

THE CONSIDERATE OF CAPTIVATOR
Si Kodok Kata Malem, Baik Budi Penawan Hati

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THE CONSIDERATE OF CAPTIVATOR

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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, 15 March 2016

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

Preface

Turi-Turian Si Katak-Katak (the Story of the Toad-Frog) is folklore from Karo, North Sumatra. The story was written by Henry Guntur Tarigan and published by Publishing Project of Indonesian and Regional Literature of the Department of Education and Culture in 1985. The retelling of *Cerita Si Kodok-Kodok* was done by Muhammad Jaruki (1995) with the title “Si Kodok”.

After the review, the title of *Cerita Si Kodok-Kodok* changed into “The Considerate of Captivator”. This review is to increase reading interest among the students of the high level of elementary school (the fourth to sixth grade of elementary school). The reviewers also include suggestions from the interviewee for the improvements. Not only changing the title, the reviewer also changes part of the characters’ names – after getting the permission from the writer.

Besides, to make students getting more understanding, the language used is adjusted to the children's language skills. Not only increasing the students’ reading interest, this story is also intended to enhance students’ reading skills that is also one of the language skills.

Hari Sulastri

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THE CONSIDERATE OF CAPTIVATOR

Birth of Si Kodok

Far away, in Kampung Gunggung of Tanah Karo, North Sumatra, there lived a group of people headed by a campong headman. The headman of Kampung Gunggung had a handsome son. After his son had grown up, he wanted to marry his son with his niece. Such marriage according to the custom of Bataknese, where the headman lived, was common. The wedding was also held very luxurious. Many friends and relatives were invited.

Years passed by so quickly. The marriage had been passed for about three years. His son's marriage was always happy. Their neighbours also admired them. Although had been married for three years, the couple had not have baby yet.

"What's the matter, why haven't we have a grandchild until now?" asked the headman's wife to the kampong headman.

"Dear wife! We must be patient. We must make many efforts and prayers so that God will soon grant our request," replied the headman.

One day his wife heard the information that there was a supernaturally powerful old woman. She could treat all sorts of diseases and predict the upcoming incidents. She lived in Kuto

Suah. Had heard that news, the headman's wife immediately sent her younger sister to visit the powerful old woman's cottage in Kuto Suah.

Without thinking, the headman's wife asked her sister to meet the old woman. Her sister obeyed her order and immediately went to the cottage in Kuto Suah.

Arrived at the cottage, she expressed the wishes of her elder sister and the headman to that powerful old woman. Recited the spell while chewing the betel nut, with the quivering voice the old woman said, "Fantastic, sister! they can have child, but it has to..."

"It has to what, Madam?" interrupted her.

"It has to meet the requirements. They have to be exiled at the edge of the forest, far away from the crowd for seventeen years.

During the exile, they are not allowed to go home and visited by anyone," continued the old woman with her voice quivering through.

"Should they, Madam?" asked the sister of the headman's wife with curiosity. After heard the requirements, she asked for permission to go back home.



"Would you permit me to go home, Madam!" said her as bowing down.

"Yes, sister," answered the old woman.

Not recounted on the way home. It was evening that time. The headman's wife saw her sister go home. She immediately welcomed her. Rest for a while, she then asked.

"How, sister? is there any news from her?" she asked hastily.

The sister did not immediately answer the question. She took a deep breath because it was hard to answer. However, the headman's wife was eagerly waiting for her answer.

"Tell me, sister!" the headman's wife asked her louder.

"Okay!" answered as she put the gambir¹ to her betel nut, "but ..., they must ..."

"But they must do what, my dear? Tell me!" asked the headman's wife somewhat loudly.

"Here it is! If you really want your son and daughter-in-law to get a child, they must meet the requirements," said the sister of the headman's wife.

¹A dried form of sap originating from the extract of a squeeze of leaves and twigs of a plant called "UncariagambirRoxb.", commonly used as a culture of chewing betel leaves and fruit.

"What should they do?" asked the headman's wife impatiently.

"Your son and daughter-in-law have to be exiled at the edge of the forest, away from the crowd for seventeen years. During the exile, they are not allowed to go home and visited by anyone," said her while shedding tears.

"Poor child" said the headman's wife, "dear God! What are our faults and sins?"

"Nothing's wrong. It is their destiny. If it has been destined, no one can denied. We may make our plans, but God has the last word. We must notsad with it," said the headman.

"What you said is true," replied the sister.

He asked his sister-in-law to invite all the families, relatives, and campong headmans. He invited them to discuss the exile of his son and daughter-in-law to the edge of the forest. He immediately contacted all of them. By the night all of them had been present in the headman's house. He then delivered the requirements from the supernatural powerful grandmother. "All headmans, brothers, and sisters! All that happen on the earth that we stand on is the will of God," He continued while holding back the sadness, "We cannot avoid the fate of God.

My son and daughter-in-law had to be exiled to the edge of the forest for seventeen years if they want to have children. During the exile, they are not allowed to go home and visited by anyone.”

"Dad ..., Mom ...!" screamed his son and daughter-in-law while hugging their parents.

"What's my fault, Dad, what's my fault, Mom, what's my fault, In-laws, so your children were both punished?" asked his son with sadness.

"My children, you are both innocent, and no one is even wrong. All of that is your destiny destiny from God, not the will of your father and mother; anything you will do now is for the happiness of your life someday because your descendants are like flowers in the household and the pedestal of your life in the end. That is why you must do the requirements told by the powerful old woman," said the headman.

Night was getting late. The cool wind began to blow. Everyone had been aware that everything that happened was the will of God. With a heavy heart, they decided to give up the headman's son and daughter-in-law to leave Kampung Gugung for seventeen years. After that, some people went back home and some spent the night in the headman's house.



On the next day after breakfast, the headman ordered his relatives and some people in his house to make a hut in the forest edge field. He also told them to make the some ranch to be farmed, such as chicken, goat, and buffalo. They replace the old damaged fences with the new ones.

Fully equipped, they set off for the headman's field located on the edge of the forest. Once arrived, they immediately worked. Some cleaned the grass, and some cut wood and bamboos. Within a few days, the hut and cattle pens were finished.

After all were done, he ordered his sister-in-law to invite the relatives and campong headmans again.

They were invited to pray for his children so that they always be guarded by God during the exile. While they were together, he said, "Well, since we all have assembled, we'll start the discussion."

He then got up from his seat. He then stood facing everyone with his bow. After that, he conveyed his heart.

"my relatives and headman colleagues! Tonight is the second night we invite you all. On this night our family would like to give best regards, especially our son and daughter-in-law. to be added, we ask for prayer from you all, may our children be guarded by God during the exile. Tomorrow they will go to the edge of the forest, to their shelter." he said.



"I understand that they are exiled to carry out the destiny of God. However, seventeen years is not a short time," said one of the headman. He also gave his advice. The atmosphere became quiet, no one spoke. After hearing the discourse from him, the attendants began to understand the situation.

The night was getting late and quiet. The attendants went home one by one leaving the headman's house. Some people did not go home, each took a place to sleep. There were also some people who did not sleep until morning.

Tomorrow, as the sun began to rise, the relatives and close neighbors had come to the house. The headman and his wife dressed neatly. So were their children. Chickens, goats, and buffaloes had been prepared in the yard. All supplies had been provided.

Before leaving, they first held a ceremony to pray on the home yard. Everyone stood with their heads down, praying that the son and his wife were always healthy during the exile so they could meet again. They also prayed that the son and his wife would soon be granted with children. Thereafter, the headman and his wife embraced their children in turn.

The journey began. On the way there was no one opening his mouth to speak. Everyone was silent, as if their tongues were

speechless. Only in their hearts continued pouring out the prayers that the son and his wife could return safely.

Their journey had reached the shelter at the edge of the forest.

The headman and his wife hugged and kissed their children. At that time she could not hold her sobs and tears so that her children cried too. The atmosphere was touching then.

"My son, the outpouring of my soul. You do not have to be sad, don't be discouraged. Accept the fate of God and take its wisdom!" said the headman while shedding tears.

"Well Father, Mother, In-Laws, and all my relatives! We will not be sad, nor sorrowful though for a while we have to split up, have to stay in this quiet place. Dear God, guard us!" said his son with his hands up.

After that, chickens, goats, and buffaloes were put in their respective pens. The villagers were one by one shaking hands with the son and his wife. They then went back home to leave the couple. Since then the son and his wife lived in exile. The crowded atmosphere changed into quiet.

Time elapsed. Loneliness had become familiar with them. Every day they were busy with farming and farming so they were not aware of having been eleven months living in exile. They were never far from prayer to get children.

Their prayers were finally granted. His wife got pregnant. When the pregnancy was more than nine months old, she gave birth to a baby whose face looked like a frog.

"My dear, this is the baby we are wanted in a long time," said the wife, daughter-in-law of the campong headman.

"It is. Is our baby a boy or a girl, my dear?" he asked.

"Boy, his father's successor," replied his wife as smiling.

"Wow, how great our baby is. We should be grateful to God who granted our ideals," said him.

His wife then replied with a friendly smile, "my dear, do you still remind of our prayer and promise? No matter what, this baby is your blood."

"The prayer and promise that I have said cannot be denied," replied he.

"Okay then, my dear! Lap our son!" said his wife while handing her son to his lap.

He lapped his son and stared at his baby's frog-like face and kissed his son with full of affection.



"O, my dear! Today is the best day. We are really happy. To celebrate, let's cook the red-and-white porridge for our son's name honored ceremony. We name our son Si Kodok². What about that?"

She nodded her head, a sign to agree with the will of her husband. They looked after Si Kodok well. Si Kodok was getting bigger. They were very happy even though every day there was no one else around them.

Time went by quickly, Si Kodok grew up. On top of that, he became a good boy, captivated his parents, helped their works, and never got angry.

One day, when he was shepherding buffaloes on the slopes of the hills, suddenly lightning flashed and the sound of thunder snatched him. He was very surprised and fainted. Being conscious, he went home.

After dinner, he told his parents. "Oh, Father and Mother! I want to tell you something."

"What's going on, son? " asked his mother.

"Tell me, son!" continued his father.

²Kodok means "The Frog"



" Mom and Dad. When I shepherded the buffalo, suddenly the sound of thunder came and grabbed me. I was very surprised and fainted."

"you were fainted, son?" interrupted his mother in surprise while seeing Si Kodok.

"Yes Mom. I fainted, but I am all right. In unconsciousness, I was dreaming, there was ... "

"There was what, son!" interrupted his father.

"I dreamed that there was an old man coming to me. The old man spoke to me. He told that all your parents' promises had vanished."

"My God, you really are the beloved son of your parents! It is true we have a promise."

"What promise, Mom? May I know?"

"All right, son," his father said, grabbing his shoulder, "here it is, son! Your parents had a promise that for seventeen years, we were not allowed to go back to hometown and be visited by anyone. Moreover, we must be patient and should not damage the environment, such as cutting down trees and hunting animals to the forest."

After Si Kodok's father told him the full story, he revealed that Si Kodok had grandfather, grandmother, uncle, and aunt. They were in Kampung Gugung.

"When can we meet grandfather, grandmother, uncles, and aunt?" asked Si Kodok.

"Tomorrow, son! Tomorrow morning we will go to Kampung Gugung to meet them," replied his father with a smile.

He was very happy. So were his father and mother to meet again with their family in Kampung Gugung.

The next day, they left for Kampung Gugung where they had longed for. With great joy, they walked to the beloved Kampung Gugung.

Si Kodok's Wedding with Si Bungsu

The headman's son with his wife and child, Si Kodok, had arrived at their parents' house, the headman of Kampung Gugung. At the house, they were really dazed. They could not speak a thing, as if their tongues were stiff. Similarly, the headman and his wife were really dazed. They just looked at each other, like that of dreaming.

"Are you really my son?" asked the headman to Si Kodok's father.

"I am, Father! We are your children," replied the father of Si Kodok's shivering.

"My wife, am I not dreaming? Is it true that in front of us are our children?" asked the headman to his wife.

The wife just nodded her head. She was speechless in her very emotion. She just shed tears as sobbing.

"My Father and Mother, we are your children and Si Kodok is the grandson for whom you have longed. Your children were for seventeen years in exile to carry out the destiny of God. Father and Mother, we are your children," replied the son of headman while crying.

To proclaim the arrival of his children and grandson, the headman held a banquet. He invited all the relatives and the villagers. The

guests, young and old, big and little, male and female, gathered and reveled for seven days and seven nights.

The banquet was done. All the guests returned to their homes and they went back to work in accordance with their respective jobs.

Day after day, tittle-tattle began which the villagers started gossiping about Si Kodok. They talked about Si Kodok for his face similar to a frog.

"I'd rather not have any child than the one with exactly a frog face," gossiped someone.

"Of course, I'd be better off having no children than that like a frog," said another.

So did all the local girls scoff at Si Kodok. They felt embarrassed when making friends with him. They felt disgusted to see him. However, the boys preferred to befriend him because he was very kind, hospitable, and kind-hearted.

"I am impressed with Si Kodok. He was gentle and never angry," said a friend of Si Kodok'.

"I also love playing with him. He is not easily offended and helps any friend who is in trouble," said another friend.

One day, Si Kodok told his mother that he wanted to get married.

"If you want to get married, it's a simple matter. I have an elder sister, your aunt, who lives in Tanah Timor. Your aunt has six daughters. If you want with her daughter, go there! Wear your mother's ring as the identifier!"

To obtain the leave of Si Kodok's father, his mother told her husband about it. Her husband was very pleased and agreed that his son, Si Kodok, married his aunt's daughter.

"My son, your father is happy if you get married with your cousin someday," said his father.

"Thank you for your permit," said Si Kodok with excitement.

He prepared the supplies brought to his aunt's house. In his heart wondering, "Will my aunt's daughter accept me? Am I ready to marry her daughter? "

After the words were spoken by his mother, he came by taking off his frog shirt. At that moment, Si Kodok looked handsome. He sat before his father and mother and they were shocked.

"Who on earth is sitting opposite me?" asked his mother without even recognizing him." Who's sitting in front of us," asserted his father.

"I am Si Kodok's friend. I come here to meet Si Kodok. Where's he?" said him to his father and mother.

"Well, Si Kodok, my son just came out. I do not know where he went," replied his mother.

Si Kodok could not help his laugh anymore. He laughed out loudly. He then asked while showing the ring which he had just received from his mother.

"Whose ring is this?"

"My God, my son!" His mother said, hugging and kissing his right and left cheeks.

"My son?" said his father in surprise, "is this my true son? my god, how handsome my son is!"

After that, He bowed and kissed both his parents' legs in turn.

"Father and mother! If your son wears that frog shirt, your son will really be like a frog, in accordance with the vows of the father and mother.

However, if the frog shirt is removed, your son is like what you two see now," said Si Kodok revealing his secret to his parents.

His parents were laughed whole-heartedly. Then, they asked him not to wear the frog shirt in a few days.



"Your grandparents will be really happy to see their grandson's handsome face like this," said his mother.

He granted their request. He kept the frog shirt in the case.

His mother was very pleased with his departure to his aunt in Tanah Timur. Hopefully, she prayed that he be accepted and married to one of the daughters. She felt a loss if he got married with someone else's daughter.

Not recounted on the way to his aunt. It was late afternoon. Si Kodok encountered a mother who was feeding her livestock. Then he greeted her, "Excuse me, Ma'am! You shall not be afraid of me because of my face," said him.

She replied, "No, son! I am not afraid. From where and for whom are you?"

"Sorry Ma'am! You should not be awkward if later I have to call you as aunt or uak³. I come from Kampung Gugung. I come here to meet my aunt, the wife of the ruler of Tanah Timur," said him.

"Well, is that the purpose you come here. Okay, if that's what you mean, I will take you to the ruler of Tanah Timur," she replied.

³Uak is a nickname for "aunt" in the culture of Indonesia

She walked and He dogged her to the ruler's house of Tanah Timur. Arriving at the house, she told the wife of the ruler about her encounter with Si Kodok.

"O wife of the ruler! I come here to escort this young man to you. He come from Kampung Gugung who wants to seek his aunt, wife of the ruler' of Tanah Timur," she explained to the wife.

"Well, then you are my nephew. Your aunt did not suppose if you've grown up, you will come here. How's your mother? What is the purpose of your coming?" asked his aunt excitedly.

Meanwhile, Si Kodok was silent. He just handed his mother's ring to her. He was embarrassed to deliver the message of her mother. However, in the end he tried to convey his heart's intent to her aunt.

"Uak, before you nephew went to this Tanah Timur, my father and mother advised to hand over my flesh and blood to you, and I must obey all your commandments. Besides, my father and mother asked me to be your son-in-law instead of the other."

When Si Kodok delivered the message, his aunt's six daughters heard his remark. They laughed and threw mockery to him.

"Getting married? No one forbids, but look at your face," said one of his aunt's daughters.

Hearing such words, his aunt got angry and snapped at her six children.

They were silent at once.

The six daughters gathered in the bedroom. They prepared given answers of which their mother would ask them.

Dinner was over. His aunt ordered her six daughters to gather in a room. Similarly he was told to come in the room. After that, she began to tell the story before the six daughters.

"My six beautiful daughters, tonight your mother wants to introduce your brother, this is Si Kodok. He is your aunt's son who lives in Kampung Gugung. He came here to tie our kinship. Therefore, this night your mother wants to ask you one by one."

Afterwards, she asked a question to the one starting from the oldest daughter.

"My oldest daughter, will you marry your aunt's son?" she asked without further ado.

"Gosh, my fate. How unfortunate I am. If I may choose, I will choose to die by hanging myself rather than having to marry a frog," replied the oldest daughter harshly.



"O, my daughter. You may refuse your mother's request, but say your answer with good words, don't offend anyone!" said her a little furiously.

Afterwards, she continued the question to her second daughter. However, her later answer was more offensive than the former.

Hearing her daughters' answers, she almost stood up to tell off them. However, she tried to resist her anger.

So were the answers of the third, fourth, and fifth daughter. They responded with the heart-wrenching words of Si Kodok. One hope was her youngest daughter.

"O, my youngest daughter! Shall you refuse, unmarried by your brother, your aunt's heart will be broken. Have mercy on your aunt!" said her slowly.

Si Bungsu⁴, the youngest, tried to answer in good and wise words. She slowly answered her mother's question. "Mother, according to tradition, marriage begins with the oldest child. However, my five older brothers are not willing to marry our Aunt's son, and I do not refuse nor accept your request. In the meantime, give me a chance to think and recognize him closer!"

Hearing her wise answer, Si Kodok's aunt was very happy. Then, to fulfill Si Bungsu's request, she asked Si Kodok to stay at her

⁴ The word "Si Bungsu" means "The Youngest" in English

house during the age of the paddies."My nephew, if you really expect one of my daughters, you should stay here for the age of the paddies," said her.

"Well, if that's what your daughter asked me to do, I'll accept it," answered Si Kodok.

As long as he lived with his aunt, he always behaved well and everything he said was polite. He oftentimes succumbed to his aunt's five daughters who always did evil and arrogance against him. He also kept doing good to people around the house.

The harvest season had arrived. His aunt invited all the inhabitants of traditional vernacular houses to gather. None of the other five daughters came. They deliberately went to keep away. In addition, they called Si Bungsu with the words that hurt her heart. Therefore, his aunt was trying to advise her.

"Hi, my sweet daughter! Ignore the words of your five sisters. Nor will you be offended into your heart!" said her slowly.

"Fine, Mom. I also ignored their words, my ears closed," answered Si Bungsu.

"All right, then, tonight your mother wants to hear your answer about Si Kodok's purpose, your aunt's son." "Well, I do not know? Looks like it's hard to say. "

"Gee, how's your first promise?"

"Yes, ... I used to promise that I would accept my aunt's son, Si Kodok, after I recognized him closer. On this night I try to keep my promise. But ... "

"But how?" interrupted her mother. "Yes, how about my aunt's son? If he is happy with me, I do not reject him," she replied coyly.

Si Kodok's aunt was relieved after hearing her youngest's confession. So was Si Kodok to feel happy. Then, suddenly Si Kodok stood up to convey something to all who were present.

"Uak, Uncle, Aunt, and everyone who are present tonight, I do not choose her daughter because I know my shapeless face. On this night the youngest daughter would accept me to be her husband. Instead, I gladly accepted her to be my wife.

I thank the five daughters and I thank very sincerely to the youngest, who has pulled out my mother's gray hair," said Si Kodok with pleasure.

"If both have fitted, please summon the wedding witness!" said Si Bungsu's uncle.

"Yes, of course. Tomorrow I'll summon him," said Si Bungsu's mother.

"Why you. How come a female summoned the wedding witness?" said Si Bungsu's uncle.

The evening deliberation was over. Si Bungsu was kissed by his mother, uncle, aunt, and everyone present except Si Kodok.

On the next day, Si Kodok's aunt sent an envoy to convey a message to Si Kodok's mother in Kampung Gugung. The content of the message, she wanted the wedding between Si Kodok with her youngest daughter immediately held.

The wedding party was held with great fanfare. All the residents of Kampung Tanah Timur were present to celebrate the wedding, except for the five daughters. They went away and mocked her youngest.

Si Kodok, Kata Malem the Captivator

After the marriage, Si Kodok's parents together with their kinsfolk came home to Kampung Gugung. Si Kodok and his wife lived in Kampung Tanah Timur. They lived in a cottage and farming was their daily work.

They worked hard by cultivating a variety of plants growing fruitfully. Around the cottage was planted with pumpkin plants that grew spreading with lush leaves. Therefore, Si Kodok was renowned as a prolific farmer.

His domesticity was full of happiness. He and his wife lived in harmony, loved, and understood each other. His in-laws were also very happy to see their children in harmony and peace. So were the people around this couple.

A few months after marriage, his wife got pregnant. He was glad to see her pregnancy and looked after his wife safe and sound.

One day Si Kodok picked a pumpkin and brought it home. He handed it to his wife, saying, "Cook this pumpkin because I want pumpkin soup!" After that, he sat in the bench.

At that time, his wife cooked rice and boiled the pumpkin. He split the pumpkin. As soon as it was split, gold was found inside strewn on the floor of the cottage.

"Wow, gold!" said her pleasantly surprised. Then, she collected the gold and kept it safe.

The next day Si Kodok picked a pumpkin again in his field, then took it home and handed it over to his wife. The pumpkin was the same as the first, that was, his wife found gold strewn out of it. Then, she collected and kept it safe. So did the events of the next days, every pumpkin that Si Kodok brought home, gold stored out of it.

He and his wife had plenty of gold. One day he told his wife to give that gold to her mother. How happy his mother was to receive the gold from her daughter's gift.

"How favorable your fate is. Your mother used to say that seeing people was not from their covers. Well, your life is prosperous now. Love your husband even though his face is like a frog!" her mother said.

Si Kodok's wife was silent, she did not answer any word. Then she he asked mother for permission to go home.

The next day he brought home a pumpkin to his cottage. Arriving, he told his wife to give the pumpkin to her mother. Immediately his wife brought it to her mother.

"Mother, I brought a pumpkin for you. This is my husband's harvest," said her.

"Gee, thank you very much. Such a big pumpkin from your husband's harvest," replied her mother.

When she gave it to her mother, her five older sisters were at home. They saw the pumpkin. They got angry and told their mother to throw it out.

"Just throw it away, Mom! Who wants to eat the pumpkin planted by Si Kodok. We must throw up," said one of her sisters.

Her mother was silent. She did not care about her daughter's gibes. Then her mother took a machete and split it. Once the pumpkin was split, gold spilled out of it.

"Wow, gold!" said those five daughters while scrambling to get more gold.

Si Kodok's wife smiled at the childish behavior of her older sisters.

Shortly after, she asked her mother for permission to go home.

"Mother, I will go home," said her as turning out of her mother's house.

Her five older sisters were excited because each one of them gained gold share. Then evil intentions arised in their hearts. They gathered to talk about their intention to steal the pumpkin fruits in the field. They stole those pumpkins in the end.

However, the stolen pumpkins did not contain gold, but caterpillars. All split pumpkins brought out many caterpillars. So did the others they brought. Once they split it, caterpillars and disgusting stench came out.

One day Si Kodok's wife came to the field. At that time Si Kodok was resting with his shirt open. Her wife was very surprised because she saw a handsome man in the hut. "Am I dreaming?" asked in her heart. Her heart was so pounding that she was awkward and stepped on the wooden pieces. Then, away she ran and hid in the bushes.

Si Kodok got out of the hut and looked to the right and left; none was in his field. He was pretty sure that no one else knew when he took off his frog shirt.



He came back and his wife followed him from behind. In the hut he sat in the bench. Soon after, his wife still followed him.

He sat cross-legged by taking his frog shirt off and hanging it near the door. There came his wife up from her hiding place. Then she peeked through the crevices. She was very surprised to see her husband, Si Kodok, who had turned into a handsome man in the hut. All of a sudden, she pushed the door, then entered. He was surprised and did not have time to take his frog shirt.

"Hi, I know now," said his wife, "I am not really mistaken that you are superhuman. No more has my husband tested me. From now on, I plead with you not to turn that face into a frog. Let's go out so my mother, father, and five sisters know," said his wife as she hugged her husband, Si Kodok.

The frog shirt had lost nowhere because of being trampled by his wife. From then on, he could no longer turn his face into a frog and became a handsome man forever.

"Yes, I'm enough to test your loyalty. I'm really lucky to marry a woman like you. Lord, Your servant thanked You," said him, looking up.

He and his wife went back home to their cottage. A few hours after resting, they immediately went to their parents' house. It was such a happiness for the parents to have their daughter married with a handsome man.

Then their parents called the kinsfolk. From that day onwards Si Kodok was renamed into "Kata Malem" which meant 'considerate, the captivator'.

The five older sisters got very jealous to see their youngest' handsome husband. They were very sorry because at that time they refused Si Kodok. Being so sorry and jealous, they wanted to harm Si Bungsu. They harmed Si Bungsu by pushing her into a deep ravine. Because she was pregnant, she could not climb up. After leaving her in the ravine, her five older sisters came home with the relieved hearts.

Punishment for the Five Daughters' Crime

Dusk was falling. Si Kata Malem searched for his wife to and fro, but not found. He continued searching in his mother-in-law's and parents' house in Kampung Gugung, nor was she found. The villagers of Kampung Tanah Timur were tumultuous about the loss of Si Kata Malem's wife.

On the next day, all villagers of Kampung Tanah Timur were deployed to search for Si Kata Malem's wife. Some were deployed to search in the fields and surrounding areas, while the others to explore the forest. However, all their efforts were in vain, they went home empty-handed.

Si Kata Malem tried to consult some shamans for his wife. Both the shamans who lived in Kampung Tanah Timur or in other villages. However, his effort was in vain, no shaman knew.

For one month his wife lost. The father, mother, and all the families held traditional ceremonies to certify that she had died.

He became a widower. Nevertheless, he remained steadfast in the face of suffering. He had no intention of getting married again even though his five sisters-in-law often whimpered and changed into good to him.

After eleven months of living alone, he returned to his hometown, Kampung Gugung. To relieve loneliness and sadness, he tried to play chess.

After playing chess many times, he became a great player, no match. He always won in playing that game.

When discarded by her five older sisters in a deep ravine, Kata Malem's wife was in pregnant condition. A few months later, she gave birth to a baby boy.

On the power of the Almighty, she gave birth to her baby easily, having no difficulty and pain at all. In addition, around the place where she gave birth to grew many fruits so that she and her baby never starved.

She named his son Si Bakal. The more days, the bigger Si Bakal grew up. When Si Bakal was eight years old, she took her son to get out of that deep ravine. Around the ravine was a plain and stood an old hut occupied by a senile grandmother. Went they to the hut.

"Excuse me ... excuse me ... excuse me ...!" cried Kata Malem's wife.

"Who?" The landlady asked as she opened the door.

"Me ..., Ma'am!" she replied with fear.

"What is your purpose, Sister?" asked the landlady.

"I'm sorry ..., Ma'am, could we stay at your home?" said her with a doubt.

The landlady of the hut smiled and said, "Sure, Sister! Do you want to live with me in this old and rotten hut? If you do, I do not mind."

She nodded her head. She was very grateful to receive help from the old lady.

"No wonder, Sister! Humans must help one another. Besides, I only live alone in this hut as an old widow," said the landlady.

Since then, Kata Malem's wife and her son lived with the landlady, an old widow. For daily meals, they only relied on the plants growing around the hut. They were never starving and they always lived in harmony, no dispute.

Si Bakal had grown up, he wandered to another village and visited the chess playing arena in the village. Incidentally, in the arena Si Kata Malem also came. He played chess against Si Kata Malem.

In that game, he could defeat Si Kata Malem.

All Si Kata Malem's treasures were submitted to him.

"Hi, boy! Don't be in your glory now. If you were a hotshot, would you dare to play chess with a bet on yourself?" said Si Kata Malem emotionally.

"What do you mean?" he asked.

"Look, I'm taking you to play chess once more. Whoever lost in this game, he is the one at stake," explained Si Kata Malem.

"Come on ... don't be afraid!" persuaded one of the spectators.

"Come on! But, we must be fair, do not cheat!" said Si Bakal.

All the spectators applauded. Some of them sided with Si Kata Malem, and the others sided with Si Bakal. They claimed themselves to be witnesses in the game.

The game started. A few hours later, it ended. Si Bakal could defeat him. The spectators who sided with Si Bakal were clapping. They lifted him in circles and shouted, "Si Bakal..., Si Bakal ..., Si Bakal ..., Si Bakal!" Si Kata Malem surrendered himself to Si Bakal. He did not refute his defeat.

"Well, now I surrender to you. I will be your slave, boy! I will be your servant, I am your accomplice," said Si Kata Malem while surrendering.

Si Bakal packed up, pocketing all the treasures gained from gambling. After that, he took Si Kata Malem back to his hut in a deep ravine. The spectators were dispersed then.

He and Si Kata Malem went to the edge of the ravine, where his mother lived. On the way, Kata Malem was amazed in that the direction of the trip was the same leading to Kampung Tanah Timur. The direction from Kampung Tanah Timur turned right and soon they arrived at Si Bakal's hut.

"This is where I live. Please stand there waiting, do not run!" said Si Bakal.

"Okay, I'll obey your order," replied Si Kata Malem.

He then went into the hut to tell his mother. His mother went out and saw an old man standing outside.

"Mother, the old man standing is my captive.

He had lost the gambling, and now he is our slave," said him to his mother.

His mother was confused, so was Si Kata Malem. They looked at each other. Their mouths were thrilled to mutter each other. All of a sudden, she greeted the old man first.

"Hi, are not you my lover?" she asked with a doubt.

"Me, your lover?" asked Si Kata Malem, "who are you for sure?"

"Sorry, maybe my vision is wrong. But, it does not seem wrong. Don't you come from Kampung Gugung?" said her.

Si Kata Malem was silent. He just nodded. Then, he tried to tell.

"I come from Kampung Gugung. My wife came from Kampung Tanah Timur. She was the daughter of the ruler of Kampung Tanah Timur. "

She heard the story and immediately cried. She put her arms around the old man and said, "My dear, I'm sorry!"

They cried each other. Then Si Bakal invited them into the hut. After the crying subsided, she tried to explain the matter to Si Bakal.

"O, my son, siBakal! That old man is your father. Several years ago, I was deceived by my five sisters. They pushed me into this deep ravine. At that time, I contained you. Since then, your mother and father had separated."

After she told the story, Si Kata Malem embraced siBakal and his wife. They hugged each other. They were very touched because of the teens of years seperated.

From that day Si Kata Malem lived with his wife and son in the old hut. Si Bakal's mother asked for permission to the landlady.

"Mother, this man is Si Bakal's father. For years we parted and we did not think we could meet again in this hut," said her.

"Sister, I believe in what you have said. I am also happy with your encounter," replied the landlady.

After a few days Si Kata Malem lived in the hut, he took his wife and son home to Kampung Tanah Timur. In the morning, after breakfast, si Kata Malem and his wife asked for permission to go home. How surprised the landlady was after hearing the words of their permission.



"Go home?" asked the landlady in surprise, "has my sister the heart to leave me alone in this hut?"

"We cannot really bear to leave you alone in this hut. However, we are more unwilling to leave our father and mother in the village. They miss us so much because we have parted from them for teens of years," said siBakal's mother shedding tears.

Si Kata Malem with his wife and son reluctantly stepped their feet out of the hut. The friendship between his wife and the landlady which had long intertwined suddenly had to split up. They were very sad. However, that was the nature of humans, where there was an encounter, there was a separation.

They returned to Kampung Tanah Timur. Arriving at home, their father and mother were shocked. So were Si Kata Malem and his wife to say nothing.

They were touched. After that, suddenly his wife screamed so loudly that the villagers could hear. Then they lamented and cried protractedly.

After their wails and tears subsided, their mother began to ask. She wanted to know the story of this event until they could meet again.

"O, my daughter Si Bungsu! Tell me exactly how you can meet again. Your parents had performed a traditional ceremony that

certified that you, my youngest daughter, had passed away. For months your parents were looking for you everywhere. Now we can meet again," said her mother.

She remained silent. She did not tell because she did not want to exacerbate the past problem. However, her parents kept urging so that she unwillingly revealed the problem in the past.

"Father and mother! After you know the problem, I hope that you do not hate anyone," said her.

"Yes ..., yes ..., now tell me the truth so your parents know who's wrong!" urged her mother.

She told, "Several months ago, my five sisters invited me to go for firewood into the forest. At the time, I did not suspect a bit to them because they were usually nice to me. Somehow they suddenly pushed me into the deep ravine."

"Good heavens ...! How cruel they are!" interrupted her mother while rubbing her chest.

She continued to tell, "They did that, maybe they were possessed or ... I do not know."

"Enough ... enough ... even if you do not want to explain the mistakes of your sisters, I already knew," said her father, "your five sisters were actually envious and jealous of your husband." "O ..., are they!" said her.

"But, God is just, knowing His righteous servant. In the ravine I gave birth easily, no pain. Then, when Si Bakal was eight years old, I took him out of the ravine. We then stayed in an old widow's hut. Well, in his teens, Si Bakal played chess with a man. Si Bakal could defeat him, whom at that time Si Bakal did not know that the man was his father. Because he was defeated, Si Bakal brought him home as a stakes," she explained.

"And, in that hut you can meet," he saidr father. Then, he immediately called his five daughters, who happened to be in their bedroom. He scolded and also advised them not to repeat their evil deeds, "But they must still be punished for their evil deeds."

Her father immediately arrested her five sisters. He punished them by standing on the side of the road leading to the douche. Every day they cried because of the heat. They also apologized to their father, mother, and sister. The big family was forgiving one another.

A few days later, Si Kata Malem took his wife and son, Si Bakal, to come back to Kampung Gugung. Since his father had died, he was appointed as the campong headman. They lived happily ever after in Kampung Gunggung.

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