

DEWI JOHARMANIK
Dewi Joharmanik

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DEWI JOHARMANIK

I. Defamation

In the dark and cold night, a man was moving stealthily behind the trees of the Royal Palace of Bagdad Kingdom. Avoiding the light beam of the garden lamps, the man was quietly walking to the door of Dewi Joharmanik's room.

When he found that the door was not locked, he rushed into the room.

"Sir! What's the matter, Sir?" Dewi Joharmanik was shocked.

"I'm sorry, Dewi. I have entered your room without prior information," replied Pundit Mustaki nervously.

"What's your purpose in visiting me this midnight?" asked Dewi Joharmanik.

"Midnight is the right time to reveal my intention."

"What do you mean, Sir?"

"I have wanted to reveal this intent for a long time. However, I don't want anybody else knows about it. I just want that only Dewi will know what I want to say. I need a wife. I want you to be my wife."

"Excuse me? Am I dreaming now?"

"No! You are my idol woman."

"Sir! You should have been introspective. You are already old."

"Age will not hinder the love of a man to a woman, Dewi."

"I know! Look, Sir! You are the pundit trusted by His Royal Majesty. The royal family members and the whole people in this country have trusted you. Before we get into a problem, leave this room now. Go!"

Pundit Mustaki left the room immediately. He was very shocked by what Dewi Joharmanik had just said.

He was hurt. He threatened to take revenge. He rushed to his room.

When Pundit Mustaki had left, Dewi Joharmanik hurriedly close and lock the door. She turned around and went to bed. She slammed her body onto the bed. She buried her body under the pillow and began sobbing. She cursed Pundit Mustaki's evil desire.

In his room, Pundit Mustaki was sitting and thinking deeply. Both of his hands were holding his head. He was thinking of how to take revenge to Dewi Joharmanik's offensive refusal. Pundit Mustaki got up from his seat and walked towards the wardrobe.

He took out a piece of paper and a pen to write a letter. He was very disappointed and intended to defame Princess Dewi Joharmanik. He would send the letter to His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari. He expected that His Royal Majesty would punish Dewi Joharmanik. Pundit Mustaki was sure that His Royal Majesty would believe what he said about Dewi Joharmanik. He said to himself, "I am sure His Royal Majesty will believe me." After writing the letter, Pundit Mustaki asked a soldier to send the letter to His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari. At that time, His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari was sharing charities to the poor in Mecca. The guards and soldiers were busy assisting His Royal Majesty. One by one, all of the poor people received His Royal Majesty's charity. They appreciated His Royal Majesty's sincere effort to lift up the poor's humanity degree. They were proud that they could sit beside the royal officials.

As a leader, His Royal Majesty had never discriminated human status. They were touched with the words frequently spoken by His Royal Majesty, "In front of God the Creator, all humans are equal. What makes them different is their good deed."

In the middle of the happy moment, Pundit Mustaki's envoy approached His Royal Majesty.

"Forgive me, Your Majesty. Pundit Mustaki asked me to deliver this letter to you," said the soldier while sitting on his knees before His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari.

His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari received the letter and read it. He believed what he had read because he trusted Pundit Mustaki very much.

His Royal Majesty approached Sultan Badarusamsi, his eldest son, who was standing near him. His Royal Majesty took him away from the crowd of poor people and his guards.

"Badarusamsi, go home right away now! Kill Dewi Joharmanik!" His Royal Majesty whispered to his son in order that nobody would hear it.

"What is her guilt? Why should I do it?" Badarusamsi asked His Royal Majesty.

"It's a family matter. Nobody else may know about it."

"I'm Joharmanik's brother by blood. I have to be informed before I carry out this command!"

"Badarusamsi! Don't talk back! This is the King's order. Have you got it?" His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari affirmed without replying Badarusamsi's question. Even worse, His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari got angry.

Sultan Badarusamsi was disappointed with His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari. He felt that His Royal Majesty's personality had changed. Usually, His Royal Majesty was very wise and kind to him. He always listened to what he said. He never got angry nor

scolded him. Badarusamsi left to carry out his father's order anxiously.

II. Obedient Soldier

The situation had changed instantly. His Royal Majesty was in a depressed mood. Pundit Mustaki's evil tactics of slander worked well. Badarusamsi had to bear the consequence. He found it hard to carry out His Royal Majesty's order.

Sultan Badarusamsi walked from Mecca to Bagdad. On his long way home, he was wondering why His Royal Majesty had made such an abrupt decision. It was a wrong decision of both a father and a king. It would be sinful for a father to kill his own daughter. It would be faulty for a father to make a decision without any factual confirmation and clarification.

It would be despicable for Badarusamsi as a loyal soldier to oppress a woman or weak person. It would be hard for him to kill his own sister by blood. However, he had to obey the king's order. It put him in a dilemma. On the one hand, he put the blame on His Royal Majesty, and on the other hand, he blamed himself.

After a long journey, Badarusamsi finally arrived in Bagdad. He stopped for a while. He was doubtful with what he would have to do.

As a devout man, he begged enlightenment and guidance from the

Almighty God. Sultan Badarusamsi stood up with his face uplifted. He looked up the sky and went his journey while passing a prayer.

"Oh my God, bless me with your enlightenment and keep me away from some despicable act. Forgive His Royal Majesty's sins and keep His Royal Majesty persistently wise. Oh my God, save my mother and sister. Whatever happens to them, it always relies on your wish."

Badarusamsi accelerated his pace.

Finally, he arrived at the palace gate of Bagdad Kingdom. He took the back way to the royal castle. He expected that no guard would see him coming.

"Mom," said Badarusamsi while hugging his mother.

"Are you returning alone?"

"Yes, Mom. Father asked me to return immediately."

"How is your father?"

"He's fine, Mom. Father is fine. Where is my sister Dewi?"

"Your sister is in her room. See her now. She will be very happy to see you."

Sultan Badarusamsi immediately went to Dewi Joharmanik's

room. When he arrived at the front door, he halted. He remembered his father's order. He took the blade out its case in his waist.

."Can I do it? This is impossible! This is just crazy!" Badarusamsi screamed quietly.

He sought to calm down. Before he executed the task, Badarusamsi wanted to know his sister's guilt in advance. He did not want to regret what he would have done for all of his life. He kept wondering what guilt his sister had so that His Royal Majesty was so infuriated and punished her severely. The people knew His Royal Majesty as a wise, merciful, and loving man. However, to his own daughter, His Royal Majesty was so despicable.

"Brother, why don't just get in?" called Dewi Joharmanik while holding the hand of Badarusamsi who was standing still in front of his room.

"I thought you were sleeping," replied Badarusamsi somewhat nervously.

"Brother, I miss you very much. How was your journey to Mecca? There must be many beautiful places, right?"

"Sister, my only sister. Sweetie, I love and miss you so much."

"Come on; get in the room, my brother. Take a bath, change your

cloth, and tell me your experience in Mecca."

In the bathroom, Badarusamsi was languid. After meeting his sister, Dewi Joharmanik, he got even more anxious. His sister's words sounded so sweet. He did not see any sign or clue that his sister had done wrong.

Badarusamsi was even more hesitated to carry out his father's order. After taking a bath, Badarusamsi passed prayer to God to beg His blessing and enlightenment. Then he got out seeing his sister.

Sultan Badarusamsi fulfilled the request of his sister. He told his experience when he accompanied his father to perform Hajj pilgrimage and his whole journey from Bagdad to Mecca. Dewi Joharmanik listened to his brother's story carefully.

After serving some food and drink, the maids were invited to join them in the room. The condition got even livelier. Sometimes they broke into laughter. Dewi Joharmanik was impressed with her brother's experience.

When the night was already late, one by one the maids left the room. Only Dewi Joharmanik and Badarusamsi were in the room. Dewi Joharmanik began to feel sleepy. Badarusamsi ignored it. He went on telling the story. Not long after that, Dewi Joharmanik fell asleep soundly in her chair. Her neck was somewhat hanging back.

"It's the high time!" said Badarusamsi.

Sultan Badarusamsi got up from his seat. He walked into the room to take his sword. Soon after that, Badarusamsi got out of the room with a sword unleashed on his hand.

The light flashed out of the sword. However, suddenly, Badarusamsi's body trembled. His body perspired all over. He found it hard to hold his sword. He failed to lift the sword either. Finally, Badarusamsi cancelled his intent to carry out his father's order. He felt that God the Almighty had blessed him with enlightenment. He contemplated for a while to find out the best way to assure His Royal Majesty that he had accomplished the task assigned to him. He also thought of how Dewi Joharmanik would understand why he had come there.

Badarusamsi suddenly remembered Dewi Joharmanik's beloved deer. He decided to kill the deer in place of his sister. Badarusamsi would show the blood on the sword to prove that he had carried out his father's order. By slaughtering the deer, Dewi Joharmanik would understand that he was assigned by His Royal Majesty to kill her.

Sultan Badarusamsi executed his plan immediately. He approached the deer cage and took his sister's beloved deer to be slaughtered. Then, he put the slaughtered deer near Dewi Joharmanik who was sleeping soundly at that time.

The deer's blood was flooding the floor. Seeing that his sister was stretching her body, Sultan Badarusamsi run out of the room.

How shocked Dewi Joharmanik was to see that her beloved deer had been killed!

He looked around the room to find her brother who had accompanied her before she fell asleep. He thought for a while. Finally, she understood the intention of Badarusamsi's coming there

Dewi Joharmanik knew that her brother loved her very much and did not have the heart to kill his sister. That's why Badarusamsi killed her beloved deer. When she realized what had happened to her, Dewi Joharmanik screamed.

"Help, help!"

Hearing the Princess screaming, the maids got out of their room. They run to Dewi Joharmanik's room. When they got there, the maid was shocked to find a bloody deer near Dewi Joharmanik.

"Aunty, Aunty!"

Dewi Joharmanik's beloved maid hugged her right away. Other maids stood in tremble seeing the blood flooding the floor. One of them run to the Queen's room to inform what had happened in the room of the Princess.

"Mom!" Dewi Joharmanik released the maid's hug and abruptly hugged her mother tightly.

"Be resolute, Dear!" the Queen consoled her while softly tapping her daughter's back.

"Forgive me, Mom. I should have informed you about an incidence several days ago before the occurrence of this incident."

"What's going on, dear? Tell me immediately!" the Queen asked her while hugging her even tighter.

"Pundit Mustaki, Mom."

"Why? What's the matter with Pundit Mustaki?"

"Several days ago, Pundit Mustaki entered my room. He came in the midnight. I declined his request to become his wife. Brother came here before Father. It must be related to Pundit Mustaki."

"Really, Dear?"

"Right, Mom! Brother came to carry out father's order. Since Brother loves me, he killed the deer."

"Now, I have got it. It's already late at night. It's improper if we are making a noise. Lets' take a rest. Tomorrow morning we will resolve this problem."

Nobody declined the Queen's request. Everybody went back to

their own room. So did Dewi Joharmanik.

Considering what she had just experienced that night Dewi Joharmanik decided to leave the royal castle as soon as possible.

"Everybody has to know, I don't like what Father and Brother would have done to me," she declared quietly.

III. Leaving the Palace

Knowing that Dewi Joharmanik had left the castle, the whole residents of the castle were in an uproar.

"Maid, why are you sobbing?" the Queen nervously asked when she saw the maid got into her room sobbing.

"Forgive me, Your Royal Majesty. Dewi Joharmanik had left."

"Left?"

"Right, Your Royal Majesty!"

The Queen did not believe in what she heard from the maid. She hurriedly rushed to Dewi Joharmanik's room to confirm. Only after reaching her daughter's room did the Queen believe that her daughter had left.

Quietly, she cursed what Pundit Mustaki had done.

"Maid, get Pundit Mustaki!"

The maid asked other maids to go to Pundit Mustaki's room. They equally got mad at Pundit Mustaki.

When they arrived at Pundit Mustaki's room, the maid did not find him. They hurriedly reported to the Queen.

"Pundit Mustaki is not in his room. He has left."

"Left?"

"Right, My Queen. His room is unoccupied."

"We have to report this to His Royal Majesty. Call two soldiers!"

The maid left and called the Queen's trusted soldiers. After the maid left, the Queen entered the room to write a letter. The letter described what had happened in the royal castle. Not long after that, the Queen's trusted soldiers appeared.

"Soldiers, send this letter to His Royal Majesty. This is a very confidential and important letter. Don't let anybody know about it."

"As you wish, Your Royal Majesty!" the two soldiers said while sitting on knees in front of the Queen.

"Leave now," the Queen instructed and gave the letter to the soldiers.

The two soldiers stood up and gave respect. Then they left the

royal castle. The Queen returned to her room. She was worried about the safety of her daughter who had gone somewhere.

She was very proud of her only daughter, Dewi Joharmanik. Not only was she beautiful, but she was also courageous.

She had a number of superior qualities when compared to other girls of her age. She was a sweet, polite, and charismatic girl. She had pearl-like white and bright teeth. Besides, she also mastered a high level of martial arts. Many boys fell in love with her. However, they were afraid of merely teasing her. It seems that the superior qualities had made Pundit Mustaki crazy about her.

Meanwhile, His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari just returned from his visit to Medina. In his father's resort, Sultan Badarusamsi had waited for a quite long time. Seeing that his son had arrived, His Royal Majesty approached him immediately.

"Have you waited long?" His Royal Majesty said and hugged Badarusamsi.

"Not really."

"How is your mother?"

"She is fine."

"How about your task? Did you do it successfully?"

"With your blessing, Dad. It was successful."

"You are the right person to accomplish the task, Son."

While His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari was just beginning a conversation with Sultan Badarusamsi, two Queen's soldiers showed. His Royal Majesty and Badarusamsi were surprised to see the Queen's trusted soldiers. The two men looked at each other suspiciously.

"Excuse me, Your Royal Majesty. We are instructed by the Queen to send this letter to you," said one of the soldiers while sitting on his knees before His Royal Majesty.

"A letter?" asked His Royal Majesty. He read the letter. Sultan Badarusamsi was worried that his father would soon recognize that he had lied.

After understanding the letter, His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari was shocked temporarily. He looked at Badarusamsi. He knew that Badarusamsi had lied.

However, his sudden intention to scold his son was cancelled. He gave the letter to Badarusamsi in order that he would understand how he was feeling. After reading the letter, Badarusamsi thanked God for having saved him and her sister. His Royal Majesty immediately thought of Pundit Mustaki and so did Badarusamsi. Quietly, they cursed what Pundit Mustaki had done.

Finally, His Royal Majesty called Ki Patih Sadardara and other officials.

"Ki Patih! Collect all officials and soldiers. We are returning to Bagdad."

"All right, Your Royal Majesty."

Ki Patih Sadardara gave a sign to all officials and soldiers to gather. They obeyed the order, packed up their stuff, and prepared some logistics for their way home to Bagdad. The logistic preparation was accomplished soon. Badarusamsi gave a sign that the journey would begin soon. Accompanied by Badrulsamsi, His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari walked ahead. Ki Patih Sadardara and the officials and soldiers walked behind them. They walked in a long line.

The situation during the return journey was different from the journey when they left for Mecca. His Royal Majesty was depressed. Pundit Mustaki's face disturbingly appeared in their minds. At the royal castle, the Queen was equally depressed. She never left her room and kept praying for the safety of her daughter. The maids were sad that Dewi Joharmanik had left. They were devoted to passing prayer. Due to their devoted prayer, they did not hear a soldier coming hurriedly and reporting that His Royal Majesty and his team had arrived. "Tell the Queen, His Royal Majesty and the officials had arrived," said the soldier to a

maid.

"All right," the maid replied and soon went to report to the Queen.

"His Royal Majesty has arrived, Your Royal Majesty." The Queen stood up and got out of her room. When seeing his wife, His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari approached her.

"Kanda!" the Queen hugged her husband firmly. Her tears dropped over her cheek.

"Be resolute. This may be the destiny of our family. We have to be devoted," said His Royal Majesty while softly tapping his wife's back.

"Forgive me! This seems to result from my careless decision. We have trusted Pundit Mustaki. Now we are mentally depressed. Our daughter is physically and mentally distressed."

"My dear wife, don't worry. God still protects us."

"What about Dewi's fate, my dear wife?" asked the Queen while sobbing.

"Be patient, my dear wife. Let's do our best. We ask for God's blessing for the safety of our daughter."

"We have to find her."

"Right! I'll call Ki Patih Sadardara. Let Ki Patih deploy all people

to find her. We'll make a contest."

"I agree with you, my dear wife," the Queen said.

"Ki Patih, come here. Share charity to all people of Bagdad. Announce to them that His Royal Majesty is making a contest. Anybody who can find Dewi Joharmanik will be awarded a great prize."

"All right, Your Royal Majesty. I'll do it soon."

Ki Patih Sadardara instructed the officials to deploy the soldiers to share charities to the people. The soldiers were mobilized to go throughout the country.

The people throughout the country received charities from His Royal Majesty. Hearing the announcement about the contest, the people were enthusiastically responded. They wished that they could find Dewi Joharmanik and got a great prize from His Royal Majesty Sultan. The people dispersed in groups. Some of them went to the forest and some others to people's residential areas.

Meanwhile, at the royal castle His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari, the Queen, and Sultan Badarusamsi were conducting a ritual ceremony. The maids were busy preparing the ceremony. They passed prayer.

They glorified God the Creator and expected that God would answer their prayer to constantly protect the Princess of His

Royal Majesty, Dewi Joharmanik.

IV. Meeting Prince Sefurijal

Since she left the royal castle, Dewi Joharmanik became more resolute. She had carefully taken the necessary consideration before she decided to leave the castle. She left with a total devotion to God the Creator. That's why she was constantly stiff in anticipating unexpected incidences. In the middle of the jungle, she decided to correct what her father and brother had wrongly done.

During her stay in the jungle, Dewi Joharmanik had undergone a number of miraculous incidents. She was protected by some wild animals that would attack anybody who intentionally disturbed her. It was a miracle that the wild animals had a close friendship with Dewi Joharmanik. Sometimes, Dewi Joharmanik had fun with apes.

In the jungle, Dewi Joharmanik lived under a large-trunked gurda tree. Below the tree, water flew incessantly. Various kinds of apes, birds, and wild animals lived around the gurda tree. Dewi Joharmanik was very amused with their voice. In that isolated place, she had a deep devotion to God the Creator. She constantly begged for enlightenment that her aspiration would come true someday.

At the nearby place, Sultan Sefurijal Sayidin Panata Agama and

his guard soldiers just arrived. The Sultan of Syria went to the jungle for hunting animals and consoling his sorrow.

He had not hunted even a single animal when Sultan Sefurijal was surprised to see a beautiful woman sitting under a gurda tree.
"Uncle, come here!"

"All right, Sultan! What's the matter?"

"Look at that girl under the tree."

"Sultan! It must be a fairy. What a beautiful woman!" the guard commented with his eyes wide opened. He was startled to see a beautiful woman sitting alone in the jungle.

"Please, Uncle. Go to the girl. Ask her name and origin."

"All right, Sultan!" the guard replied and left hurriedly.

When he took a few steps ahead, suddenly tens of apes stood against him. The apes screamed calling their many more friends. In a while, there were many more apes. The apes grinned and were about to attack Sultan Sefurijal's guard. The guard' whole body trembled.

"Guys! Don't disturb him!" Dewi Joharmanik requested the apes not to attack him.

In response to the request, the apes left the guard. They climbed

up and perched on the branches of the gurda tree.

"Thank you, Princess," the guard said while crawling towards Dewi Joharmanik.

"Excuse me, Princess. Are you a fairy or a royal princess? If you don't mind, I want to know who you are and where are you from?" the guard said while holding his trembling knees.

"I am Dewi Joharmanik. I am from Bagdad."

"So you are the Princess of Bagdad King. Why are you in this jungle?"

"Right. I am a Royal Princess. It's a long story that I am here. In brief, I just want to calm down my mind. If you don't mind, tell me who you are and where you are from." Dewi Joharmanik asked back.

"I am the guard of Sultan Sefurijal from Syria. We come here for hunting while consoling Sultan's sorrow."

"Consoling Sultan?" asked Dewi Joharmanik curiously.

"Right, Princess. The family of Sultan has mourned recently. Sultan's father had passed away."

"I'm sorry to hear that. Excuse me; it seems that you and Sultan need a thirst quencher. Take this!"

Dewi Joharmanik handed out a jug containing some drinking water.

"Thank you. In case Sultan wants to meet you, would you kindly meet Sultan?"

"Take Sultan here! If he doesn't mind with this messy place, of course!"

The guard left while looking up the apes hanging over the gurda tree. Dewi Joharmanik smiled to see that the guard was still scared.

"Don't be scared. The apes won't disturb you. Trust me!"

The guard slowly approached Sultan Sefurijal. His right hand was holding a drinking water jug. When he got close to Sultan, the guard handed out the jug to him.

"Have a drink, Sultan. The Princess gave us this."

"The Princess gave us? What's her name, Uncle?"

"Her name is Dewi Joharmanik!"

"Where does she come from?" asked Sultan curiously.

"She comes from Bagdad. She is the daughter of Bagdad King."

Sultan Sefurijal drank the water from the jug. Then he gave the

jug to his guard.

They drank the water from the jug alternately.

"It tastes different, doesn't it?"

The guards did not reply. They laughed. In their heart, they agreed with what their master had said.

"What are you laughing at? I think it tastes different. Is it because I fall in love with that girl?"

Hearing what Sultan had said, they just laughed. Sultan laughed too.

"Sultan, what you just said is right. We are happy too. The Princess has agreed to welcome you, Sultan. Please meet her. We will just wait here."

When Sultan Sefurijal walked to her, Dewi Joharmanik felt awkward.

In Bagdad, Dewi Joharmanik had never seen such a handsome young man as Sultan Sefurijal. He had nice eyebrows, whiskers, moustache, and tidy long beards.

He had light skin and wavy black hair. His posture was well built, tall, and not too big. His steps were sturdy. Although he had superior qualities, Sultan Sefurijal had no wife yet. When they got

close to each other, Sultan Sefurijal equally felt awkward. He had never seen such a beautiful girl in his country as Dewi Joharmanik.

"Welcome, Sir!" Dewi Joharmanik said awkwardly.

"Thank you for allowing me to drop in your place, Princess," replied Sultan Sefurijal nervously.

Although they had greeted each other, the two did not dare to look at each other. Dewi Joharmanik bowed her head while playing with her fingers.

Sultan Sefurijal looked at Dewi Joharmanik's hands. When they raised their face, they looked at each other.

They were embarrassed. Finally, Sultan Sefurijal managed to control the condition more quickly.

"Excuse me; may I have a question, Princess?"

"Sure! Of course."

"Why are you here in this jungle?"

"It's a long story. This is my family secret. Later if you wish, you'll find it."

"All right! If you don't mind, I hope you are willing ...," Sultan halted his words.

"Willing for what? I don't understand what you mean?"

"Will you marry me?"

"Hem ... yes, I will. On conditions, you have no wife yet."

"I have no wife yet," Sultan Sefurijal replied while holding Dewi Joharmanik's hands.

"If so, please be prepared! I'll bring you to Syria. I'll marry you and make you the consort queen."

Sultan Sefurijal called the guards to get closer. The guards approached immediately. They stood beside Sultan ready for the next order.

"Bring this cloth and the equipment. Don't leave the jug," Sultan Sefurijal instructed his guards.

"All right, Sultan."

"Now you two leave earlier. Tell Mom to prepare our wedding ceremony. You two help Mom arrange the whole procession."

"All right, Sultan."

"The others will leave with us."

The two soldiers gave respect and took leave to Sultan and his prospective wife. Sultan Sefurijal and Dewi Joharmanik as well

as their guards walked slowly and left the place.

Apes, gibbon, and long-tailed monkeys followed them. The animals jumped up and down.

Some of the apes run to touch Dewi Joharmanik's hands.

Sultan Sefurijal smiled to see the apes' behaviour.

Meanwhile, in Syria, the Queen Mother was expecting the coming of Sultan Sefurijal from his hunting in the jungle. In the palace, a number of maids accompanied the Queen Mother. They were preparing Sultan's favourite foods and drinks.

The two envoys of Sultan Sefurijal had entered the palace yard. They went directly to the palace. A maid who was sweeping the floor was annoyed with the coming of the two soldiers.

"I'm sorry. I have to appear before Her Royal Majesty."

"What have you got in the hunting?" the maid blocked their way.

"Come on. Don't disturb us. It's very urgent!"

"No way!"

Hearing the noise at the palace yard, the Queen Mother got out of the room. She smiled to see her servants having a joke with the guards. When they saw that the Queen Mother arrived, they smiled awkwardly and sat on their knees in front of her.

"Excuse me, My Lady. This maid had disturbed us."

"No way, My Lady. I didn't disturb them."

"Oh come on! Why have you both returned earlier?" asked the Queen Mother.

"Sultan Sefurizal asked us to send his message to you Madam."

"What message? Tell me immediately!"

"Sultan Sefurijal asked you to prepare his wedding ceremony."

"Do you mean it? He went to the jungle for hunting, and now he is going home with a woman. Where does the woman come from?"

"Excuse me, My Lady. Her name is Dewi Joharmanik from Bagdad."

The Queen was startled. She was imagining her prospective daughter in law could be a poor woman who had to live in the jungle. She could be ugly, and was the daughter of parents with unknown status.

"Excuse me, My Lady. Your prospective daughter in law is very beautiful. In Syria no woman can compare her beauty," the soldier described the girl as if he knew what the Queen Mother was thinking.

"Really?"

"Yes, My Lady," assured the soldier.

"All right then. To accomplish the preparation as soon as possible, tell Ki Patih Dawilkasut to involve all officials for help."

"Prepare some envoys to send the invitation to the kings of the neighbouring countries."

"All right, My Lady."

The two soldiers left immediately to accomplish their task. Accompanied by the maids, the Queen Mother returned to her room. When she was walking to her room, the Queen instructed the maids to prepare special food and drink for the guests.

V. Becoming the Queen of Sultan Sefurijal

Sultan Sefurijal and Dewi Joharmanik had arrived in town. The people had crowded at nearly all intersections. They expected to see the coming of Sultan Sefurijal and his companions. Two elephants for Sultan Sefurijal and Dewi Joharmanik had been decorated and ornamented. When they saw that the party of Sultan had arrived, two soldiers released the elephants' reins and brought them to Sultan.

Meanwhile, at the palace, the Queen Mother, Ki Patih Dawilkasut, and the officials were expecting Sultan Sefurijal. The

soldiers seemed to be well prepared.

Sultan and Dewi Joharmanik had arrived in front of the palace. A soldier rushed to the palace. He told Ki Patih that Sultan had arrived. Ki Patih immediately arranged the meeting of the Queen Mother and the Sultan along with her prospective daughter-in-law.

"Mom!" Sultan Sefurijal called and hugged the Queen.

The Queen reciprocally hugged her son. Dewi Joharmanik who was standing beside Sultan was emotionally affected. She was startled to realize that the figure of the Queen just looked like her own mother.

"Mom, this is Dewi Joharmanik, the Princess of Bagdad King. I would like to marry her. We both ask for your blessing."

"My Dear Son, I am happily blessing you."

"Thank you, Mom."

"Ki Patih, take my son to the room already prepared. Let them take a rest. As we have planned, tomorrow morning when everything has been prepared and they have been made up, the wedding ceremony will be held in the midday. The feast and entertainments will commence after the wedding ceremony."

On the next day, the royal square was full of people. They came

from all directions. Old and young males and females wanted to watch the wedding ceremony of Sultan Sefurijal Sayidin Panata Agama and Dewi Joharmanik. The hall was also full of guests. The guests came from such various levels as the kings of the neighbouring countries, intellectuals, religious leaders, and social figures.

The guests were picked up by the best artistically decorated elephants and horses. They were entertained well in Syria. They were expecting the moments when the bride and bridegroom entered the hall where the wedding ceremony of Sultan Sefurijal and Dewi Joharmanik would be held.

A moment later, the bridal couple entered the hall. They walked slowly. A number of teenage boys and girls served as the bridesmaids locally named pagar bagus and pagar ayu respectively. Everybody attending the wedding ceremony in the hall was charmed with the bridal couple. They represented a perfect couple. The bride was a handsome and tough man, while the bridegroom was elegant, beautiful, and charming.

The situation was already quiet and the wedding ceremony would start soon. A number of royal officials and public figures served as the witnesses of the wedding. The event led by a religious leader in the country run well. When the program had finished, the bridal couple sat at the bridal dais. They looked very happy. Accompanied by the wives of the royal officials and public

figures, the Queen Mother was happy too.

Dewi Joharmanik's tears dropped due to happiness.

She was sad because at that happy moment, her parents and brother were not present.

At the hall, the event went on with an informal and friendly meeting. At the royal square, they enjoyed the served food and drink. Music sounded melodiously in that event. The situation and condition became very festive. The party would last for seven days and nights.

All people in Syria took part in the whole series of the party. The painting artists from all over the country took part in the happy event. They planned to put the pictures of the bridal couple in the royal square.

On the second day of the wedding ceremony, Dewi Joharmanik looked unhappy. She missed her parents and wanted to go back to Bagdad. Since the first day of the procession, she had not seen her parents and brother. She had not seen the officials of Bagdad either. She met none of them. She was reluctant to talk about it with her husband. When Sultan Sefurijal realized that his wife was unusually sad, he asked.

"What's troubling you, dear? It seems that you are disappointed with the absence of your parents in our wedding ceremony."

"No, Dear. I just want my parents to know that we have got married."

"Be patient, dear. We wait for them in one or two days. My mother has sent an invitation card to all neighbouring countries. They will surely come."

"Really?" Dewi Joharmanik asked curiously.

Quietly she kept praying to God that her father and her mother would fulfil the Queen Mother's invitation.

"Be Patient, Dear. I'll ask Ki Patih Dawilkasut to ensure that the invitation has reached Bagdad."

"Thank you, dear."

VI. Good News

Several days had passed and the wedding ceremony of Sultan Sefurijal and Dewi Joharmanik would come to the end. None of Dewi Joharmanik's family members arrived. Meanwhile, in Bagdad, His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari was arranging a meeting with his officials. Sultan Badarusamsi was present at the meeting too. They were discussing the fact that Dewi Joharmanik had left. Everybody had searched her, but nobody could find Dewi Joharmanik.

That's why His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari was desperate. His

Royal Majesty asked some other people to keep looking for her.

"Ki Patih Sadardara, ask all officials and soldiers to search Dewi Joharmanik. Search her throughout of the country. Leave now!"

"Excuse me, Dad. I'll go and search my sister Dewi Joharmanik too. I have hurt her. I promise that I'll never return unless I can find her. I'm expecting your blessing, Dad, and Mom," Sultan Badarusamsi kissed the hands of his parents and left to search his sister.

"Leave now, Son! We bless you. Hopefully, God will always protect you."

One day after Sultan Badarusamsi, the officials and the soldiers left Bagdad, Patih Dawilkasut appeared before His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari.

"Welcome, Sir! Who are you and where are you from?"

"Excuse me, Your Royal Majesty! I am Patih Dawilkasut from Syria."

"Why are you coming here? Are you ordered by the King or are you coming at your own will?" His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari asked.

"Your Royal Majesty, I come here because Sultan Sefurijal from Syria asked me to send the wedding ceremony invitation."

"To whom is Sultan Sefurijal married? Who is the lucky woman?" His Royal Majesty asked curiously.

"Excuse me, Your Royal Majesty! Sultan is married to Dewi Joharmanik. Is it right that Dewi Joharmanik is your daughter?"

"Oh, absolutely right, Sir! We have been looking for her desperately. She left the palace and we don't know where to find her. We have waited for this good news for a very long time."

When he heard that his daughter had become the Queen of Sultan Sefurijal, His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari was relieved. The maids of the kingdom were happy too when they heard the good news. His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari's eyes turned bright. His prayers were answered and his expectation to find his daughter who had left Bagdad had finally come true. His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari was proud when he knew that his son in law was Sultan Sefurijal who had been famous for his friendliness.

"Sir, would you tell me where Sultan Sefurijal found my daughter, Joharmanik?" His Royal Majesty asked enthusiastically.

"All right, Your Royal Majesty. Sultan Sefurijal met Dewi Joharmanik in the jungle when he was going hunting.

Dewi Joharmanik lived with some wild animals. However, the wild animals obeyed Dewi Joharmanik's instruction."

His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari was startled to hear what Ki

Patih Dawilkasut had said. He was proud and sad at once to hear how his only daughter had to live with wild animals in the jungle.

His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari shook his head regretting the decision that he had made. He had trusted Pundit Mustaki blindly.

"Excuse me, Your Royal Majesty. We have to leave immediately. This is a souvenir from Sultan Sefurijal and Dewi Joharmanik. Allow me to leave and go on distributing these invitation letters and good news."

"Thank you, Sir. I am happily receiving this invitation letter and souvenir. May you be safe during your journey!"

A few moments later, His Royal Majesty instructed a maid to call the Queen. The maid hurriedly rushed to the Queen's room.

"Are you calling me?" the Queen asked His Royal Majesty.

"What news are you going to tell me?"

"Good news or bad news?"

"Good news, Dear. Our daughter, Dewi Joharmanik, has been found. She lives in Syria now. She is married to the Sultan of Syria, Sultan Sefurijal."

"God had answered our prayers, dear," the Queen said while hugging her husband. Her tears dropped onto His Royal Majesty's

shoulder. The good news relieved their anxiety so far.

"Thank God. Our daughter is under your protection."

"When will we leave for Syria to meet Dewi Joharmanik and her husband?" the Queen asked curiously.

"Call Ki Patih Sadardara. Ask Ki Patih Sadardara to share the news to Sultan Badarusamsi, officials, and soldiers. Tell them to return. Tell also the servants to prepare the required equipment to attend the wedding ceremony of Dewi Joharmanik and Sultan Sefurijal," His Royal Majesty instructed the soldiers near him.

The soldier hurriedly did the task. The news spread throughout the palace. Instantly, the palace became noisy. The servants of Bagdad collaboratively prepare what His Royal Majesty had requested. At the same time, Ki Patih Sadardara appeared before His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari.

"Excuse me, Your Royal Majesty. I don't know where Sultan Badarusamsi is. He left the group and entered the jungle alone."

"How persevering my son is. He perseveringly wants to find his sister. May God always strengthens and protects him," His Royal Majesty said while lifting his both hand-palms praying to the Almighty.

VII. Happy Family

Dewi Joharmanik looked unhappy. Ki Patih Dawilkasut who was ordered to deliver the invitation letter to Bagdad had not returned yet. Dewi Joharmanik thought he did not find her family members in the palace because they were out there looking for her. When she remembered the incident that night, Dewi Joharmanik got unhappier.

"Dear, Ki Patih Dawilkasut has not returned. Has he met my family?" Dewi Joharmanik asked anxiously.

"Be Patient, Dear. Let's pray that your parents and brother hear the news of our marriage, dear." Sultan Sefurijal persuaded her.

Knowing that his wife was very anxious, Sultan Sefurijal took an action immediately. He summoned an official.

"Ask all painting artists to draw the face of Dewi Joharmanik. Put the pictures in each village entrance. Deploy the soldiers to keep the pictures. Bring anybody who can recognize her face to me," It was another way that Sultan Sefurijal took to ensure that her wife's face was recognized.

"As you wish, Sultan," the soldier rushed to the place where the painting artists had been gathered.

On the next day, the picture of Dewi Joharmanik had been spread to all village gates. Two soldiers guarded at each village entrance

while watching the people who passed by the village.

In a village, an old man in pundit cloth showed up. When he saw the picture, he uttered, "Oh, Dear! Why is the picture of you is put here? I suffered constantly looking for you, Dear?"

Hearing to what the old man had said, without asking a question, the guarding soldier took the pundit to the palace. The soldier reported what he had heard to Sultan Sefurijal.

"Put this man into the room. Prepare some meals and clothes for him. Let him take a rest," Sultan Sefurijal gave an order.

The soldier took leave and did what Sultan had instructed. The old man in pundit cloth was taken to the room specially prepared for him.

A few moments later, in another village, a man in a kingly dress arrived.

After looking at the picture, the man approached and said, "Dear, finally I find you. I've been looking for you for a long time. Forgive me!"

Upon hearing what the man had said, a soldier asked.

"Excuse me, Sir! It seems that you know the woman in this picture. Who are you really, Sir?"

"I'm Sultan Badarusamsi from Bagdad. I come here to search my sister. The picture looks like my sister."

The guard immediately reported the presence of Sultan Badarusamsi to Sultan Sefurijal. Upon hearing the report, Sultan was very happy.

He would immediately have the opportunity to meet the family of Dewi Joharmanik.

"Soldier, take sultan into the palace. Prepare a room, meals, and clothes."

At nearly the same time, His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari and the Queen, as well as the accompanying party, entered the royal square of Syria. They were astonished to find the picture of Dewi Joharmanik at all villages' entrances along their way.

"Dear, that's the picture of Dewi Joharmanik. How great Sultan Sefurijal's love to her was so that he put the picture of his wife in all villages' entrances," His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari said. "It's a miracle. Dewi has met a loving husband," the Queen replied her husband with bright eyes. She felt very happy to meet Dewi Joharmanik, her daughter, immediately.

When a soldier saw the arrival of His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari, he rushed to the palace and reported to Sultan

Sefurijal.

"Excuse me, Sultan! I see the party of a neighbouring kingdom has arrived at the royal square," the soldier hurriedly.

"Do you know where the party comes from?"

"I'm sorry, Sultan! I didn't even ask. They ride decorated horses and elephants."

Hearing the news, Sultan Sefurijal immediately summoned the officials. He rode a horse and rushed to meet the guests while the officials and soldiers followed him.

"Welcome to Syria, Sir. May I know who you are and where you come from?" Sultan Sefurijal asked while holding the horse reins.

"I'm sorry, Your Royal Majesty! We come here too exaggerative. I'm Sultan Badrulkamari. This is my queen and these are the officials, soldiers, and people of Bagdad," His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari explained.

Knowing who was coming, Sultan Sefurijal was startled and said no word at all. He just stood still. He did not expect that Ki Patih Dawilkasut had sent the invitation letter to Bagdad. Finally, he managed to control his emotion.

"Forgive me, Your Royal Majesty! Forgive us for the inappropriate welcome. I'm Sultan Sefurijal," Sultan Sefurijal

hesitated to go on his words.

"That's all right, Son, we come here to see you and Dewi Joharmanik happy," His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari knew how Sultan Sefurijal was shocked to welcome the unexpected visit.

His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari approached Sultan Sefurijal and hugged him. Sultan Sefurijal was very happy with the visit.

Then he brought His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari into the palace. He immediately instructed an official to inform Dewi Joharmanik and prepare a special menu.

The Queen Mother and Sultan Sefurijal welcomed His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari at the royal palace hall. Dewi Joharmanik was standing beside her husband, sobbing. She was very happy that her family comes to see her.

"Forgive us, your father and your mother Dewi Joharmanik! I should have not blindly trusted what Pundit Mustaki had said. Forgive me, dear!" His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari said while hugging Dewi Joharmanik firmly.

"That's all right, Dad. Forget the past inconvenient events. What matters now is that we can be together again," Dewi Joharmanik said.

"Your brother, Badarusamsi, has not returned. He is looking for you. He has a firm decision that he will not return until he had

met you."

"I know, Dad. I know how he feels. He must be feeling guilty."

The happy encounter suddenly turned into an anxiety. They had not found Sultan Badarusamsi since the envoy of Syria, Ki Patih Dawilkasut, arrived and gave the souvenir and invitation letter.

"Excuse me, Your Royal Majesty!" Sultan Sefurijal interrupted their conversation.

"A few moments ago, we found two men who claimed that they knew Dewi Joharmanik."

"Soldier, bring the two men to the hall! "Sultan Sefurijal immediately instructed his soldier.

"All right, Sultan."

The soldier hurriedly paged the two men who claimed to know Dewi Joharmanik. Not long after that, the two men were already in front of Sultan Sefurijal and His Royal Majesty Badrulkamari.

"Pundit Mustaki! Badarusamsi!" His Royal Majesty called in a surprise.

"Do you know these two men?" Sultan Sefurijal asked in curiosity.

"Yes. The old man has caused Dewi Joharmanik left Bagdad. He

defamed Dewi Joharmanik by deceitfully claiming that she had treated him indecently and improperly and thus, she had degraded her own nobility and the family glory. It's apparent that I'm wrong. This old man is insolent. Hey, Pundit Mustaki, from now on I don't want to see you in Bagdad anymore. Go away and never return to Bagdad for good," His Royal Majesty scolded Pundit Mustaki furiously.

"What about this man, Your Royal Majesty?" Sultan Sefurijal pointed to another man.

"This is my son, Sultan Badarusamsi. He has not returned to Bagdad since he left to find his sister," said His Royal Majesty Sultan Badrulkamari.

"Come here, Son. Our perseverance and patience have led to good results. God has forgiven our carelessness. We are now gathered in this happy moment," His Royal Majesty approached and hugged his son.

The perseverance of Dewi Joharmanik in living the hard life had resulted in the happiness. The happiness was not only felt by Dewi Joharmanik, but it was also felt by her father, her mother, her husband, and her brother.