

PRINCESS LOPIAN

Putri Lopian

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PRINCESS LOPIAN

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CERITA RAKYAT DARI SUMATRA UTARA
PUTRI LOPIAN

Ditulis oleh
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PUTRI LOPIAN

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Badan Pengembangan dan Pembinaan Bahasa

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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

Folklore are literary works owned by each ethnic group. It cannot be denied that its presence in the community provides many benefits. In addition to entertaining, folklore also presents positive messages and examples in the social relations of the community and connoisseurs. Literature teaches many things, science, religion, character, history, friendship, customs, and so on.

In an effort to introduce this culture, one of the things that is done is to rewrite the folklore. It is also intended to make sure that the moral message and custom of the people who own the story can be understood by the community of literary connoisseurs, both in Indonesia and in the world.

The story of Princess Lopian is a legend that once lived in the midst of the community of Sibolga Coast, Central Tapanuli. In the past, this legend was told from generation to generation through their descendants, but currently not many people know this story. This legend teaches the reader about human values and love for the environment.

This folklore writing activity is expected to be carried out continuously so that people have reading resources that contain didactic and cultural elements. Hopefully this book provides many benefits for the audience. Aside from being an entertainment, it is also hoped to inspire people. Happy reading!

Medan, April 2016

Yolferi

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PRINCESS LOPIAN

Once upon a time in Lopian, a village in Central Tapanuli, lived a princess named Lopian. Princess Lopian is the daughter of a wise king, King Lopian. The king loved his only child very much. Every afternoon the king played with the princess in palace garden. One afternoon, as usual, Princess Lopian was running around in the garden. Her father was also there. Then, her father asked her to sit down. The king said, “My daughter, I love you so much. I wish to see you grow up. I wish to see you marry a handsome prince from our neighboring kingdom.”

“But, father, if I am married someday, I don’t want to part with you. I want to be with you all the time, father,” answered Princess Lopian. The king was deeply moved by her words. He then reached into his pocket and pulled out a black package. There was a human-figured gold necklace inside the package.

“My daughter, put this necklace on. You will look gorgeous if you put this on. Never let go off this necklace forever,” said the king. His gaze drifted far ahead. It seemed as if he could sense an unfortunate event was about to happen.

“One more thing, my dear. When you have been married for 17 years, please make a *Mangusung Buntie* ceremony, a ritual to ask for help from the Creator,” said the king. The nine-year old

Princess Lopian did not comprehend what her father was saying, but she was nodding. Few days later there was a disaster. The kingdom was hit by a huge earthquake. Then the water was rapidly pulling away from the shore. The villagers were wondering what was going on.

What made the seawater recede and the fish lie on the sand? They instantly forgot about the earthquake and hurried collecting the fish.

“Let’s catch all the fish while the tide is low. We can sell it in the market later and earn some money,” said one of the fishermen.

“No, don’t go to the sea. Stay on the shore. There may be a terrible incident coming shortly,” said Mr Ngah, an old fisherman. He remembered his grandfather had told him about an unusual low tide following an earthquake, and everyone should go up the hill before a huge high tide. But no one listened to him.

Not long after there was a bluster coming from the middle of the ocean. From a distance it looked like giant elephants running towards the shore. The villagers were too occupied with the fish lying aground. Just a few seconds later a big wave the height of a coconut tree hit the shore sweeping everything as it passed by. The wave swamped all the villagers, the houses, and even the palace. Princess Lopian’s parents were among those who were carried away by the wave and vanished to the bottom of Indian

Ocean. Legend has it that her parents turned into ocean guardian fairies. The guards and the commanders of the kingdom were also vanished mysteriously. The princess was the only survivor. The nine-year old princess was very scared to find no one in the palace.

“Huhuhu... Father... Mother... I am scared. Nobody’s here. Huhuhuhu... Father, mother, help me....,” cried Princess Lopian in tears. She could not help but crying all day long until she fell asleep in front of the palace. While she was sleeping, some animals that the princess used to feed came up out of nowhere. First a deer and a rabbit emerged. Then a giant turtle, the princess’ favorite animal, followed. They surrounded the poor princess, watching over her while she was sleeping. When she woke up, Princess Lopian spoke to the animals what had happened.

“I’m on my own. I could not find my parents. Now I only have you. Would you accompany me wherever I go?” asked Princess Lopian to the animals. Upon hearing the princess’ request, the deer swiped its horns against Princess Lopian’s shoulder, the rabbit jumped up and down, and the turtle hit its shells onto the princess’ feet, as if they understood what the princess had said. After sharing her sadness, the princess’ fear gradually diminished. Princess Lopian then went into the palace to rest. The next morning Princess Lopian began to learn how to survive on her

own by eating fruits and tubers growing wildly around the palace. She even learned to grow food plants. She planted paddy and cassava. Additionally, the princess also grew vegetable and fruit trees. She did it all not only because it was necessary but also because she loved doing it. Using merely simple tools, the princess finally could become a skillful farmer.

Several years later the palace where Princess Lopian lived was overgrown with grass and even bushes. The bushes then covered the palace and turned it into a dense forest. All animals in the forest became her companions because she treated them good. Even the tiger, the wildest animal in the forest was also her good companion.

Every day Princess Lopian caught fish and fed the tiger. Princess Lopian sometimes played *peok-peok* (hide and seek) with the tiger. The deft tiger obviously won most of the time, but he once in a while deliberately succumb and let the princess won so as to make the princess felt happy. Playing this game made the princess' body slim and improved her agility. She was able to run very fast. Except the tiger, no others matched her in running. Princess Lopian was also a great swimmer. The giant turtle that followed her wherever she went was the one that taught her to swim. Every evening Princess Lopian swam in the Tapan Nauli Sea.

“Come, turtle. Chase me. I want to swim into the middle of the ocean. If you can catch me, I shall give you reward!” joked Lopian. The princess loved to joke with the turtle and her laughter could be heard almost every evening. She often dove into the bottom of the ocean wishing she could see his father and mother that were engulfed by a huge wave several years before.

The princess was also a skillful boat rower. She could conquer ferocious ocean easily with her boat, let alone the river. She was a great sailor. She knew how far the boat from the mainland by looking at the reflection of the wave. She was also able to determine the direction of the boat by looking at the star constellation in the sky when she sailed at night. People around the ruin palace thought that she was a nymph as she grew from a child into a beautiful girl.

Though she had to live a tough life, Princess Lopian did not complain, not even for once. She became very independent because of the circumstance. She was capable of taking care herself. She learned to cook to eat and became a good cook. Whenever she was cooking, the food aroma spread all over the forest. Because she was so kind, she never hesitates to share the food with almost all animals around where she lived.



When she was older, the princess often traveled away from home exploring forest. She got lost into village several times while playing out in the forest. One day, when she was playing with her beloved turtle, she got lost in a village near the central government of Sipan Siaporos, a Batak Kingdom located at the foot of the mountain Batara. People in the kingdom spoke Batak language and Melayu Pesisir (Coast Malay) language.

She unexpectedly came upon two young men who were collecting firewood at the village outskirts. They were Ogek and his younger brother. The princess quickly hid behind a tree.

“Is there someone behind the teak, brother?” asked Ogek a little bit scared.

“There is, brother. I just saw a girl and a turtle!” replied Ogek’s younger brother quivering. “Did you, brother? There’s no other but us here. Could it be...”

“Ogek, don’t talk like that. I’m scared.” Their fear was more intense thinking what they had just seen as ghost or *orang bunian* (elf).

“Ogek why don’t you find out what is that behind the thicket. It could be only shadow of tree,” said Ogek’s younger brother. Ogek slowly walked towards the thicket about 30 meters in front of them right behind the mound of forest ant nest. Princess

Lopian was also scared because she thought the two young men were going to seize her. She was hiding in the bushes.

“Turtle, what should we do? I am afraid they will capture us. If they are coming closer, I will run fast. You stay here and don’t move,” said the princess while she was covering the turtle with leaves and bushes within her reach.

As she saw one of them was coming closer to her hiding place, Princess Lopian ran back into the forest. So did Ogek. When he saw a shadow flashing in the thicket, he ran full speed and shouted to his brother, “Run... it’s a ghost... a ghost...”

They ran helter-skelter towards the village. They even forgot to take the firewood.

Once arrived in the village, they told other villagers what they had just had. The village was stirred. The people started making assumption of who was the pretty girl that the two young men encountered in the forest.

“Hey Ogek, what you had seen wasn’t human, but a nymph from *kahyangan*,” Mrs Uning, a middle-aged woman and the queen of gossip in that village made up story. “Lucky you didn’t call her. Because if you did and she saw you then you might be gone and never come back home,” Mrs Uning frightened them.

“Whoa....where are we going to be taken then?” asked Ogek.

“She will make you a slave in the *bunian* kingdom deep in the forest. You cannot go back,” added Mrs Uning.

“Well I’m not sure if she is a nymph. Maybe she is just a human like us,” argued grandmother Imah.

“There is no *bunian* but there are spirit and jinn,” she added.

“The jinn is the *bunian*, grandmother Imah. Let’s not talk about it anymore otherwise she’ll come here and disturb us. Look! I have got a goose bump,” said Mrs. Uning shaky.

For a week long the village was enlivened by a story of a beautiful girl spotted at the end of the village. The story had widely spread from the neighboring village to the capital of the kingdom. Finally, the story of a beautiful woman coming out of the forest was heard by the king of Sipan Siaporos Kingdom. The king called the guru and asked about the girl.

“I heard that people are surprised by the appearance of a mysterious girl from the forest. Is it true?” asked the king wisely. The king was accompanied by his son, the handsome Prince Badiri.

“Yes, it is, Your Majesty. It is true that there was a girl, a beautiful one, seen by the forest. She wore outfit made of wood bark. She was spotted carried a spear. It seemed she was hunting, Your Majesty,” the guru replied.

“Who do you think she is?” Prince Badiri asked enthusiastically. It looked like the prince was very interested about the news.

“My spiritual sight tells me that she is Princess Lopian. Her father was the king of Lopian Kingdom which was ruined by a huge wave from Indian Ocean and her father became Indian Ocean watchman fairy” the guru explained in detail.

The king nodded, and then said in amazement. “It’s just as I thought. The father of Princess Lopian was my best friend. Right after the disaster, I ordered the commanders and warriors to the kingdom to rescue the people there. But, none could be saved,” said the king.

“Indeed, Your Majesty, I have an insight that the princess was terribly scared at that time and must have been hiding in a secret chamber. Therefore, our warriors did not find anyone there,” said the guru. Upon hearing, the three men were pondering for a while. Each one of them was deep in thought; thinking about the princess.

“Your Majesty, if you allow me, I suggest that we hold *mangusung buntie* ceremony and pray to the Almighty God so we could find Princess Lopian.” proposed Prince Badiri enthusiastically. Apparently, the prince was very curious about the whereabouts of Princess Lopian. The king was silent for a moment, looking thoughtfully at the proposal.



“Then, prepare everything for the ceremony!” said the king finally. Prince Badiri looked very pleased knowing his proposal was approved by the king.

So the ceremony was held as the king said. The guru and other kingdom officials supervised the preparation for the ceremony called *mangusung buntie*. The highlight of this ceremony was sending out offerings to the sea. Some requirements for the offerings include an excellent and healthy sacrificial animal, and the best rice from the latest harvest.

On a full moon night, the event was held. The sea was calm. The wind blew in the breeze. All the palace members from the king, princes, aides, gurus, commanders, maids, and guards, joined the ceremony. People of the kingdom were invited to the ceremony. King Sipan Siaporos sent the offerings to the sea, while the royal guru recited prayers. Suddenly, the Mursala Island, a faraway island in the middle of the sea, looked luminous with rainbow like light. Then a miracle emerged.

In the midst of the light came the face of a very beautiful woman that amazed and fascinated everyone who saw it.

“Guru, whose face is that?” asked the King, stammering in astonishment at the sighting.

“Your Majesty, my spiritual sight tells me that it is the face of Princess Lopian. It is a sign from the ocean guardian fairies,

Princess Lopian's parents, for Your Majesty to seek and bring the princess to the palace," replied the royal guru.

"If you succeed in bringing her to the palace, our kingdom will be safe from the dangers of storms and big waves!" added the royal guru.

Upon hearing the guru's explanation, the king, queen, prince, royal authorities, and everyone in the room nodded.

"How can we pick Princess Lopian up, Master guru. We have no clue in which forest she lives, right?" asked Prince Badiri enthusiastically.

"Indeed. Princess Lopian loves to cook. Rumour has it that her cooking is very delicious. I suggest we hold a cooking contest to lure the princess out of the forest!" said the guru. Prince Badiri strongly agreed with the royal guru's idea.

"Father, if you approve, what if the winner of the contest becomes my bride? I think it is a good way to make the princess as member of the royal family." The prince said with confidence.

"Very well if that's what you wish, my son," approved the king who was excited to see his son's enthusiasm. After all it was about the time for the prince to make his own family.

The next day, the cooking contest was announced throughout the kingdom. The announcement also mentioned the first prize for the winner of the contest to become the king's daughter in law. Upon hearing the announcement, many girls in Sipan Siaporos Kingdom signed in to the contest hoping to come out as the first winner so they could be married to the handsome prince and becoming queen in the future. An upheaval occurred throughout the kingdom. Noble mothers were busy dressing their daughters up with the best clothes, powder, and perfume. The wife of royal commander was mostly excited telling her daughter to join the contest.

A graphic illustration with a warm, orange-brown color palette. In the foreground, two figures are shown in silhouette, looking towards a central document. The document is framed in a dark border and has the word "SAYEMBARA!" written in bold, black, uppercase letters at the top. Below the title, there are several lines of illegible, handwritten text. The background features a pattern of rounded rectangular shapes, resembling a brick wall or a tiled surface, with a soft, hazy glow behind it.

SAYEMBARA!

“Mayang, you should learn to cook from Grandma Suti because next week there will be a cooking contest. The winner has a chance to marry the handsome Prince Badiri,” she said to Mayang her only 18-year old daughter.

“Mother, I want to be the prince’s wife but I don’t want to learn to cook. I am afraid to break my nails and make my hands rough, mother.” whined Mayang giving excuse. Still, her mother forced her to learn cooking from their maid. Many other noble daughters resigned knowing they were not capable enough to join the contest. Most of them were just good at poking, but not excellent at cooking.

Far away in the deep of the forest, Princess Lopian had news from her best friend the talking Myna that there would be a cooking contest at the capital of the kingdom.

“Is it true the news that you told me, Myna?” asked the princess.

“Yes, it is, princess. I heard it from an aide when he made announcement throughout the kingdom,” confirmed the talking myna.

“What prize the winner will get?”

“The winner will be the king’s daughter in law,” Beo replied.

The princess nodded. The princess had heard of Prince Badiri, the son of King Sipan Siaporos. He was a brave, kind-hearted,

handsome, and had an impeccable behavior. Princess Lopian finally decided to join the contest. She brought fresh pick self-planted produce and spices she had prepared a day before. Her basket was full of fern leaves, banana heart, and andaliman (Sichuan pepper) that she picked in the forest. The next day wearing a very simple outfit Princess Lopian left for the capital. She was accompanied by the giant turtle to participate in the contest. The palace garden where the contest was held filled with royal officials and commoners. Before the contest began, Princess Lopian had arrived while carrying a basket full of vegetables, fern leaves, banana heart, coconut, fresh fish, and many others. She stole the spectators' attention as she walked towards the contest arena confidently.

“Who are you most beautiful lady?” asked the royal guard to Princess Lopian.

“Lopian of Lopian Forest,” replied Princess Lopian firmly. The guard gasped out. He had heard of Princess Lopian who lived in the forest.

“Then you may come in, Your Majesty Princess Lopian!” said the guard as he let her in.

So the contest was started and each contestant performed her skill. Some dishes smelled so tasty, but it tasted too salty. Some dishes looked mouthwatering, but it tasted plain. There were also

contestants who were only busy walking around because they actually could not cook. It seemed they joined the contest because they had been forced by their mother. The cheers from the crowd and the contestants' behaviors made the contest more festive.

When other contestants were busy with preparation, the princess had started cooking calmly. She performed the cooking process step by step gracefully. It showed the princess was very good at it. The condiment, goulash fat, and vegetable soup were all satisfying. Everyone who had the chance to taste her cooking was impressed and satisfied. In addition to her cooking skill, everyone in the contest arena was also amazed at a giant turtle that came with her. It had beautiful motif and shiny blinding shell. It followed Princess Lopian wherever she went.



Another thing that made the spectators wander was the necklace that the princess was wearing. It was a human-figured gold necklace that was given by her father when she played in the palace garden just a few days before the great disaster hit Lopian Kingdom and swept away all the people in the kingdom including her parents. At the end of the contest, Princess Lopian was crowned as the winner. All the spectators cheered. Then the princess was summoned to the king and the queen.

“Are you really Princess Lopian?” asked the Raja.

“I am, Your Majesty. I am Lopian from the Lopian forest.”

“Are your parents transformed into Indian Ocean guardian fairies?”

“Yes, Your Majesty,” answered Princess Lopian.

The king faltered and Lopian continued with a wistful voice.

“It happened long time ago, but the pain is still fresh. I was saved that day because I was taking a nap in a secret chamber underground when the waves of Indian Ocean swept everyone away. When I returned to the palace, all was gone and in complete mess.” It was pain for her to remember the incident.

“May I see your gold necklace?” inquired the king.

“Forgive me, Your Majesty. This necklace is my father’s last gift. I will never put it off,” answered Princess Lopian.

“Then come closer, so I can have a close look at the necklace,” asked the king full of hope. Then Princess Lopian walked over to where the king was sitting. The king held and looked closely at Lopian’s necklace. A moment later he left the room and went into his private chamber to pick up something.

“Lopian, why don’t you try open this petit chest and then show me what’s inside,” said the king when he returned from his chamber. With little hesitation, Princess Lopian took the wooden chest. She could smell a fragrant aroma from inside the box. She opened the box slowly. How surprised she was looking at a gold necklace inside the box.

“Forgive me, Your Majesty, why does this necklace look similar with my necklace?” asked Princess Lopian curiously.

“My child, this necklace was given by our guru. His guru was also my guru. We were in the same school. Furthermore, we had blood relation from our mother side. You are actually my niece,” explained the king emotionally. Princess Lopian could not help but cry knowing she was not alone in this world. She still had a relative, a wise king.

“Your father was my distant relative. When I heard of the incident, I had given command to all my royal troops to search for

any survivals, but there was none. Unfortunately, there had been no information about the secret chamber that had saved your life,” remembered the king looking back at the event few years ago.

“Father, please allow me to ask one question to Princess Lopian,” interrupted the prince.

The prince could not take his eyes of the princess and the turtle.

“Please, my son,” answered the king.

“Princess Lopian, how long have this turtle been with you?”

This turtle have been with me since I lost my parents, O prince. He follows me wherever I go,” explained Princess Lopian.

Upon hearing the explanation from the princess, Prince Badiri was surprised. He then approached the turtle, looked at it closely, and thinking. Once done, he returned to the side of his mother, the queen.

Then Princess Lopian gave the turtle to the king. The queen and the prince who sat next to the king were surprised and marveled. The prince, actually, had also had a turtle since his early childhood. Could it be that they were destined to be together? Such though was dancing in Prince’s Badiri mind.

As he discovered it, the king ordered one of his guards to unite the Princess Lopian’s giant turtle and Prince Badiri’s giant turtle.

The king was impressed and amazed at the rare accidental event. Being able to unite the two turtles made him happy. The turtles seemed to be happy as well when they met one another in a cauldron made of clay.

The king then ordered the maids to prepare the best service for Princess Lopian. “O, maids. Take Princess Lopian to the chamber for future daughter in law. Serve her as good as possible. Give her the best food, dress, and jewelry,” said the king to the maids.

“Yes, Your Majesty. That will be done.”

Long story short, Princess Lopian was married to Prince Badiri. Before the marriage was held, Princess Lopian had proposed a request to Prince Badiri. “I shall be your wife if you are willing to make me yellow glutinous rice and parade it in small canoe towards the Indian Ocean every full moon,” requested the princess politely.

“I can hold big banquet every month, let alone make yellow glutinous rice offerings,” replied the prince firmly.

“Thank you, Prince. I have one more request.”

“Tell me, Lopian, hopefully I can fulfill it.”

“On our 17th wedding anniversary I wish to hold *Mangusung Buntie* ceremony. “

Prince Badiri recalled *Mangusung Buntie* ceremony that was held some time ago when the princess' face was seen in rainbow light. He still remembered what the royal guru had said about the ocean guardian fairies that had given approval to seek Princess Lopian, their daughter. To validate, the prince asked Princess Lopian, "why must *Mangusung Buntie* ceremony be held, Lopian?"

"I remembered my father's message two days before the great disaster struck my kingdom, Your Majesty. My mother asked me to hold a *Mangusung Buntie* ceremony on my 17th wedding anniversary."

Without second thought, Prince Badiri said he agreed to do all requests and promised to do it.

The wedding reception of Prince Badiri and Princess Lopian would be held within three months. The people warmly welcomed this wedding plan. They were very excited waiting for the long-awaited day to come. Exceptionally the young women who failed the contest, they were jealous at Princess Lopian.

"Isn't it weird that the prince chooses Lopian a forest girl with obscure origin to be his wife?" muttered one contestant who failed to her friend who also failed in the contest.

"You're right. Perhaps she's a demon disguising as a human. Isn't Prince Badiri afraid of having a demon as a wife?" replied her friend.

“Enough. Enough! Quit gossiping. Who says she’s a demon? She’s a human like us. She does live in the forest alone, but that does not mean she is a demon,” said one of their mothers.

All preparations of the wedding ceremony were arranged directly by Prince Badiri. Every day he monitored everything from the wedding reception venue, and list of guests. He also took care of wedding clothes for the bride and groom and uniform clothes for the royal dignitaries. Meanwhile, Princess Lopian was secluded in the palace for 40 days. She was not allowed to leave the palace even only for walking. She learned royalty manners and household works.

The princess also received body, hair, and nail treatment, as well as inner treatment by taking traditional concoctions. These were done so the bride would look and feel fabulous at her wedding day. The prince also had treatment. His activity was limited as well. He was not allowed to do activity that had nothing to do with their wedding party. The long-awaited day finally arrived. A wedding feast was held for seven days and seven nights. The wedding feast was celebrated by the whole kingdom. There were a variety of meat dishes made from chicken, duck, goose, goat, ox, and buffalo.

The people throughout the kingdom joined the feast happily and they gave their blessing to the wedding couple and the whole kingdom. On the first day, the wedding reception and wedding

vow reading between Prince Badiri and Princess Lopian took place solemnly. The queen, Prince Badiri's mother, was crying happy tears witnessing the marriage of her beloved son with the woman he had been yearning for.

There were many guests coming. The kings and dignitaries of friend kingdoms were also there presenting luxurious gifts. King Barus came with gifts that were carried by 40 horses. So did King of Bakkara Kingdom. He brought many wonderful gifts. Likewise, the kings of the coast of Sumatra and even king from the Land of Malay Peninsula came to the wedding reception of the crown prince of Sipan Siaporos Kingdom.

A wedding parade accompanied with galombang dance and sikambang song was hold around the city. The *silat* (a type of martial arts) movements in galombang dance symbolized gallantry and the sad lyric in sikambang music represented the sadness of Princess Lopian being left by her parents.

The lyric sung in sikambang music is as follow.

Ancimun bungkok dalam padi

Cuko di dalam paramasan

Bia maramuk di dalam hati

Di muko jangan kaliatan

Cucumber leans down inside the rice

Vinegar inside gold goods

Let there be a break in the heart

But don't show it in the face

Labeklah hujan di Mursala

Kambanglah bungo parawitan

Hujan di langik nan punyo sala

Ombak di lawik nan mananggungan

Heavy rain in Mursala

Bloom the flower of perawitan

Rain in the sky whose done wrong

Wave in the sea shall bear

Pisang sarumpun si banyak anak

Sabatang indak na bajantung

Kami tasabuk banyak dunsanak

Tapi indak ado tampek bagantung

A bunch of banana the many children

One tree has no heart

We are famous to have many relatives

But there is no place to depend on

Buah nanah masak di pucuk

Sayangnyo disamba kilek

Biapun ame masuk ka luluk

Namun cahayanyo tatap bakilek

Pineapple fruit ripe at the top

Unfortunately a lightning struck

Even if gold falls into the mud

Its light remains shiny

On the second to the seventh day large feast were held throughout the territory of Sipan Siaporos Kingdom. In the feast, foods were served throughout the day.

All guests including the people were free to eat. They were also entertained by famous musicians and dancers performing handkerchief dance, umbrella dance, and dampeng dance. Two months after their wedding, Princess Lopian was pregnant. The news made the king and the queen rejoice knowing they would

have a grandchild soon. Prince Badiri was also thrilled expecting the first child. Princess Lopian was treated well during the pregnancy.

Nine months passed Princess Lopian gave birth to a handsome and healthy son. His hair was thick. Prince Badiri could not help to feel ecstatic. As early as four years old, the young prince received his first education. Many teachers from throughout the kingdom came to teach her many sciences from religious science to martial arts, as well as state administration science. On the fifth year of their wedding, when Princess Lopian conceived their second child, King Sipan Siaporos was severely ill. All the royal healers had tried to treat him, but his illness did not heal. He was getting weaker every day. Prince Badiri was sorrowful to see his father lying weak in his bed in king's private room. His body was very thin and pale. The people also felt the sorrow knowing the king's health condition worsened. They gathered in worship houses to pray for the healing of the king who had ruled the kingdom for over 25 years. Every day Prince Badiri came to visit his father. Sometimes he came with his son. One afternoon Prince Badiri visited his father just as usual.

Unlike the other days, Prince Badiri felt a strange atmosphere in the king's room. The royal scepter and crown as emblems of authority owned by kings of Sipan Siaporas Kingdom for generations laid majestically on gold-carved side table just to the

right of the lying king. Those emblems used to be shown whenever there was an important event only. Prince Badiri gasped. His heart was pounding. He sensed something extraordinary was about to happen. At the moment he was more concerned about his father's condition. He bowed respectfully and sat down beside the king's right foot. He was massaging his father's legs when the king raised his hand beckoning the prince that he wanted to say something. The prince moved next to the king's head. He lowered his ear to the king's mouth.

"Badiri, my son..." whispered the king in a stammered and very quiet voice.

"I guess ... I don't have... much time left..."

"But, father..." Pangeran Badiri held the words back as the king beckoned to him not to interrupt.

"When I... die... you must take responsibility...for the survival of our kingdom. Therefore, my son, ... from now on ... I order you to become my successor as the King of Sipan Siaporas!" commanded the king to Prince Badiri. Prime minister, royal advisor, and some other royal officials become the witness of the throne handover ceremony from King Sipan Siaporas to Prince Badiri.

Soon the king died. The whole kingdom was sad to accept the fact their beloved king had passed away to return to the Almighty

God. For days, weeks, and months, the kingdom grieved over the death of the wise king. Those who lived in the palace and the commoners had no more enthusiasm. Rice fields were being abandoned, and the cattle were also unkempt.

When he saw this, the royal guru came to the presence of King Badiri.

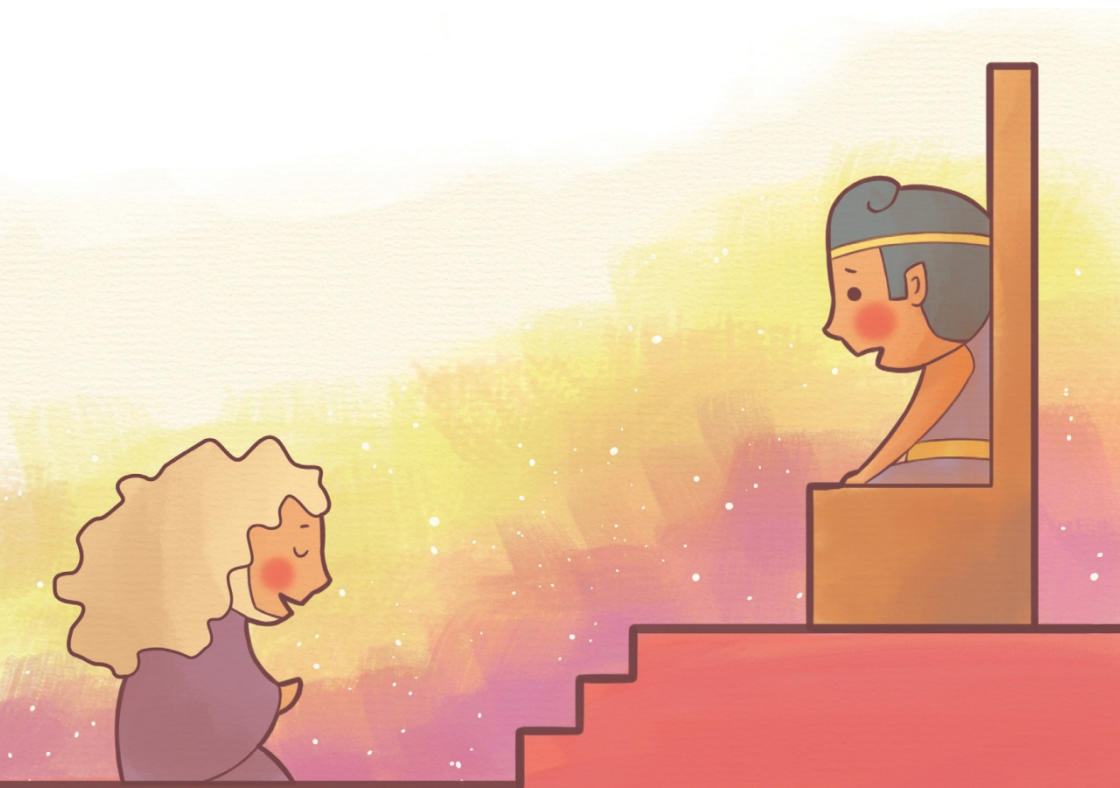
“Forgive me, Your Majesty. I am here before you because there is something I worry about.” pleaded the guru. The sleazy-looking sad king was calm. It was not that he did not understand the condition of the kingdom, but because he had not found a way to help this kingdom get out of this sorrowful situation.

“Speak out, O guru, what makes you worried? Perhaps you feel the same as I do,” asked King Badiri.

“Forgive me, my lord. Yesterday, after meditating for seven days I finally had a dream. In my dream the late king came to me and advised to change the name of the kingdom from his name to yours so the people no longer mourned over the dead ones.”

King Badiri was stupefied upon hearing what the royal guru had said. Seeing that, the royal guru quickly added, “Forgive me truly, my lord, but that’s what I actually see. In my dream, King Sipan looked sorrowful at this current condition. I beg you to consider what I have suggested.”

After thinking for a while, King Badiri called all royal authorities to a discussion. At the end of the discussion, all royal authorities had agreed to follow the guru's advice.



Since then Sipan Siaporos Kingdom had been called Badiri Kingdom. Somehow, the new name brought a lot of blessings.

People accepted the new name for their kingdom. All people worked together to make it a good and fun kingdom. The kingdom gradually recovered. Rain came heavily so that the fields were green again, and the cattle grew big and healthy. King Badiri and Queen Lopian lived in peace and harmony. They had four children; two handsome sons and two beautiful daughters. The youngest child had many resemblances with her mother. She also loved animals and had a parrot that was very good at talking as her pet.



After 17 years of their marriage, as requested by Queen Lopian, they held *Mangusung Buntie* ceremony. A week prior to the ceremony, the turtle couple strangely disappeared. No one knew where they were. Some royal soldiers who were assigned to look for the turtles had come back to no result.

“Let them go, Your Majesty, look no further. They have returned to where they have come from in the bottom of Indian Ocean,” said Queen Lopian.

“How do you know?” asked the king.

“I just assumed. Perhaps they felt they were old enough and wished to rest at the bottom of the ocean for the rest of their life,” Queen Lopian replied.

“If you said so, I shall order the guards to stop looking for our turtles. Hopefully at the *Mangusung Buntie* ceremony they will reappear,” said the king full of hope. Queen Lopian nodded slowly. Somehow she knew they would not come again. In fact, she felt like there were voices calling her to go to the bottom of the ocean.

The whole royal family members who came looked sophisticated in luxurious and beautiful outfit. The women, particularly, looked elegant in jewel studded *baju kurung* (loosely translated as “enclosed dress”).

King Badiri, Queen Lopian, and their children walked in front to guide the proceedings of *Mangusung Buntie* ceremony by sending offerings to the high seas. The weather that day was clear. The sun was shining bright, and the wind was blowing gently on the face. Before the *buntie* was released, royal guru recited a rhyme as he danced, expressing gratitude to The Creator. After the *buntie* were released to the sea, suddenly something unexpected happened. Gentle drifting clouds suddenly rolled up as the wind blew strongly. Dark clouds covered the sun. The atmosphere became tense. Wind blew hard and a storm came all of sudden. The calm sea was turbulent. Heavy wave buffeted the crowd.

Every one participating in *Mangusung Buntie* ceremony was panic and hysterical. They were all running for life, including King Raja Badiri and his children.

“Everyone, come on and run to higher ground. Run up the hill there. Save yourself!” shouted Prince Badiri while carrying his two little children. The crown prince and his brother had moved away from the shore.

“Father! Let’s go up to Siboga hill, father!” shouted the eldest son as he was running followed by his brother. The queen, unlike the others, was stunned looking at the waves.



Occasionally she turned her head and looked at her husband and children. Tears were running down on Queen Lopian cheeks. Her eyes stared at the storm and the wave in front of her longingly. Then a huge wave swept Queen Lopian into the ocean. Having seen that, King Badiri ran as fast as possible crashing the wave to save his wife against the brink of the violent west coast wave. Their eldest son had arrived on land, with a lightning movement run back into the sea to join his father trying to save his mother. He managed to come close and try to reach Queen Lopian's hand.

“Mother, reach out for my hand, Mother...,” shouted the eldest son. They, however, were powerless being faced with nature's great forces. Queen Lopian was washed away by the ocean current.

The eldest son swam after his mother into the sea. He dived and searched his mother on the seabed. But his mother was visible no more.

“My son, return to the land. Let her go. She wants to reunite with her parents,” shouted the King to his eldest son. He knew Queen Lopian was actually a skilled swimmer. So he thought that she might have been destined to be carried away by the wave and vanished in the Indian Ocean. After the disappearance of Queen Lopian, the weather was gradually clear. There was no more trace of hurricane and lightning. King Badiri and the royal family were lethargic and tired. The retainers were helping the king to rise and

take him back to the palace. The king's children were still crying over their mother that vanished along with the ocean current. They could not let their mother go that way. What a tragic fate the children of Queen Lopian and King Badiri had. They cried endlessly. The youngest cried the most. The crying is heart-wrenching.

“Mother, how could you leave us? We love you so much... hu...hu... hu...,” so the youngest wailed.

“Don't cry my children. Let her go. It may have been destined to. Perhaps your mother will be happy to reunite with her parents, your grandparents, on the seabed.

“Reunite with grandfather and grandmother? What do you mean, father?” asked one of his children.

King Badiri then told them a story several years ago about the Lopian Kingdom and what happened to Queen Lopian's parents. Hence, it is said that the face of Queen Lopian is often appeared on the verge of twilight for a few hours. It signifies a calm sea and abundant fish. Fishermen usually go fishing when they see it.

That, however, did not last long, only a few hours until the sighting of Queen Lopian disappeared with the coming of night. The fishermen should be careful because shortly after the appearance of the queen' face in the sky, a very powerful storm

will take place. It is a sign for the fishermen to stay away from the sea.

That is the story of Queen Lopian from the coastal area of Central Tapanuli.

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