

A STORY OF BAYAN BUDIMAN
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Bayan, The Wise Bird

There was once a kind-hearted bird called *Bayan* in this story. Bayan was the name of a bird that could speak, very kind, and possessed such commendable qualities as human beings. He was also good at telling about all things that contained wisdom for anyone who heard it. The content of the story was usually useful advice, especially for humans, such as stories about children who must respect their parents, wives who must be faithful to their husbands, and people who must always pray for *Allah's* help, the God of the universe. He did not want to do evil, vile, and talk that was not useful. Hence, he was called the dear bird of paradise.

One day a flock of birds of *bayan* was engrossed flying freely. They chased and perched on one tree and moved to another with their joy. However, their freedom suddenly stalled because when they landed in one huge tree, their wings stuck on the leaves and twigs of the tree so they could no longer fly to and fro.

The group of birds consisted of a hundred *bayan*, one of which was the King Bayan. As a leader, King Bayan conveyed his ideas to the other *bayans*, "Comrades, we are exposed to human trap, but we must remain calm. It's already night and tomorrow

morning the man who has trapped us will come. When he comes, we all have to pretend to die. Hold your breath and do not let anything move. He will definitely take us one by one and drop us to the ground. Any one of us who is dropped to the ground must remain silent and do not immediately fly before all of us fall to the ground." The other *bayans* understood and promised to obey their king's command.

Bayan Was Captured by an Old Bird Seller

Once in a country, there lived an old man with his family. The old man's daily work was catching birds and chickens in the forest to be sold in the market. The money from selling the chicken and birds was then used to support his family.

As usual, early in the morning the old man rushed to the forest. "Can I join you, Daddy," the old man's son begged.

"No, kid!," the old man replied.

"I want to help you catch chickens and birds," said his son.

The old man smiled as he stroked his teenage son's head, then said, "You stay home with your mother. I only go for a while because I am no longer looking for birds or chickens to be caught. This time I want to go to the forest just to pick up the birds that are stuck to the branches and twigs of the tree. "

"You mean the birds are definitely there in the tree?" Asked the boy.

His father replied, "Yes, son. Yesterday afternoon I already smeared the leaves and twigs with adhesive glue on the largest tree. The birds must now be sticky on the tree. So this morning I just pick it up. "

"Well, there must be lots of birds that you can bring home later", his son said with shining eyes.

"Yes, we'll see. Now I am leaving, huh?"

When he reached the forest, the old man went straight to a big tree. He saw many *bayans* stuck to the leaves and branches of the tree. He immediately took off his clothes, then with a machete he climbed the big tree. Upon arriving above, he saw the birds as still as lifeless, then he took them one by one and dropped them to the ground. In no time at all, 99 birds had been dropped to the ground. There was still only one bird that he had not taken yet because it was attached to a higher branch. When the old man was about to reach the bird, suddenly the machete he tucked in his pants fell.

The *bayans* on the ground thought that the fallen one was their last friend. According to the plan when the hundredth bird was dropped to the ground, the birds on the ground would then immediately fly together. The 99 *bayans* did not know that the

sound of the fallen object was a machete, not their friend. The old man was very surprised when he heard and saw that the 99 birds suddenly flew away. He felt he had been deceived by the flock. There remained another bird still attached to the leaf. Not wanting to be deceived again, the last *bayan* was not dropped to the ground. The old man kept holding it until he came down from the big tree. When he reached the ground, he said to the bird, "Rise, O bird! I know you're just pretending to be dead." The one and only bird was King Bayan. The bird opened its eyes without saying anything.

On the way home, the old bird-catcher was saddened by the thought of his disappointed child and wife's faces with the catch of the day. He could only bring home a bird. In fact, birds exposed to the trap were numerous. Arriving at home, he was greeted by his wife and son. He was right that the boy and his wife seemed to be amazed to see him come home with a bird only. He showed the bird to his son.

"This bird is great, Father! Do not sell this bird. We'd better keep it," pleaded his son.

The old man said, "The bird will be brought to the market for sale. We cannot keep it. We don't have enough for daily necessity.

The next day he brought the bird to the market. Suddenly a merchant came to him and said, "How much do you sell the bird?"

"It's up to you," the old man replied

The merchant reached into his pocket and took out a few coins without counting, then handed them over to the old man. After that, the merchant left him carrying the bird. The old man then counted the money he had received from the merchant. He was shocked and almost disbelieved at the amount of money in his hand. "Six hundred *dinar*. *Waw*, lots of money," he whispered to himself. Then, with joy, he hurried home.

Bayan Was Cared by The Merchant

The merchant who bought the bird in the market was Khoja Maimun. The merchant bought the bird because of his pity for the animal that was kept locked up. Let the bird fly free, he thought. Therefore, on his way home, Khoja Maimun took off the bird. However, the bird came out of his cage and flew low following the steps of the merchant. Of course it made Khoja Maimun wonder. He kept kicking the bird away, but the bird kept flying close to him. Khoja Maimun drove him back. The bird then disappeared from the view of Khoja Maimun.

Soon the merchant arrived at his house. Not until he opened the door, he was startled by a voice, "*Assalamualaikum*, sir."

Khoja Maimun saw around him but no one to be found. "Then who greeted me?" He whispered to himself. "*Assalamualaikum*, sir," the voice was heard again.

Khoja Maimun searched the origin of the voice and he looked up the tree. To his much more surprised he saw the bird that he had released and expelled was now on a branch of the tree in the yard of his house. He almost did not believe because the bird could talk like a human being. King Bayan flew closer and said, "Sir, I'm sorry I shocked you. My name is Bayan. I want you to accept me to stay at your house. "

"Hi, Bayan. I love to meet you. However, I have already released you and told you to fly freely. Why are you here and not flying with your friends?" asked Khoja Maimun in surprise.

"Allow me to serve you Master. You are a kind-hearted person for having freed me. I am very grateful to you. As an expression of gratitude, I want to dedicate myself to you. "

Khoja Maimun smiled as his hand stroked the bird. He was deeply moved by the bird's plea. He opened the door of his house and sent the bird inside. The bird was introduced to his wife. Khoja Maimun's wife seemed surprised to see her husband coming home with a bird. Her astonishment also increased when she knew the bird could speak like a human. Khoja Maimun and his wife were very pleased with the arrival of *bayan*. Bayan then

told the husband and wife. "My lord, be known that I am a bird who can speak, but also have a human-like feeling. My lord lady does not know yet why I want to serve you both here. Allow me to tell you, my lord lady." Khoja Maimun and his wife were increasingly happy because they would get the story from the bird. Maimun's wife said, "Hi, Bayan, I cannot wait to hear your story. Hurry to tell us how you feel. Hurry up"

The bird began the story, "My lord, at first I was not alone like this. Me and my friends are group of a hundred birds who lived freely. However, we were caught in the trap of a bird catcher. My 99 friends managed to escape and flew somewhere. I was the only one who was captured by the man. The next day the man sold me in the market and it was your husband who bought me. After buying me, he freed me. He took me out of the cage. However, I am not among the ungrateful birds to someone who has done good deed to me. I am very grateful to the Master. As an expression of my gratitude, let me serve you both. "

Khoja Maimun's wife was thrilled to hear the story of the bird. Thenshe said, "Bayan, we are very glad that you want to stay with us in this house. The house is deserted.

We happen to have no children. So, your existence can enliven this house." Khoja Maimun said, "Bayan, you're a good bird. We're glad that you stay here. Birds like you are rare. I hope you're comfortable living with us. "

"Oh, my lord. I am a bird called *bayan* different from the other birds, *cemperlings*, for example. I have a story about a *cemperling* bird, sir. Will you both listen to my story?" asked Bayan.

"Of course we would listen to it, Bayan," said Khoja Maimun.

Bayan began to tell the story.

There was a Prince walking the jungle with his *dayangs*. There the Prince learned to hunt. Many children were playing at that time. They chased each other. The Prince was very happy. As he was looking at the children running, suddenly a very young baby bird fell before him. He then told his *dayangs* to look for the bird's nest.

"My lord, the bird's nest is not far from here. It's near the big tree," said his *dayang*.

Hi, *Dayang*, why did this bird fall so far away from the nest?" asked the Prince.

His *Dayang* replied, "My lord, the children climbed the tree making the tree sway and the little bird fell. I have found the nest and it turns out that this one is just its cheeper. "

"So, how many more birds in the nest, *Dayang*?" asked the Prince

Dayang replied, "I saw one more bird still in the nest, Master."

The Prince felt sorry for the baby bird, and then told his *dayang* to pick up the bird that was still in the nest. He wanted to take both of them home for care. One of the *dayangs* immediately climbed the tree and picked up the other baby bird in the nest. After that, the Prince asked his *dayangs* to go back to the palace for fear that the birds would die if they were not fed for too long.

At the palace, the King and Empress were very anxiously awaiting his son's arrival. The king asked the court lady, "*Dayang*, has there been words from my son when he will come home? I've missed him so much. "

"Yes, your Majesty. I will ask the other *dayangs*, "said the *dayang*.

Soon two *dayangs* came to the king to inform him that his son would soon arrive at the palace. The King and Empress rushed to the courtyard to welcome his son. When she saw her son from afar, the Empress could not hold back her longing. She ran to her son and then held him and kissed his cheeks. The Prince met his father, accompanied by the empress. Arriving in front of his father, he knelt down to salute.

"My son, I have missed you so much. Where were you going, son?"asked the King.

Dad, I was playing up to the mountains and I learned how to hunt there."

"Where is your quarry, son?" asked the King

"I did not bring the quarry, Father. However, I brought two little birds home."

"The king's eyes widened and asked, "Bird? What bird did you take home?"

"The *dayangs* said they were *cemperling* cheepers, Father," said the Prince

"I told them to take care of the two birds for I feel sorry to see them abandoned without their mother."

The King and Empress nodded their heads with a smile. The Prince ordered his *dayangs* to make a cage for the two young birds. Once completed, the birdcage looked very luxurious because it was made of silver in gold and gems. The baby birds were well fed. Both ate with gusto. The Prince was pleased to see the behavior of the two birds. In his heart, he said, "It is proper for both birds to be in their luxurious cage."

One day the King held a dinner party with all the ministers, royalty officers, soldiers, and *dayangs*, as well as some invited guests from other kingdoms. All members of the kingdom became busy organizing and preparing it. A variety of delicious dishes were placed on long tables. Guests were allowed to eat until they were satisfied. Some of the guests had started to

arrive. The Prince took the *cemperling* bird out of his cage. Both of them were placed on a rug. The birds were very happy. They played while jumping up and down on the rug. Many guests watched the funny behavior of the two birds and they were very happy. Anyone seeing the action of the two birds must have laughed. They felt comforted. The Prince knew that. He was very proud of both.

More and more guests were arriving. The banquet started immediately. Hustle and bustle began to be heard. The guests had started to eat dishes that were already available. Meanwhile, the Prince who was very proud of the behavior of the two birds was busy moving both of them into a nicer rug. He expected all the guests who were present to watch the action of the two birds while eating a meal. The *cemperling* birds were ungrateful. They were very evil. They should please their master by entertaining the guests. However, it was exactly the opposite. The birds suddenly defecated throwing a lot of excrement on the luxurious rug when all the guests were focused on them. After that they flew away and did not come back. It certainly made the Prince disappointed mixed with embarrassment. Not only the Prince who was embarrassed, but also his parents, the King and Empress.

"That is all, sir, my story about the evil and ungrateful behavior of the *cemperling* birds to their master. Different from me. I am very

grateful to you because you have freed me. Therefore, I want to repay you for your kindness. Let me serve you both."

Khoja Maimun and his wife had just known about the *bayan* bird. Apparently the characteristics and behavior of *bayan* were very much different from the cemperling birds. "That's a good story, Bayan. If you do not tell me about the cemperling birds, of course we do not know their bad characteristics," said the wife of Khoja Maimun.

The Merchant Went Sailing

Khoja Maimun prepared to go sailing. As a merchant, he would sell his wares to the land of Yemen. It had already been discussed with his wife. Khoja Maimun's wife helped her husband prepare all the supplies he would bring. Moreover, she knew that her husband would leave her for a long time.

Early in the morning Khoja Maimun left his home. However, before he said goodbye to his wife he did not forget also to say goodbye to Bayan. In fact, he told Bayan, "Hi, Bayan, I am going to trade to a distant country. My departure is long enough. To reach the land I must sail for a few days. For that, I leave my wife to you. Accompany and take care of my wife, Bayan." Bayan was very happy to get the task and at the same time had the trust of his master to care his wife. In that way he could repay his master's kindness. "Yes master. *Insyah Allah*, I will take care my lord. On

the way, do not forget to keep praying to God for your safety." After that, Khoja Maimun left his home. Now there were only the wife of Khoja Maimun and bayan in the house.

One day the hometown of Khoja Maimun was crowded. Almost all the villagers came out the house. Their village was welcoming the arrival of a cavalcade convoy of royal court residents. The crown Prince and his courtiers passed by in their village. The royal court entourage was greeted with pleasure by the villagers. They were eager to see the Prince from close range. That night the Prince was gloomy. The dayangs then asked, "Why are you looking so gloomy tonight? In fact, this afternoon I saw you were very happy." The Prince turned to one of the dayangs who asked then he smiled although seemed to be forced. "No problem, my head is a little dizzy. Maybe tired. "

"You'd better take a rest," said one of the *dayangs*. In his tent the Prince continued to remember the wife of Khoja Maimun. His heart had been hit by an arrow of romance. All night he had difficulty to close his eyes.

Chickens had started crowing. All the *dayangs* and bodyguards were still sleeping soundly. The Prince came out of his tent, then woke one of his *dayang*, "Hi, *Dayang*. Get up! Prepare supplies and we returned to the palace this morning." Of course the *dayangs* felt strange to see the Prince's behavior by suddenly returning back to the palace. On the way home, the Prince ordered

the *dayangs* to pass through the village again. He hoped to see the beautiful face of Khoja Maimun's wife again. The *dayangs* directed the royal cavalcade convoy to the village. The Prince's heart suddenly pounded as he passed the village. He saw many people in the village to salute him. He also casted his smile to the citizens while his eyes searching for the figure of woman who had been troubling his mind since the day before. However, it turned out that the female figure was not visible.

The strong desire to meet the woman urged his heart, he then ordered his *dayang* to approach the house where she lived. The Prince descended from his horse and walked to Khoja Maimun's house.

"*Assalamualaikum*", he said to the owner of the house.

"*Walaikumsalam*", replied the owner of the house. Soon the door opened and the face of the woman he was longing for appeared.

"Khoja Maimun's wife looked nervous. She was shocked to see the Prince standing before her. She never imagined the Prince's coming to her modest home. Khoja Maimun's wife immediately invited her guests to sit down, then said, "Excuse me, master.

What are you doing to my house?" The Prince smiled and said, "I should have apologized for disturbing you. When I saw you for the first time yesterday, I could not forget your face. Forgive me if I'm too sassy to say I've fallen in love with you. Will you come

with me to the palace tonight?" asked the Prince to Khoja Maimun's wife. Khoja Maimun's wife looked embarrassed because she was flattered. In her heart she was attracted to the handsomeness of the Prince. However, she felt it was not worth to response his love. She replied, "Master, I am married. My husband is away sailing. I do not feel worthy to receive your love. I'm sorry, master. "

The Prince was somewhat surprised that this was the first time a woman rejected his love. After that, with a sense of disappointment, he then excused himself and returned to ride his horse to continue the journey home to the palace. Arriving at the palace, the Prince was immediately greeted by his parents. The king and the empress were very pleased that his son had returned safely. However, the son was not. He did not say much. After *sungkem* saluting his father and mother, he said goodbye to return to his palace to rest. He did not want to stay too long with his parents. He was embarrassed that both would see clearly the change of his face that reflected the feeling of longing for the woman he met in the village. Despite the oddity of his son's behavior, the king and empress allowed her son to pass.

After parting with the Prince, the woman was amazed why the handsome and kind Prince fell in love with her. She felt herself only a villager. In addition, she had married. Meanwhile, there

were many women who were much younger and prettier than her out there.

The voice of Bayan surprised her, "You needn't think about it my Lady." Khoja Maimun's wife turned toward Bayan. In her heart she justified the words of Bayan that she was indeed thinking of the Prince. Bayan said again, "It's just the nature of a man. In fact, he might have been married or have a lover. However, when he sees other beautiful woman everywhere, he will be interested, then falls in love. Don't take the sweet words of the Prince seriously, my lord lady. You will sin and get the wrath of *Allah subhanahu wa taala* if you obey the request of the Prince" After hearing Bayan's advice, Khoja Maimun's wife realized that her action was wrong. It was inappropriate to receive a male guest in her home when her husband was not home, especially accepting love from other man. She immediately prayed, then beg for forgiveness to *Allah subhanahu wa taala*.

In his little palace the Prince was still daydreaming. The longing for the wife of Khoja Maimun could not be held back. He called his dayang saying, "Hi, Dayang, please call Mak Inang and have her come to me now."

"Yes, your Highness," said the *dayang*. Mak Inang was an old female *dayang*. She was the nanny of the Prince when he was a child. In fact, he often called her "Mother". Soon the dayang came

with Mak Inang. "Your Highness, this is Mak Inang. Excused me."
"

"All right, *Dayang*. Thank you for bringing Mak Inang to me. "

Mak Inang knelt before the Prince, then said, "What can I do for you, your Highness?"

"My mother, sit here by me." Mak Inang moved and sat next to the Prince.

The Prince began to convey his heart to Mak Inang. "My mother, I have an important thing to tell you. It's a matter of my current feelings. I love a village woman. Her face is very beautiful. Her body is also beautiful to my eyes. I have had a few days of deep longing for her. However, when I went to her house and told her of my arrival, she refused me. Unfortunately, to this day I cannot forget her. I want to marry her. What do you think of my problem, Mother? "

It would be better if you did not rush to meet her before you are sure that she would accept you, Young Master," Mak Inang said. "I mean, please meet her and say what I mean. If the woman is willing to accept me, I will come to her," said the Prince.

"All right, your Highness. However, I do not know where the woman's house is."

The Prince summoned some of the male *dayangs* who had escorted him at that time. Soon two *dayangs* came to meet him. "Hi, *dayang*! Do you still remember the house of the woman we once visited when we came back from the forest?"

"Yes, I remember Your Highness," the two *dayangs* answered in unison.

"Now go to the woman's house again to accompany Mak Inang. Let Mak Inang talk to the woman. Take some other men."

"Yes Lord. We are ready to carry out your orders," replied the men.

After the two *dayangs* had disappeared, Mak Inang excused herself to leave to pack.

The village atmosphere was quiet. Not many people are passing by. Only the sound of birds chasing in the sky was heard. Khoja Maimun's house also looked deserted. Khoja Maimun's wife had just finished cooking. She also provided a meal for the bird that accompanied her faithfully. Moments later Khoja Maimun's wife was suddenly startled by the sound of someone knocking on her door. "*Assalamualaikum, ... assalamualaikum*"

The woman rushed to the door, then opened it. At the door she saw a middle-aged woman and several young men. Then, she replied, "*Walaikumsalam*, please come in, Mother." Mak Inang

saluted by bowing her body to Khoja Maimun's wife, then entering the house. The male *dayangs* were told to stay outside. Mak Inang looked at the face of Khoja Maimun's wife. "Hem, this lady is so pretty," she whispered to herself. "No wonder the Young Master is in love with this woman."

"What can I do for you, Mother?" asked Khoja Maimun's wife in a soft voice. She blushed at Mak Inang staring sharply. Mak Inang just realized that she was too long looking at the face of the woman in front of her. She immediately told her about the Prince's feeling to the woman. "My Lady, I was sent to come here by the Prince to see you. He is in love with you. Every day the Prince is restless and never stops thinking about you. He wants to meet you. Will you go with me to the palace now?"

Khoja Maimun's wife looked confused. Actually, there was a feeling of interest in the Prince, but on the other hand she realized that she was married. She then said, "My mother, tell the Prince that I am just a poor country woman. It doesn't not seem right that I meet the Prince. There are many younger women, beautiful, and rich people? In addition, there must be daughters of prime minister or prominent person? Besides, I'm a married woman. "

Mak Inang still kept persuading the wife of Khoja Maimun, "My Lady, the Prince does not question your situation. He's a good man. He never discriminates people. Come on, lady, come with

me. Meet him for only a moment."Khoja Maimun's wife remained firm in her stance. She was afraid of the wrath of *Allah subhanahu wa taala*. She considered this a trial from *Allah Taala*. "I'm sorry, Mother. I cannot fulfill the wishes of the Prince. Please convey my apology."Mak Inang felt the woman was hard to be persuaded again. She felt her effort wouldbe useless if she was still there. In the meantime, it was almost dark. Finally, Mak Inang excused herself to go home. Khoja Maimun's wife escorted her to the front door.

Bayan who listened to the conversation of Khoja Maimun's wife and Mak Inang from the beginning began to talk. "My lord lady, sit down. I am amazed at your answer to the old lady. Indeed, you should have refused his invitation. It is not appropriate for a woman to come to a man even though he is a son of high-ranking figures in this country. I am proud of your determination."Maimun's khoja wife replied," Bayan, you are so kind to me. What you said is true. Now I'm going to rest. "

Meanwhile, the Prince was busy fixing himself. He bathed with water that had been sprinkled with flowers. After he finished bathing, he sprayed the fragrance all over his body, then picked the best outfit. In front of the glass he saw himself handsome with his nice clothes. He had done it all to welcome the arrival of a woman who had melted his heart.The arrival of Mak Inang in the palace that night was greeted with lethargy. He saw Mak Inang

coming alone. Mak Inang did not bring with her the idol woman. Mak Inang knelt before the Prince while worshiping, "I am very sorry, your Highness. I have not succeeded in bringing the woman to come here. She is very hard-hearted. I have tried to persuade her, but she still did not want to fulfill my request," said Mak Inang.

The Prince came to her and guided her to sit near him. "Then what else can we do, Mother? I love her so much. I cannot hold back my longing for her," said the Prince as if to ask compassion. Mak Inang felt sorry for the Prince, then suddenly thought of using the services of a "magic" person. He said to the Prince, "Young Master, all our efforts are done, but they have no results. The woman is harsh. There is still one more effort we can make. We ask the help of those who know magic. "

"I agree no matter what your advice is, in the end I can get her. Do you know where the person who has the knowledge of magic lives? "

"Yes, of course. I know the shaman's house. I will tell her to see you."

"Let me meet her. You just accompany me," said the Prince

"However, sir, there is something you have to give to the shaman," Mak Inang said.

The Prince replied, "I will give gold and silver to her if she is willing to help me."

The next day, the Prince who was accompanied by Mak Inang and some of his bodyguards went to meet the shaman. Arriving at her house, it was Mak Inang who entered first to meet the shaman.

Meanwhile, the Prince waited outside. When she saw Mak Inang coming, the shaman immediately greeted her, "Welcome, Inang. What the hell did you come to see me?" Mak Inang replied, "My mother, I came not alone. I came with the Prince. He's outside, Mother." The shaman was surprised, then requested Mak Inang to let him in. Mak Inang came out and invited the Prince into the house. When he saw the Prince standing before her, the shaman knelt, then said, "Your Majesty, I am honored to have you coming to my house. Apparently there is something important that you want to convey to me."

"Right, Mother. I need your help," answered the Prince

"What is it, Master? I hope I can help you," the shaman asked.

The Prince seemed a little ashamed to tell the old woman. Seeing the signs like that, Mak Inang then said, "Mother, let me be the one who will convey the Prince's intention to you. The prince felt a tremendous disappointment towards a woman from the common people. The woman is beautiful and gentle. He loves her so much.

However, she refused my master's love. Our coming here is to ask you to make her change her mind and fall in love with the Prince.”

The old woman smiled at Mak Inang's story as if she understood the problem of young people. Mak Inang said again, "Mother, help my master. He came here with gold and silver for you." The old woman's face suddenly shone after hearing the words of Mak Inang. Without asking any more questions she paused as she closed her eyes and shortly afterwards said, "Your Majesty, there are certain conditions that you have to do to accomplish your goals. Will you do it later?" asked the old woman with her eyes closed. The Prince replied, "Yes, I am ready to do so, Mother."

After that the old woman opened her eyes and sharply looked at the Prince's face, then said, "Master, this is a prayer you have to read for three days and three nights continuously. Later after you have read the prayer, the woman will come looking for you, she will then kneel at your feet and cry for your love to her." When he heard the old woman's words, the Prince was very happy. He was determined to carry out the terms of the old woman. "Okay Mother. I have understood enough what you mean. Are there any other conditions, Mother?" asked the Prince. The old woman shook her head and said, "That's all, Master. There are no other conditions."

The Prince summoned his bodyguards while gesturing. Two of his bodyguards approached carrying a gold and silver parcel, then handed it to the Prince. The Prince received the parcel, then handed it to the old woman and said, "Mother, accept this gift as an expression of my gratitude to you." The old woman took the gift with a very happy feeling. "Thank you very much, your Majesty. I consider this a wonderful gift of you." After that, the Prince gave sign to Mak Inang and Mak Inang also said, "Mother, we are leaving. Thank you for your help." After that, they all stood up, then walked out of the old woman's house.

They arrived at the palace late at night. Mak Inang immediately said goodbye when she arrived at the palace. The Prince returned to his palace escorted by several *dayangs*.

Bayan's Story About the *Shalihah* Wife

It was already three days and three nights that the Prince had actualized witchery. He summoned Mak Inang and asked her to visit Khoja Maimun's wife. The Prince was impatient and immediately wanted to prove the words of the old woman who had the knowledge of witchery. When Mak Inang was in front of him, he said, "My mother, I have fulfilled my prayers according to what the old woman requested. Now please go to the woman's house and tell her that I'll come to her house tonight."

Mak Inang replied, "Your Highness, I do not agree if you will go to the woman's house. I'm afraid that you will get embarrassed if you do that. You are a Prince, Your Highness. Of course you can imagine that a Prince slips out into the house of a village woman at night and the villagers may see you. I don't think that you are the only one who gets embarrassed, but your father and mother also get a tremendous shame."

The Prince listened intently to Mak Inang's words, then said, "You're right my dear mother. I don't want to get embarrassed, and moreover I kept this matter secret to my father and mother. Don't let them know about this for fear that they get embarrassed by what I've done." He asked Mak Inang, "Mother, how do I know if the woman is willing to accept me?"

"Let me come to the woman's house and send your regards. I will then see her reaction," answered Mak Inang.

Mak Inang excused herself and walked away leaving her Master. The Prince kept looking at Mak Inang until she was out of sight. Feeling anxiously, he just waited for her to return home.

One day at her home, Khoja Maimun's wife looked dreamy. For three days she had no passion to eat. She couldn't figure out why she suddenly remembered the Prince. Her heart desperately longed for him. Every day she was stunned sitting in the courtyard of her house expecting Mak Inang passed by in front of

her house. If she saw Mak Inang, she would have called her to drop by and told her about her feelings for the Prince.

Mak Inang walked alone to the house of Khoja Maimun. She was not deliberately accompanied by a bodyguard because the mission was very secret. Her journey was imminent almost to the destination. However, when she just reached the end of the road in the village, she suddenly heard a voice calling her name. She then searched for the origin of the sound. She was surprised and mixed with joy to see a woman waving her arms towards her. She had known her before. "*Pucuk dicinta ulam tiba*", she murmured in the heart. She walked half-run up to Khoja Maimun's wife. They hugged each other, then Khoja Maimun's wife marched her into her house. Mak Inang had time to observe that the behavior of the woman was very different from her behavior some time ago when she came to her for the first time.

She looked very happy and repeatedly kissed her. Even while sitting she kept holding her hands. In a very pitiful voice the woman said, "My mother, where is the Prince? I missed him so much. I want to see him. I'm so sorry to have rejected him some time ago. Does he still have a passion for me, Mother? I cannot bear this feeling for too long." Mak Inang seemed to remain calm even though her heart was filled with excitement. She imagined how happy her master would be to hear her story later. She said to the woman, "My dear, of course, the Prince still loves you. Now

he is waiting for you at the palace. You'd better meet him tonight." Upon hearing the words of Mak Inang, Khoja Maimun's wife was very happy. She acted like a child. She took off her grip and cheerfully stood up, then jumped up and down laughing with joy. Mak Inang also looked at her happily. Shortly thereafter, Mak Inang excused herself to return to the palace to meet the Prince. Before she left the house, Khoja Maimun's wife gave a message to her, "My mother, send my respect and love to the Prince. Tell him to wait for me tonight." Mak Inang just smiled and walked away.

After Mak Inang left, Khoja Maimun's wife cleaned up. She was wearing a scrub smeared all over her body, then wiped it slowly so that all the dirt on her body fell out. Her hair was also given a rose herb to be soft and fragrant. Her nails are cut, shaped, and colored in order to look beautiful. She did it all with a joyful heart. She was very happy because she would meet the prince of her heart. After all was done, she chose the best outfits to wear to meet the Prince. She sprayed perfume all over her body. She could not wait for the night.

The night came. However, the wife of Khoja Maimun had not yet left for the palace. She was still self-paced. She would leave when the night was thick and people were no longer there passing by. She didn't want anyone to know her journey to see the Prince.

The night was getting late. Khoja Maimun's wife looked through the window and it was very quiet. She called Bayan, "Bayan, I am going to the palace to meet the Prince tonight. You just stay and guard the house. I'm leaving now. I cannot bear to see him. He might have been waiting for me at the palace." When he heard the words of his lord lady, Bayan was very angry. However, he restrained his anger not to let his lady master know. It would be very offensive to her. With his soft voice and polite words, Bayan said, "You are a woman. It is not proper for a woman to meet a man at night. Aren't you afraid of *Allah subhanahu wa taala* and ashamed to *Rasulullah salallahu alaihi wasalam*? Remember my lord lady, God's punishment is very severe against those who commit adultery. Adultery is a great sin. It is very forbidden by *Allah Subhanahu wa taala*."

After hearing the words of the bird, Khoja Maimun's wife looked uneasy. Deep in her heart she justified the words of the bird. However, she was not able to hide her feelings that she always missed the Prince. She said, "Dear Bayan, how can I cure my heart. I have already loved the Prince. It's hard for me to forget him." Bayan replied, "Take my words. You are a lady my lord. Eventually you will forget the Prince. Are you not afraid if this act is known to your husband? If your husband knows your deeds, he will surely be furious and may even kill you. Do not believe in the Prince's love. Just believe in me. The Prince's love will not last long. One day if there is another woman, he will sell out his

love to the woman and lose her love to you. Therefore, forget the son of the King. Your husband is a very good gentleman. He went to trade far into the foreign land to earn a living for you. He was willing to sail for days, tossed waves in the sea for the sake of the family. Remember that, my lord lady."

Khoja Maimun's wife was stunned by Bayan's advice. All that the bird said seeped into her heart. There was a feeling of shame to the bird. How could an animal like Bayan have a clear mind and could think foresighted like that. Meanwhile, a human being like herself could not think long and just indulged in lust. The bird saw her silent. Bayan then asked the wife of Khoja Maimun, "My lord lady, why did you stay silent? Are there any of my words made you disappointed? "

Khoja Maimun's wife was surprised. She was lulled by the words of a very wise bird. She replied, "Oh, wise Bayan, there is no word that sounds bad in my ears. Precisely I'm very grateful to you, Bayan. I'm glad to hear your advice. "

"Will you still hear my story?" asked Bayan again to Khoja Maimun's wife.

"Of course, Bayan. Come on, tell me till night so that I no longer have the desire to go to the palace to meet the Prince," replied the wife of Khoja Maimun.

"Well, this time I will tell you about the torture to be gained by people who commit adultery," Bayan said.

When the time came for the angel of death took the life of the woman who committed adultery, her skin was like being pulled so strongly to peel off. What a pain it was. After death, the woman was put into the grave. A few moments in the grave, the body of the woman was visited by angels Munkar and Nakir. One of the angels asked the woman, "Hi, woman, what were you doing during your life in the world?" The angel asked with his hand holding a very large bat. His voice sounded like a thunderbolt with a fire burning out of his mouth. The woman could not answer. All her limbs trembled, and she was struck repeatedly.

After the woman was tormented by the grave, the words of *Allah Subhanahu wa taala* was heard commanding angel Zabaniah, "Hi, Angel, throw the wretched woman into hell." The woman was put into hell by angel Zabaniah. After being tortured, the inhabitants of hell were put into the lake. There were many wild animals ready to chew their bodies. The inhabitants of hell were screaming for Allah's forgiveness. The angel came and said, "O, seditious woman, if you sin against God, God will forgive your sins. But you sinned against your husband. "

After five thousand years of tortures in hell, then God picked her up and brought her together with her husband. Her husband was

in heaven accompanied by the angels. Then God gave memories to each of them. Finally, they recalled that they had once become husband and wife while living in the world. The woman is invited to ask her husband to ask God's forgiveness for her. Her husband also pleaded with Allah, "O my Lord, *Ilahirabi*, please remove my wife from hell."

Allah said to the angel, "O angel, remove the woman from hell."

The angel took the woman out of hell, then brought her to the Kalkausar River to bathe. After bathing, the woman was left to her husband so that they could live together again in heaven.

"My lord lady, that is the story of the God's recompense against a woman who commits adultery," Bayan told Khoja Maimun's wife.

The woman replied, "Bayan, you are my parent's successor. You have reminded me of the sin of fornication. I can imagine if this time I'm not with you, Bayan. I must have fallen into that sin. Thank you, dear Bayan, for your advice." Bayan felt very happy because in the end his master cancelled to meet the Prince. His master preferred to listen to his story. Then he said again, "If you are not sleepy, will you still listen to my story?" Khoja Maimun's wife replied, "I'm still not sleepy, Bayan. Let this night be spent to hear your story till morning. What story will you tell me, Bayan? "

"It's a good story. I will tell you about a loving *salihah* wife," Bayan said eagerly.

"Tell me quick, Bayan," said the wife of Khoja Maimun impatiently.

"Okay. Here's the story. "

In ancient times, there was a woman named Sabariah. People around her used to call her Bibi Sabariah. She lived alone with her husband, Khoja Alexandria, in a village. They both loved each other even though their age was not young anymore. One day, when they were both in the garden, Khoja Alexandria asked his wife, "My wife, if someday God calls me first, will you remain faithful to our love? I mean, if I'm not in this world anymore and there's a man approaching you, will you marry again? "

Upon hearing her husband's question, Bibi Sabariah immediately hugged her husband and kissed him, then said, "Do not doubt my love. I cannot love another man even if he is more handsome and rich. My heart is only for you. If God will call you first, my love will be buried with your body and have no love left in my heart."Hearing his wife's answer, Khoja Alexandria was smiling. Surprised by the smile of her husband, Bibi Sabariah asked, "Why do you smile at my answer?" He took hold of his wife's hand. His eyes looked at his wife and said, "Darling, all I know is that there

are many women whose husbands have been dead and she will receive love from other men. In fact, many women who haven't finished forty days mourn of the death of her husband remarried with another man. Many women do not have a strong stand. That's how women are today." The look on Khoja Alexandria's eyes dimmed. He looked sad. Bibi Sabariah immediately embraced her husband and kissed him. She said again, "*Kanda*, I swear to God. By God who has seven layers of sky and seven layers of earth, if you first pass away to *Rahmatullah*, I would forbid myself to love other man. If a man approaches me later, I will make him a father if he is old and I will make him a son if he is young." After hearing the words of his wife, Khoja Alexandria was smiling. Alternately, he now hugged his wife and said, "Thanks, *Dinda*. I do not doubt your love again. I will do the same if *Allah taala*, God called you first. "

A few months after they confessed the oath of allegiance in the garden, Khoja Alexandria was severely ill. A few days later he passed away. Bibi Sabariah was very sad at the loss of her husband. She told the people around her to bury her husband in their garden. Few days later, a *musala* was built near the tomb of Khoja Iskandariah complete with washroom and a shower to take prayer water. In the garden Bibi Sabariah also planted various kinds of flowers and fruits. Every day she was busy taking care of her garden.

The death of Khoja Alexandria is long overdue. Various flowers and fruits flourished and the results were even already enjoyed. Many people in the village knew about it and even bought flowers and fruits from Bibi Sabariah's garden. As time went by, Bibi Sabariah's flower and fruit garden got the spotlight of many people. Customers of flowers and fruits also multiplied. Bibi Sabariah was getting busy to receive orders. For that, she eventually hired some people to arrange the flowers.

The news about the flowers and fruit of Bibi Sabariah garden finally reached the king's palace. One day, Bibi Sabariah had many people coming. At that time he had just finished performing the *salat zuhur* prayer.

When she heard crowded people out there, she opened her window. She saw many people gathered in front of her house. She immediately folded her prayer cloth and hurried out. From a short distance, she asked, "Who are you? What can I do for you?" One of them approached her and said, "We are a party from the kingdom, Madam. Please accept the arrival of Princess Ratnadewi, the king's wife in this country." Bibi Sabariah rushed to Princess Ratnadewi, then saluted her. She invited the Princess into her house, "Please come in, Princess. Welcome to my humble booth." Princess Ratnadewi entered the house of Bibi Sabariah, then sat opposite her. "Really, I am honored by the

arrival of the royalty. In fact, I never dreamed of this. What can I do for you, Princess?"asked Bibi Sabariah.

Princess Ratnadewi smiled and said, "Hi, my sister, do not be too flattering. Are not we the same? We are both servants of *Allah subhanahu wa taala*. I am coming here to see directly the contents of your garden. There have been many people, including my palace masters who say that there are various flowers and fruits that thrive in your garden."Bibi Sabariah replied with pleasure, "Be my guest, you are welcomed to look at my garden."

Secretly Princess Ratnadewi noticed the face and behavior of Bibi Sabariah who looked very polite. In her heart she said, "What a perfect woman. Her face is beautiful and soft. She said very softly." Suddenly the Princess imagined if the King, her husband now in her position like this, surely he will be attracted to this woman.

Bibi Sabariah was rather blushing. She seemed to know that the Princess was looking at her for so long. She tried to distract her by inviting her guest to taste the dishes that had been provided. "Please try this simple dish," said Bibi Sabariah. The Princess was eating the dish while asking, "How long have you been taking care of the garden?"

"It's been a long time, Princess, since my husband died and was buried in this garden. I am the one who takes care of this garden to keep me close to my late husband."

Princess Ratnadewi grew in awe of Bibi Sabariah who always wanted to be close to her husband even though her husband had died. She asked Bibi Sabariah again, "My sister, the dead man will never return? Why are you still waiting for him? Don't you want to have another husband?" Bibi Sabariah shook her head and said, "Your Highness, in this garden I once vowed that if my husband died, I will never be married again. I'll keep this oath. Besides in daily life, I have been preoccupied with my present works.

My customers are increasing more and more. I have no chance to think of a substitute for my deceased husband."

Princess Ratnadewi said again, "It is not good for a woman to be a widow too long. It will cause slander. Especially you have a beautiful face and not too old. It would be nice to marry again, sister." Bibi Sabariah remained at her stance and answered, "Please forgive me, Princess. I do not want to obey your words. However, I am really afraid of breaking my oath. My oath is heard by *Allah subhanahu wa taala*. If I violate it, surely Allah will be angry with me, then I will be thrown into the fire of hell. I'm afraid, Princess."

Upon hearing the words of Bibi Sabariah, Princess Ratnadewi's face immediately changed. She looked disappointed. The change on the Princess's face was caught by Bibi Sabariah who said, "Actually why are you talking like that? Are you not pleased with my words? If so, forgive me."

"Bibi Sabariah, be it known to you that I am actually here because there is something important I want to pass on to you. My husband, the king of this land, has a heart for you. He wants to make you his wife. I really hope you are willing to fulfill his request. We will both live in his palace as sisters. Believe me. The king is very handsome, young, and wise. If you see him, you must be happy," said Princess Ratnadewi. Bibi Sabariah smiled, then said, "No, forgive me Princess. I have never been thinking of remarriage until I die. I do not want to break my promise, especially a promise to a dead man. Your Highness, even though the king is as handsome as the Prophet Yusuf or as rich as Solomon, I stick to my stance. I don't want to marry again. After all, the king is your husband. How would you feel if you see this humble servant sitting with your husband. I'm sorry, I'm sorry, Princess. I cannot fulfill your request to remarry any man, even though the man is your husband. "

Princess Ratnadewi finally understood the reason for Bibi Sabariah not to marry again, including marrying her husband, the king of the land. She then smiled and begged goodbye to Bibi

Sabariah to return to the palace. "Wait, Princess. Let me go to the back room for a moment", said Bibi Sabariah. Soon she returned with a package of fruits and gave it to Princess Ratnadewi, saying, "Take this, please, the fruit of my garden. This is all I can offer you. Also give my respect to the king. "

Princess Ratnadewi and all her bodyguards left the house of Bibi Sabariah. Sometime later, she arrived at the palace.

She ran to meet the long-awaited King. "Hi, *Adinda*, have you seen the garden of the *salihah*? How is the garden? It certainly pleased you during your stay there," said the King. Princess Ratnadewi sat down beside her husband, then said, "Hem, the garden is spacious and very nice because it is decorated with various flowers and fruits ready to be picked. That woman gave me some fruits to bring back to the palace. She also greets you, *Kanda*."

"How is she? Have you conveyed my message and what did she think?"

"*Kanda*, I bring a news that you do not expect. She told me that she did not want to have a husband anymore. The woman has a true love for her husband even though her husband is dead. Can you imagine every day the woman is in her garden because that's where her husband is buried. Various flowers and fruits for her are just a job to fill the time alone. *Kanda*, I suggest that you try

yourself to come there to see her. She is too firm. I was tired of persuading her. Yes, perhaps if you will come face to face with her, she will melt. Isn't it better to talk straight away, *Kanda*?"

"All right then, *Dinda*. I'll take your advice. I think that if we are already face to face, she will change her mind. Tomorrow I will go to see her," said the King.

The next day, after the morning prayers, the King wore a complete garb of royalty and departed with ministers and *dayangs*. Yellow umbrella was unfurled. They all rode to Bibi Sabariah's garden. After some time on the way, finally they arrived at the front door of Bibi Sabariah's garden. The king ordered his *dayang* to ask the woman who kept the garden to open the garden door. The *dayang* then shouted to open the door. However, no one answered. Then the *dayang* shouted repeatedly and this time with a louder voice. The shout was heard by Bibi Sabariah. Bibi Sabariah peered at who the visitor was from behind her window. What a surprise when she saw the King and his ministers. She was very frightened. Meanwhile the *dayang* was still shouting loudly out there. Finally, she told her *dayang* to open the door of the garden and advised her to confess as Bibi Sabariah.

Bibi Bibi Sabariah came out and opened the garden door. Then she kindly invited the king and his ministers into the garden.

The king asked her, "Where's Bibi Sabariah?"

Bibi Sabariah's assistant replied, "I am Bibi Sabariah."

The king disbelieved, then said, "You cannot be Bibi Sabariah. According to the news I heard the woman named Bibi Sabariah is young and beautiful. Meanwhile, you?" The king did not continue his words for fear of offending the person.

"Yes, your Majesty. I am the one you are referring to. If I am not Bibi Sabariah, why am I here?" Said the *dayang*.

The king ignored the words of Bibi Sabariah's *dayang*. He descended from his horse, then entered the house. Bibi Sabariah continued to peek at him. When she saw the King had begun to enter her house, she immediately ran to her husband's grave and she hid there. The king went around the house looking for Bibi Sabariah. Realizing that Bibi Sabariah was nowhere to be found, he at last shouted, "Bibi Sabariah, do not be afraid of me. Come out! I swear to make you my mother, both in this world and in the hereafter. "

The king's oath was heard by Bibi Sabariah. She raised her hand and praised *alhamdulillah* to God who had exercised His mighty power to turn His servant's heart. The arrival of the King who originally wanted to persuade her to be his wife had changed. The king eventually vowed to make Bibi Sabariah his mother. Shortly

afterwards, Bibi Sabariah came out of hiding, then faced the King who still stood firmly in the garden yard.

"*Assalamualaikum*, O dear King," she said.

"*Walaikumsalam*," answered the King.

Sabariah then took hold of the king's hand and led him to sit next to her, then said, "Now consider me as your mother. My house is always open to receive your arrival any time you want. Please play in the garden." The king bowed in embarrassment. He just realized that not all women want to be his wife. He greatly admired the courage of the woman who was now beside her. He was very wise and more deserving to be a mother than to be a wife. After that, the king asked Bibi Sabariah's permission to tour the garden before he went home.

A few days later the king's messengers came to meet Bibi Sabariah. The messenger said, "My lord lady, the king commanded me to come here and bring some workers to build your garden fence."

Bibi Sabariah was pleased to hear what the king's messenger said. After the fence was finished, Bibi Sabariah was struck by the King's arrival with Princess Ratnadewi, his wife. She invited them into the house and made them eat together in the house.

"That is all my story, my lord lady, about a *salihah* wife. She is very devoted to her husband. She is very devoted to worship and follow the behavior of her predecessor, Siti Fatimah, daughter of *Rasulullah*. She is the one of those who got the guidance from *Allah subhanahu wa taala*. Such women are the prospective occupants of *Allah taala's* paradise."After hearing the story of Bayan, Khoja Maimun's wife was aware. She also realized that if Bayan did not prevent her, she would have fallen into the act of adultery. She almost committed a great sin.

The day changed. The voice of a rooster crowed in reply. Khoja Maimun's wife finally decided to abandon her intention to meet the Prince. She moved from her seat, then went into her room to change her clothes and wore her daily clothes at home.

The Prince Came to Khoja Maimun's House

In the majestic palace, the Prince looked very disappointed. All night he waited the arrival of Khoja Maimun's wife. However, the woman he anticipated did not come until morning. He called his man and ordered him to go to Mak Inang's house. When she came to meet the Prince, Mak Inang asked, "Is there anything that I can do for you? Why do you call me early this morning? Are you going to tell me about your meeting with the woman last night? Wow, I'm ready to listen, Your Majesty. "

"My mother, the woman broke her promise. I've been waiting all night until this morning, but she still does not keep her promise. That's why I'm calling you. Mother, I beg your kindness to go back to the woman's house. Ask her why she did not see me last night. "

Mak Inang was surprised to hear it. Almost she could not believe her master's words that she had not seen her master last night. She saw herself that the woman was so infatuated with the Prince. She should have gone to her master because she could no longer bear her longing. However, it was the Prince's command that she must perform. "Yes my Lord. I will go now to meet the woman," she said. She also excused herself to the Prince

The day was getting late. Mak Inang reached the door of Khoja Maimun's house. She knocked on the door of the house.

Khoja Maimun's wife opened the door, then greeted her gently, "Mother, you come to my house again. I'm really very happy. Come, Mom, sit down. Is there any need for you to come here?" Mak Inang replied, "I am assigned by the Prince of this country to come here to ask you why you did not come last night to the palace to meet him? The Prince is still waiting for you until now. "

"Mother, please accept my apology. Last night I fell asleep till this morning. Give my apology to the Prince. I feel completely guilty of having broken my promise."

"How about coming to the palace to meet him tonight?" asked Mak Inang later. "Mother, after I reconsidered, it was not good for a woman to walk alone to a man. I'm afraid of people's scorn at me. I'm embarrassed, Mother. If the Prince wants to see me, let him come here. "Mak Inang agreed and said again, "Well, I'll tell your message to my master. I do not think there's anything more to talk about. Please excused me. "

After Mak Inang disappeared Khoja Maimun's wife ran to see Bayan. "Hi, Bayan, Mak Inang, the messenger of the King, just came. She was still disturbing me and wanted to see me. Tonight the Prince is coming to this house. What do you think?"

"My lord lady, I have an idea to make the Son of the King will lose his love for you and you do not feel afraid to see him. When he comes here, just welcome him. "

The night arrived. The Prince really came to fulfill his promise. He knocked on the door of Khoja Maimun's house. Meanwhile, Bayan who was ready to be outside immediately flew to a place until he got indigo. He dipped his wings into the puddle of indigo and then in an instant he was back to the house Khoja Maimun. He perched above the door. When the door was opened by the

wife of Khoja Maimun, Bayan immediately flap his wings and the indigo fell on the face of the Prince. The Prince thought that what dripped onto his face was only water so he rubbed it all over his face until his face was black.

Khoja Maimun's wife opened the door and the Prince was invited to enter. The Prince asked, "Why is this house dark? Isn't there a light to illuminate it? I cannot see anything." "Stay there, Prince. I'll take a candle inside." Soon Khoja Maimun's wife returned to the living room with the candle she had lit. Vaguely, through the candlelight, the woman saw the face of the Prince and she was very frightened. The Prince was black and scary. He looked like someone who would do evil. Then Khoja Maimun's wife ran away from the Prince. The Prince remained confused. He sat down and could do nothing.

Suddenly the Prince was startled by a voice which he did not know where it came from because no one around.

"*Assalamualaikum*, Prince." the voice of bayan on the ridge of the house greeted the Prince. He could not see clearly the existence of the bird because the room was only illuminated by a candle. Bayan said again, "Hi, Prince, you're coming here is actually an inappropriate act. You come to the house of a woman who lives alone. What do you want to do? This can cause slander if anyone around here knows about it. Are you not afraid of the punishment of *Allah subhanahu wa taala* to the sinners? Master, remember

who are you. You are the son of a very fair and wise king. The king is a good man and loves his people too. Someday you will replace the king's position. What if people find out that you are not good? Please don't act like the despotic man. The despotic is a man who cannot see with his eyes, cannot hear with his ears, and does not know the knowledge of God's word in the Qur'an."

Khoja Maimun's wife suddenly said, "You heard the voice, didn't you? I just heard the voice. Indeed, I am afraid of God because *Allah* must see all that we do. Of course we do not want to get God's wrath. Therefore, now I advise you to go back to the palace and do not forget to ask God's forgiveness before His punishment comes. "

"You are right, *Dinda*. I've never heard such words all my life. I am very scared. Then allow me to go back to the palace now. Forgive me." From the ridge of the house, Bayan said again, "Hey, the unjust Son of King, get out of here! If you do not leave this house immediately I will destroy your body by the permission of *Allah subhanahu wa taala*." Without saying goodbye to Khoja Maimun's wife, the Prince immediately came out of the house. He walked home very quickly because he was so scared. The head of the Prince was beaten with wings. The Prince was increasingly afraid and accelerated his pace. Arriving at the palace, the Prince was haunted by fear. Moreover, his head just felt sick because of

being hit by Bayan. In his heart, he said, "Fortunately I got out of the house right away. Otherwise, I could be dead."

After the Prince had gone, the wife of Khoja Maimun was accompanied by Bayan. Khoja Maimun's wife said, "Hi, Bayan, now my heart has calmed down. I feel free from the heavy burden I've been feeling. I promise to obey your words to always remember *Allah taala* to avoid all slander and punishment."

Bayan's Story About the Sinful Wife

"Bayan, now is the time for me to repay your kindness. You are free to return to your home to meet your son and wife. Tomorrow you can leave this house. If my husband comes back, I'll tell him about you."

"O my lord, I respect your words to repay my kindness. However, I have no family like you. I have no wife. I am still free to decide where to go. I have no desire to leave your home. Let me be here forever join with you both," Bayan replied.

Khoja Maimun's wife felt pity to hear the words of Bayan. However, on the other hand, she was surprised to the bird. From the way he talks, *bayan* looked like a human, but why his desire to build a household like humans is not done, she told herself. She asked Bayan, "Hi, Bayan, will you accept if I give you a wife?"

The bird laughed, then answered his master's question, "Yes, my lady, it is not easy to be a husband. According to the religious law, husbands are obliged to provide life's necessity for their wives. Many men cannot provide for their wives, but they have the courage to marry. Of course such a thing is forbidden by religion. A man will sin if he cannot support his wife. The man's habit, if he already has a wife, he feels it isn't enough. Then he takes another woman to become his second wife, third, and so on. Religion permits a man has four wives. More than four is forbidden. With four wives, the husband must be fair. Otherwise, he will get a curse from *Allah subhanahu wa taala*. He will get a big sin. The husband's duty is very hard. That is why I have not dared to take a wife. I still feel unable to fulfill my duty to be a husband. "

Khoja Maimun's wife was stunned by the words of Bayan. She was amazed at this bird. He is a pious bird who obeys religion. However, she felt sorry for the bird if he lived alone for too long.

"Why are you daydreaming? You do not have to worry about whether I will take a wife or not. I believe in *Allah talaala* when it is time for *Allah* to give a mate to me, of course I will marry."

"Hi, Bayan, if you have a wife, what kind of woman do you desire? Should she be beautiful, smart, and affectionate to the family?" asked the wife of Khoja Maimun curiously.

Bayan laughed at his master's question. He replied, "If I am blessed with a mate, I hope God gives me a woman who is *salihah* and loyal to her husband. Oh, yes, my lord. I have a story about a young man. Will you listen to it?" "Of course, Bayan. I'd love to hear your story about the young man. Come on, tell me quickly!" replied the wife of Khoja Maimun impatiently.

Bayan began to tell the story.

There was a young man who loved his wife very much. One day the wife was suffered by an illness. The young man was disconcerted. He went from village to village to look for medicine. However, all the drugs he brought could not cure his wife. One day his wife finally died. The man was very sad. Out of love for his wife, he did not want to part with his wife's body. For days his relatives persuaded him to immediately bury his wife, but he retained the body.

"If you want to bury my wife, bury me with her," he told his relative.

Day and night he kept waiting for his lifeless wife. His relatives continued to persuade him to release her body. However, all that was in vain. In fact, the young man said, "If you want to help me, please make me a raft and let me take my wife away from this village. So you will not see me again. I'll sail away with my wife." His relatives fulfilled his request. They together made a

raft. Once finished, the raft was handed over to the young man. The young man picked up his wife's body and put it on the raft assisted by some of his siblings. After that, the young man ran his raft out to sea. All of his relatives let him go with a sense of wonder. On the raft he was alone with his wife's body. He also did not know where to go. He just followed where the raft floated with the current. Thus, he felt that nothing else could separate him from his wife.

Several days he was thrust by the waves in the sea, he suddenly heard a voice, "Hi, young man! Do you really love your wife? If you really love your wife, will you share the rest of your life? For example, the rest of your life is 40 years. If divided by two it means that you live 20 years. And the other 20 years for your wife. Are you willing to share your life with your wife?" The young man immediately replied, "Yes, of course I want to share my age with my wife. Please help me God. Give me one more chance to live with my wife."

Soon the sound vanished and at the same time he saw his wife's body begin to move. He was very glad that his wife could live again.

He hugged and kissed his wife. His wife looked astonished at being on a raft. She asked her husband, "Hi, *Kanda*, where are we going to? My stomach is already hungry. Is there any food around here? The young man was more pleased to be able to listen again

to the voice of his wife. He rowed the raft to an island. Arriving on the island, they climbed down from their raft and toured the island for food and drink.

The island was very quiet and uninhabited. It was said, according to the story, the island was very haunted because it was only inhabited by spirits. If any human came, they just stopped by for a while. Indeed, many large ships stopped at the island. The crew members only took water for a while, then went sailing again. Both husband and wife failed to find food on the island. They kept walking until they arrived at a lake. The young man said to his wife, "*Dinda*, I do not feel strong anymore. I'm too tired and sleepy. Let me sleep first." His wife then sat down. The young man rested his head on the lap of his wife. The wife kept stroking his husband's head until the young man fell asleep. Moments later, the young man's wife was struck by the sound of the steps of people approaching them. They were the crew who would take water in the lake. The woman kept watching them without a word. The crew were the same. They all wondered why there was a woman on the island. They did not want to say hello to the woman because they did not believe it was human. They seemed to hurry to get water, then returned to the ship.

On the ship the crew reported what he had seen on the edge of the lake, "Master, we saw a beautiful woman at the edge of the lake

stroking the head of a man sleeping on his lap."The skipper asked, "Why do not you ask why they are there?"

"We are afraid, Master. We have never seen any humans on this island?"

After hearing the reports of the crew, the skipper dropped off his ship and ordered his men to come and see the woman. Arriving at the shores of the lake, he saw a woman as his men had told. He approached the woman and asked, "Excuse me! Why are you on this island? Don't you know that this island is very haunted. Nobody dares to live on this island. Who is the man sleeping in your lap?"The young man's wife replied, "We were stranded on this island and the man who slept in my lap is my husband. He was too tired and he finally fell asleep. "

The skipper thought for a moment to admire the beauty of the woman. He then said, "You'd better leave this place. Go with me. Let your husband sleep there.

I will take you around the world with my ship. If you're hungry, you can eat as much as you can because there are so many foods in the ship. "Then what about my husband?" asked the woman. The skipper said again, "Leave him on this island. He's too bad to be your husband. You are beautiful woman and should not have such an ugly husband. Come on, what are you waiting for? Go with me now."

It turned out that the faith of the young man's wife was not strong enough. She also thought that what the man said was true. Why should she wait for her husband to wake up. Without thinking, she lifted her husband's head and propped it against the rock. The woman then stood up and walked following the skipper to the ship. The woman was so heartless to leave her husband who was in deep sleep. She walked hand in hand with the skipper, then entered the ship. The skipper immediately started the ship to leave the island.

The young man woke up feeling pain in his head. He sat holding his ailing head. He turned right and left and did not see his wife. He was screaming for his wife, but there was no answer. Then he walked to the beach. On his way to the beach, he saw the footprint of many people who came to the island. Arriving on the beach, he saw a ship sailing away from the island. He guessed his wife must be on that ship. He walked back to the lake. He sat there crying his wife's name.

Two days later, there was a ship coming. Some people got off the boat. They stopped by to take water in the lake. When they arrived at the lake, they saw a young man crying by the lake. The skipper asked, "Hey, young man, why are you crying?" The young man immediately wiped his tears when he heard the voice. Then he replied, "Master, help me. My wife was taken by

someone when I was asleep. I saw a ship coming. They brought my wife."

When his men took water in the lake, the skipper tried to calm the young man's heart. He said, "Young man, come with me. We'll sail while finding the boat carrying your wife." The young man was very happy to the skipper's help. They climbed aboard the ship, then the ship moved away from the island. After sailing for several days, they arrived in the land of Hindustan. The young man saw a ship exactly as the ship he saw on the beach was pulling over at the harbor. Now both ships were in the harbor. He said to the captain, "Sir, that is the ship that brought my wife."

The skipper then ordered some of his men to look closely at the possibility of a woman in the ship. It turned out to be true, his men saw a woman on the ship and reported it to the skipper. "Well, if so, we'll report it to Syahbandar," said the skipper to the young man. The young man was escorted by the captain to the Syahbandar, and said, "My Lord Syahbandar, I came to report that my wife was taken away by the man who brought the ship." After hearing the young man's complaint, Syahbandar ordered his men to summon the ship's captain bringing the young man's wife.

Shortly thereafter, the captain came to Syahbandar, and said, "Are you calling me?" Syahbandar replied, "Yes, this young man told me that he has lost his wife. He suspects that your ship is carrying

his wife."The skipper replied, "I cannot possibly carry a man's wife. The woman in the boat with me is my wife."

"Young man, you hear it yourself, don't you? What the captain brought is his own wife, not your wife,"said Syahbandar to the young man. The young man said again, "Sir, you had better ask the captain to bring her here. Let me speak to her."Syahbandar agreed to the young man's request and said," captain, bring the woman to me tomorrow." As the day grew darker, Syahbandar told them to go home and returned the next day.

When he returned to the ship, the skipper went to see the young woman's wife, then said, "*Dinda*, I was called by Syahbandar. Apparently there's already a man who claimed to be your husband. I was accused of taking a man's wife. However, I soon replied that you are my wife. I have lied to them. This issue is not finished yet. Tomorrow morning I have to take you to Syahbandar Hall to be confronted with the man. *Dinda*, I hope you will admit that you are my wife if the Shahbandar asked you. I want our answer is the same, *Dinda*. "

The Syahbandar Hall was already crowded in the morning. Syahbandar was already in the hall early in the morning according to his promise yesterday. He wanted to solve the problem faced by the young man. He also brought with him a judge. Soon they came. The young man came with the captain who took him from the island and the skipper who brought the

young man's wife. They sat facing each other. Syahbandar began to question them one by one, "Young man, is this woman your wife?"

The young man replied, "Yes, sir, she is my wife."

Syahbandar turned to ask the woman who was taken by the ship's captain, "Are you really this young man's wife?"

The woman replied, "No, sir. I am the wife of the captain who brought me here. Really I do not know the man, sir."

"Young man, you heard yourself that the woman declared not your wife," said Syahbandar to the young man.

After that, the judge spoke up. Wisely, he told the young man to talk about everything that happened to him. Then the young man started telling the truth.

"My lord, actually, my wife, this woman has died. By the power and permission of Allah she was alive again. I have divided the remaining age of my life to her, which is 20 years. That's why she's alive again. "

Everyone present at the hall laughed. They could not believe that the dead could live again. Then the woman said, "Judge, it is obvious that this man is lying. Is there any dead person who can live again? So he just confessed to being my husband." The captain who took the young man's wife also spoke, "Judge. Do

you still believe in this young man's story? It is obvious he is lying. Is there a person's age that can be shared with others? "

The young man then prayed for guidance to *Allah taala*, "*Ya Allah*, You are the omniscient who knows your servant is in trouble. Help Your servant. Restore the age whom I have given to the woman, O God."The young man stood up and walked to his wife's seat. After confronting the woman, he said, "You, disgraceful woman! Give my age back. I'm not willing to share my age with you." The woman said, "Hey, great liar, if so, take back the age you gave me. This is not my will at all."Having said so, with the very nature of *Allah subhanahu wa taala*, the woman died instantly. Everyone present was surprised. The wise judge said, "Ladies and gentlemen, be it known that what we think is impossible, it is very possible if God has willed. Look at this woman. She is finally dead. It is true what this young man said that she had gained an additional age from her husband. It is true that the woman is the wife of this young man."

When he saw the incident, the captain carrying the young man's wife was frightened. Syahbandar said," Skipper, you have lied to us. The young man is true. You will soon receive a penalty for the sin you have committed."

According to the judge, the skipper has made two mistakes. First, he took the man's wife.

The punishment for the man who took a man's wife was that he must give up all his property. Second, he had committed adultery. The penalty for adulterers was that he should be stoned. The skipper could do nothing else. With resignation he gave up all his property including his ship to Syahbandar. He also had to surrender himself for stoning. Unable to bear the torture, the skipper died. The skipper's body was then buried and his property divided in half, some for the judge and partly given to the young man.

"That's the story of wretched woman. She was cursed by *Allah taala*," said Bayan to Khoja Maimun's wife. Khoja Maimun's wife was grateful that she was released from sin. She was very grateful to Bayan who always reminded her in the form of a story.

Finally, Khoja Maimun's wife understood why Bayan did not want a wife. Apparently a lot of women who were unfaithful and even traitorous to her husband. She thought back to repay the goodness of Bayan. Then she said, "Bayan, if you do not want me to give you a wife, I will make you my brother."

Bayan said, "My lord, to be a brother is not easy either. Many people who made a brother turned out to betray him. I also have a story about someone who is considered a brother, but he is treason. "

"You have so many stories, Bayan. Now tell me about a brother who betrayed you," said the wife of Khoja Maimun.

"Yes my lord. I will tell you one," Bayan said.

Bayan's Story About Treacherous Brother

In the land of Babylon, there was a great kingdom. The country was led by King Syahrazin Ziran. He was a kind, fair, and very wise king. He had a wife named Princess Komariah. However, the wife did not live long. She died after suffering from an illness. After his wife died, the King was very lonely. However, he was lucky to have a minister named Kiasi who was very loyal to him. Kiasi always entertained the King and gave good service to him. Finally, the King made Kiasi his brother.

One day because he felt very lonely since the death of his wife, he invited Kiasi and some ministers and *hulubalang* to hunt into the forest. Their journey took ten days. When they arrived at the forest the king saw a little deer. Apparently the deer was still suckling to its mother.

However, the parent deer was not visible near its young. The king felt sorry for the deer. Then he told Minister Kiasi to look for its parent. The king planned to keep the deer and its young.

Minister Kiasi was still looking for the parent of the deer, but for days he could not find it. Meanwhile, his journey so far away that

he no longer knew the way home. Until one day he saw a hermitage. He came to the hermitage. There he met a sheikh. The sheikh was very powerful. Kiasi knew about it, so he asked for the sheikh's supernatural power. The sheikh said, "My son, be it known to you that this power can move lives, both human life and animal life. However, the conditions are very heavy. The person who has that knowledge should have to do good to anyone as long as he lives. He cannot betray anyone else who has ever been meritorious to him. If it cannot be fulfilled, the power will disappear by itself." Minister Kiasi promised to get that knowledge and would keep his power well. The sheikh began to give the power to transfer lives to Kiasi. After he got the knowledge, Kiasi immediately excused himself. He said goodbye to continue the search for the parent deer. The sheikh allowed him, but he told Kiasi that he should stop at a country that was very far away. The land was governed by a beautiful and very generous woman. Minister Kiasi was willing to obey the sheikh's message. He walked away from the sheikh's place.

After a few days of travel, Minister Kiasi arrived at the palace referred to by the sheikh. There he met directly with Queen Komariah who led the country. After being entertained with a variety of dishes, Minister Kiasi excused himself and also asked the Queen how to soon get to Babylon. After arriving at Babylon, Minister Kiasi went directly to the King. He told all his experiences for weeks in the middle of the forest to the King.

After hearing the Minister's story, the King was very interested to meet the Sheikh and the Queen Komariah.

The next day the King and Minister Kiasi began the journey into the forest. His departure this time without escort. They just went alone. Arriving at the place of the Sheikh, Minister Kiasi conveyed the purpose of his coming with the King who wanted to also have the power of moving lives like himself. Sheikh gladly gave his knowledge to the King and explained the taboos he must obey. After a few days of living in the Sheikh's house, both of them excused themselves to the Sheikh.

They continued their journey to the palace of Queen Komariah. They were both well received by the Queen.

As soon as she looked at the King, in her heart, Queen Komariah said, "Could this be my soul mate?" Queen Komariah suddenly remembered her dream some time ago. In the dream she was in love with the King. The king was the same. When he saw the Queen Komariah, he felt very interested and wanted to make her his wife. The King then told his minister to convey his passion to the Queen. Apparently he was not let down. His wish was accepted with pleasure by Queen Komariah.

The King was introduced by Ratu Komariah to her father and mother. The queen also conveyed the purpose of the King to meet her parents to propose to her. Both the queen's parents agreed and

they wanted a wedding ceremony immediately. Furthermore, everything needed to be prepared quickly because after the wedding ceremony, the King would soon return to the land of Babylonia and brought Queen Komariah.

After a few days they arrived at Babylon. The King and Queen were greeted loudly by the ministers, *hulubalang*, and all the people. They were very happy. A few months later Queen Komariah became pregnant. He asked for sour fruits to the King. The king himself went looking for the sour fruits. When he arrived at the forest, he found a monkey's body. The king thought that with the monkey's body it would be easier to look for fruits. Then with his knowledge, he transferred his life to the body of the ape. After that, he could jump from tree to tree.

Meanwhile, in the palace the queen was very restless because the King had not yet returned from looking for sour fruit. The queen ordered Minister Kiasi to follow him to the forest. Minister Kiasi went to the forest. The first thing that he found in the forest was the body of the King. He thought whose body was the king wearing? Suddenly his bad thought came out. He transferred his life to the body of the King, then he returned to the palace. Arriving at the palace he told the Queen that he did not find the sour fruit.

Meanwhile, in the forest the king who wore monkey's body could finally find the sour fruit. However, how furious he was when he

found his body was gone. There was the body of Kiasi. The king felt betrayed by his own minister. Minister Kiasi who now used the body of the King commanded all the people of the land to look after the sheep. Every day the minister just pitted the sheep by betting. The owner of the lamb that won in battle would get half the royal treasures of gold and silver. When the lamb of his *hulubalang* lost and died, his greedy thoughts emerged.

He transferred his life to the dead sheep's body so that the sheep would always won and he got some of the royal treasures. When he saw that, the monkey king did not waste the opportunity. He quickly moved his life back to his own body. After returning to his body, the King told the wife and all the people about it. As punishment of a traitor, the minister eventually became a lamb forever because his remains was still in the forest.

"The story is finished, my lord," Bayan told Khoja Maimun's wife

Khoja Maimun's wife was very happy to hear the story. She said, "That's a good story, Bayan. If you still have another story, tell me. "

After that, there was the sound of people greeting out there. Khoja Maimun's wife knew the sound very well. She immediately moved from her chair and walked to the door. She opened the door of her house. Suddenly she said, "*Kanda!*" Khoja Maimun stood firmly behind the door. They hugged each other to release

the longing. Bayan welcomed his master, "Welcome my Lord, Khoja Maimun. *Alhamdulillah*, you are safe on the way." Khoja Maimun looked at Bayan with a smile. As usual he stroked the head of the bird and said, "Thanks to your prayers Bayan, I got a lot of luck. *Alhamdulillah*."