart was pounding, and without him realizing it, tears began falling down his face. Thousands of eyes couldn't find where Lela Syaheran was. Apparently the young man was hurled about one mile from where he had been. Though he was hurled quite far away, he did not suffer any injury, and was able to stand up straight again. Meanwhile, King Gordan Syah Dewa was satisfied because he thought he had killed his opponent. He proudly laughed out loud, emitting a disgusting sound.

"Ha, ha, ha...that rat is dead. Now I can do as I please, and destroy King Johan Syah." The shouts of victory from Syah Dewa's armies reverberated to the sky. Meanwhile, the armies of Khairan Langkawi Kingdom fell silent, and with pale faces they witnessed Lela Syaheran's defeat.

Silently but surely, Lela Syaheran approached the battlefield and watched it surreptitiously. At the same time, King Johan Syah along with King Haidan, King Dewa Laksana, and the ministers of Khairan Langkawi Kingdom, came to besiege King Gordan Syah Dewa. The king was furious when he realized that he was already hemmed in.

"If this continues, I will lose," he murmured. He quickly chanted a mantra, and then his body disappeared instantly. But Bikrama

Indra, who was now not far from there, saw where King Gordan Syah Dewa had disappeared.

Lela Syaheran immediately drew his magical bow, which was given him by his teacher. The arrow was shot as fast as lightning at King Gordan Syah Dewa's neck, who didn't expect that his enemy was still alive. There was a rumbling sound, and white smoke was billowing around the whizzing arrow. Inevitably, the arrow hit right King Gordan Syah's head. He fell on the ground before King Johan Syah, who was now in the battlefield. People were astonished to see Bikrama Indra, aka Lela Syaheran, still safe and sound, appear suddenly before them.

King Johan Syah smiled proudly. He immediately gave thanks to the one and only God as he embraced Bikrama Indra. He no longer felt tense and downhearted.

"You are really my brother," he said gently. Lela Syaheran immediately tightened his embrace, and the people applauded cheerfully. Bikrama Indra immediately paid homage to King Johan Syah, saying, "I've done my duty." All the royal courtiers of Langkawi Kingdom soon tried to be the first to congratulate Lela Syaheran. Both Lela Syaheran's parents loved their powerful and righteous son all the more. Bikrama Indra finally was able to fulfill his duty as a strong young man. He had taken the opportunity to fight for Ratna Komala.

After the war was over, they started to prepare for Bikrama Indra's marriage. King Digar Alam asked King Haidan to become his delegate to make proposal to Ratna Komala. King Haidan immediately prepared himself and went to Khairan Langkawi palace with the Prime Minister and his wife.

### **Ratna Komala's Wedding**

King Johan Syah came to meet Ratna Komala to congratulate her on Bikrama Indra's success in destroying King Gordan Syah Dewa. The two siblings cried as they hugged each other, being reminded of their parents who had long been gone.

"Tomorrow we're going to our parents' grave," said her brother.

"Yes Brother, we both have to give thanks to the Almighty God. You always manage to go through great trials because you keep on walking on the right path."

Johan Syah also humbly flattered his sister, "My Sister Ratna, you and Bikrama Indra are really great and powerful so as to save me. Bikrama Indra's love for you encouraged him to defeat King Gordan Syah Dewa."

Every time they prayed, Ratna Komala and Johan Syah begged God so that they would be able to always work together for the

greatness of Khairan Langkawi Kingdom. They believed that only God gave blessings to their kingdom.

Thirty days after the war, King Haidan came to visit King Johan Syah in his palace. They made this friendly visit to strengthen their brotherhood. King Haidan also told him what the purpose of his coming was.

"My brother, the Righteous King, my purpose in coming here is to ask Princess Ratna Komala to marry Bikrama Indra, my son. Hearing King Haidan's proposal, Johan Syah smiled as he straightened up his seat.

Then he said, "Indeed I have considered Bikrama Indra as my own younger brother, much more so now that he's going to marry my sister."

Then Bikrama Indra answered, "Your servant is willingly proposing to marry her." Hearing that, King Haidan as a delegate felt relieved and cheerful.

They agreed to determine the time and place of the wedding. Besides taking caring of her body, Ratna Komala also fasted and always prayed that the wedding would run smoothly. Digar Alam's kingdom was also preparing a gift which would be brought as an offering to the bride.

The wedding took place at a mosque in *Kiayi* <sup>4</sup>Mustafa's palace. The wedding party lasted for one week in the palace. Various art shows were performed at the stage. The guests were happy to enjoy the special dishes cooked by the mothers of the royal family and those from the village women association.

Both the bride and the groom smiled cheerfully as a sign of happiness, and all the maids were happy to see their masters always laugh gladly. They thought to themselves, "Finally, Ratna Komala is happy to marry the young man she loves."

It was a full moon night. The wind blew through the leaves. The scent of jasmine went out of the garden and came into the bridal chamber. Ratna Komala was feeling nervous after such a long time not seeing the young man who had stolen her heart.

When she came to the bridal chamber, Ratna Komala's heart was beating fast. She didn't know what to do. The beautiful bride sat in front of the mirror, and was having trouble removing her hair bun. She said to her husband in a sulky way, "Please call the maid, Husband, to help remove my hair bun," so said the Princess who was used to asking for help from her maid.

The groom immediately approached her and said patiently, "O, no need for that, My Wife. I will now serve my dear exalted

---

<sup>4</sup> Islamic cleric

Princess, and that should be enough. The maid would only bother us!" so the groom joked as he approached his wife's body and put his hand around her shoulder. The bride was enthralled when she saw her handsome husband from the mirror. Ratna Komala thought to herself, "I've been trying to hide my feeling for such a long time that now I feel so shy." When Bikrama Indra was trying to help Ratna Komala remove her hair bun, Ratna Komala also saw that her husband's hand was shaking. It seemed that he was drunk with the fragrance of his wife's bun. In that mirror, they looked at each other very intimately without saying anything. The pure and virgin bride really enjoyed her heavenly marriage. It was a beautiful wedding night. Their marriage was very meaningful because it had to be achieved by hard struggles, risking their own lives to fight against a fierce enemy. And Ratna Komala even had to hide away her affection once, because she had to fight for the release of her brother.

The graceful love of a woman and a man could make the bride and the groom look stunning. Bikrama Indra remembered that Ratna Komala had dressed in layers of clothing when she was asked to bathe in Berangta palace. And so he deliberately teased his wife.

"Do you still wear layered clothes to protect your disguise as a man, My Princess?"



Hearing Bikrama Indra's joke, the beautiful, melancholy, and graceful woman erupted into a heartfelt laughter as she laid her face down on the fragrant pillow. At that time, she had been indeed very worried that her disguise as a man would have been discovered.

"Come on, please answer me, My Soulmate!" exclaimed her husband. The happy couple laughed heartily, having undergone their sorrowful days which they had lived hitherto.

As an orphan, that was the first time Ratna Komala could laugh freely with her beloved husband. She felt true happiness. And then she told a story about the time when she held back her love to Bikrama Indra, who was in the bathing pool in Digar Alam's Kingdom. She told her husband everything honestly.

"At that time, I was also crying in my heart. I didn't have the heart to see you burn in love. However, as a princess of Khairan Langkawi Kingdom, I also couldn't accept that my brother had been treated cruelly by the enemy. I wanted to take revenge, and I made you as a target for my vengeance. I had to be on guard against anyone," she continued.

"Forgive me, who was powerless and stupid! I ignored my love for you and just thought of my brother at that time. I prioritized my task because he was the King of Khairan Langkawi who had to be released, so that he could do his work as soon as possible in

this palace." Ratna Komala was satisfied after explaining to him all the difficulties she had at that time, which she had kept in her heart all this time.

Bikrama Indra just smiled. He understood all that had happened then and appreciated Ratna Komala's way of thinking. He immediately embraced his wife with deep affection.

"Can you feel my love now, My Wife?"

Komala replied softly, "I'm feeling that pure love pleasantly. I finally got to meet my beloved husband." On that beautiful and peaceful bridal night, they expressed their sincere love to each other.

The full moon was also smiling with the fairies who were witnessing the happiness of the exalted bride and groom. The owls were reluctant to crow, for fear of disturbing the gracefulness of the love of the Royal Princess and her Prince. That happy night went very well, leaving memorable impressions impossible to forget throughout their lives.

One week later, King Digar Alam and the Queen visited Khairan Langkawi palace. They would say goodbye and return to their country with Bikrama Indra and his wife. Ratna Komala will be brought to King Digar Alam's palace.

Ratna Komala just smiled as she imagined past events that had been so terrifying. When King Digar Alam requested that Bikrama Indra and Ratna Komala go back with him to his kingdom, King Johan Syah was surprised, and even felt disappointed.

"Why should my sister be brought to Berangta Indra Kingdom this fast?" he asked himself. King Johan Syah immediately suggested, "What if King Digar Alam's return is postponed for a week?" To respect his brother-in-law who was still missing his sister, Digar Alam was willing to postpone his return for a week. They did many activities during that week, among others, going for sightseeing to villages, witnessing the farmers' success in the Kingdom of Khairan Langkawi. The people were very happy that the royal family would go and make visit to remote areas. The people hailed Princess Ratna Komala along the way. "Long live Princess Komala! Long live Princess Komala!" so they exclaimed with their two palms on their chests as a sign of homage to their revered Princess.

The royal family's visit was a rare and special event for them, and so their smiles and laughters made the occasion more joyful. Young people, men and women, were proud to see the newlywed, and were inspired to keep striving for their better future.