

**MISTER BELALANG**  
*Pak Belalang*

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## **MISTER BELALANG**

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# Pak Belalang



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## **Pak Belalang**

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### **Hak Cipta Dilindungi Undang-Undang**

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## Foreword

Literature work is not only series of word but it also talks about life, both realistically and idealistically of human. If it is realistic, the literature work usually contains life experiences, good model, and wisdom which have been added various style and imagination along with it. Meanwhile, if it idealistic, the literature work contains moral lecture, good character, advices, philosophical symbols, culture and other things related to human life. The life itself is very diverse, varies, and full of various problems and conflicts faced by humans. The diversity in humans life also affects to the diversity of literature work because the contents are inseparable from civilized and dignified humans life.

The literature works that dealing with life utilizes language as medium of deliverance and imaginative art as its *cultural land*. On the basis of the language medium and imaginative art, literature is multidimensional and multi-interpretative. Using language medium, imaginative art and cultural dimension, literature deliver messages to be reviewed or analyzed from various perspectives. The outcome of that perspective depends greatly on who is reviewing and analyzing with various socio-cultural and knowledge background. There is a time when a literary reviewer reviews from the point of view of metaphor, myth, symbol, power, ideology, economy, politics, and culture can be refuted by other reviewers who see from perspective of sound, referent, or irony. Even so, Heraclitus said, "However opposite they work together and from different directions, the most beautiful harmony emerges".

There are many lessons that we can get from reading literature, one of which is reading folktales that are adapted or reprocessed into children's stories. The results of reading literature always inspire and motivate readers to be creative in

finding something new. Reading literature can trigger further imagination, open enlightenment, and add insights. For this reason, we express our gratitude for the processors for the story. We also express our appreciation and gratitude to the Head of the Coaching Center, Head of the Learning Division, and Head of the Subdivision of Modules and Teaching Materials and staffs for all the efforts and hard works carried out until the realization of this book.

Hopefully this storybook is not only useful as a reading material for students and the community to foster a culture of literacy through the National Literacy Movement program, but also useful as an enrichment of our knowledge of past life that can be utilized in addressing current and future life developments.

Jakarta, 15 March 2016

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

## **Preface**

This folktale is adapted from the oral literature of the Muara Enim, South Sumatra Province with the title "Mister Belalang" which is translated by Mulawarman.

This story entitled Mister Belalang tells the story of an old man named Pak Belalang. Incidentally, he was suddenly known as a powerful astrologer who was capable to answer all complicated problems. Until one day, the fame of Mister Belalang as an astrologer was heard up to the kingdom. Mister Belalang was asked to answer the challenge by the king. He was asked to answer difficult puzzles from enemy. When he was able to answer all puzzles, he would save the kingdom from the overthrow of the enemy. If it fails, he will get a severe sentence from the king.

Although the main source of this story comes from oral literary texts from Muara Enim Regency, but in reality there are some sources that raise the story of Mister Belalang which is relatively not too different from each other. In connection with that, the writer considers that oral literature is very important to be rewritten in the form of folk tales that can be read, known, and enjoyed by society, especially for children.

Without any help from other parties, the writing of the story could not be completed. Therefore, the writer would like to express sincere gratitude to the Head of Center of Language

Cultivation, the Head of Learning Division, and the Head of Module and Teaching Materials Subdivision and staffs for the opportunity.

Hopefully, this story can lead to the passion for reading and increase the reading interest of children throughout Indonesia.

Denda Rinjaya



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## **MISTER BELALANG**

The cool night air was bone-chilling. Heavy rain accompanied by strong winds poured down continuously since this afternoon. Inside the hut, Lemang sat stretch out his hands, hiding behind his armpit to withstand the cold. His eyes fixed on the wooden window swaying hit by the roaring wind. Beside him lay an old man dressed in black with a sarong tied around his fat body. Since afternoon he was asleep and have not wake up again. His name is Mister Belalang.

The villagers called him Mister Belalang because they know him as an old lazy man who really likes to sleep.

Meanwhile, Lemang was a diligent and helpful young man. Most days he helped farmers farming in the fields. Sometimes he helped them to plant potatoes, corn, and fruits. Sometimes he also participated in rice harvest when the harvest season comes. He traded his wage to buy everyday needs.

That night looks so dark. The sound of howling jackals in the distance heard really clear. Sometimes the howling sound replied by the sound of an owl like they were welcoming the night. Meanwhile, trees have fallen outside because they were hit by lightning.

Lemang began to feel uncomfortable to stay longer inside the hut. The sound of barking jackals outside sounded closer. That makes Lemang curious.

Through the peephole between the gaps of the bamboos in the hut, he saw the situation outside. He is worried that the jackals were really approaching the hut and pounce on him.

However, he could not see anything in the pitch dark night. Maybe the pack of jackals was gone somewhere else. "God, please protect us. If we should really stay in this hut, keep us from any harm," said Lemang wiping her wet hair due to splashes of rain water dripping from a leaky roof shack.

"Mister, wake up, Mister," he tried to wake Mister Belalang. However, Mister Belalang remain silent. He slaps soundly.

Before long, the rain finally stopped. For many times, Lemang tried to wake Mister Belalang up since he was asleep from the afternoon.

With heavy eyes, the middle-aged man was finally awake.

Mister Belalang and Lemang left the shack. They walked back down the path to the village, they passed the usual way to return from the woods to the village.

They fastened their walking pace as they walked longer. They were worried that it would be rain again before they reached the village.

Unexpectedly, on the way home, when they were going through a small forest, they saw a group of people was herding a cattle.

They wore all black clothes with a sarong to cover their entire face.

"Stop walking! Do not let them see us," whispered Mister Belalang while suddenly stopping Lemang's steps who were walking behind him.

Lemang obeys what Mister Belalang said.

"Who are they, sir?" He wondered.

"Do not be reckless. They are cattle thieves. And if they found out we are here, we are finished," said Mister Belalang warned.

Mister Belalang and Lemang walked tiptoed as they followed the thief from behind. Along the way, the thieves have then tied the stolen cows in a large mahogany tree.

"Guys please, I'm tired! We can leave these cows here for tonight. Tomorrow morning we can take them back," said one of the thieves.

"I agree. I am also tired of herding these cows. We should also come back again to the village so that no villagers were suspicious of us," said another thief.

Apparently, the thieves were also exhausted from herding cows whose size is quite large. They were agreed to leave their stolen cows in the forest. The thieves were not aware at all that there are other people who see their criminal activities in the middle of that forest.

Mister Belalang and Lemang carefully watched their actions. Unfortunately, they cannot recognize any of the thieves' face because they were covering their face with a sarong.

"Boy, remember this place well. Who knows that this information will be useful to us," Mister Belalang told Lemang. Lemang nodded.

He understands what is being said by Mister Belalang.

"Yes, sir, I will remember this place well," replied Lemang.

After the thieves left, Mister Belalang and Lemang continue their steps home. They fastened their step because they wanted to get home soon.



When they have arrived, the night is already dark. Mister Belalang was wondering why the condition in the village was unusually very crowded that night. Villagers were gathered outside their homes like something wrong has happened.

"What has happened, sir?" Asked Mister Belalang to one villager.

"We are doomed, sir! Our cows suddenly disappeared! We believed that there are thieves stole our cows.

Today there are seven cows lost, even though we have put the cows in the cage during the daytime. Suddenly this afternoon, our cows were missing, do not know where they go, "said one villager explained.

"Your cows are gone?" Asked Mister Belalang surprised. Where did they go, sir? "said him while wrinkled his eyebrows, as if he had never seen anything in the woods earlier.

"How dare they steal our cows! If later we catch them, we should just hang them in the village! "Shouted one of the other villagers.

"Yes! Do not forgive them! If we catch them, we should drag them and go around the village! " said another villager whose cow is also stolen.

The later the night becomes, the more villagers went out of their home. Men, women, even kids went out of their homes because



they were curious who actually had stolen their cows from the village.

Mister Belalang acted as usual and mingle with other villagers who were still discussing the stolen cows incident. At last, from the suggestion of the village elders, village chief will gather every villager. They went to to the village hall to hear the announcement of the village chief.

After everyone gathered, finally the village chief stating his announcement.

"Ladies and gentlemen, our village now is not safe anymore. Today there are some people who lose their cows. As the village chief, I invite you all to work together, to search for the stolen cows. If later we managed to find the thieves, we will punish them in accordance with customary law. However, if we could not find it, we will try to searching for help from a clairvoyant to know who stole it, "said the chief.

"Agreed! We search for our cows until we find it! We should immediately arrest the thieves! "Said villagers abuzz. They cannot hold their intention to catch the thieves.

Some of them were carrying torches and some other were carrying swords. Some of the other villagers also carried arrows in case they met wild animals in the forest later.

When people are busy preparing for the search that night, Mister Belalang who also participated in the search suddenly pretend to fall asleep and talking in his sleep.

"Dear all villagers, do not bother to look for your cows. I already know where the cows at now, "he said with his eyes closed.

Villagers who were gathered surprised to hear Mister Belalang statement.

"Mister Belalang! Do not mess around! How do you know where our cows at now, while you only fall asleep like that! "Scold the village chief to him.

"Do not be ridiculous Mister Belalang. What rubbish are you talking about!. Instead of helping us find the cows, you just lay down your lazy body and sleep like that! "Said, one villager.

The angry villagers apparently felt annoyed with Mister Belalangstatement at that time. Some people began to gather around Mister Belalang.

"I'm not playing games with you!" Replied Mister Belalang. His voice is more assertive. "if you follow my directions, you will find the cows tonight. But if not, I bet you will regret it."

Villagers were confused and doubt, whether they should believe or not of what was said by Mister Belalang.

"Mister Belalang, if you really know where are our cows at, tell us where is it!" Said the village chief curious.

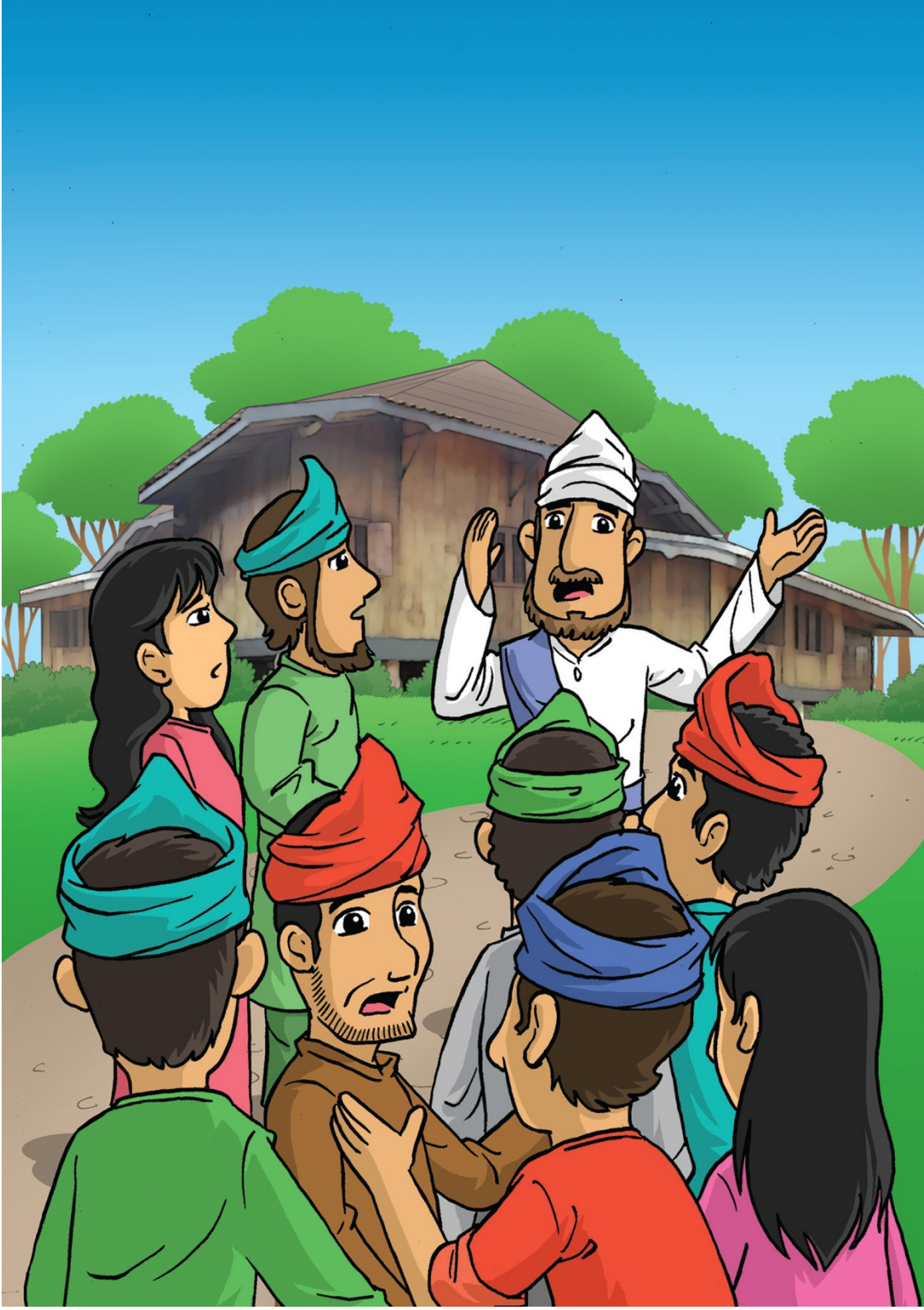
"Look. I'll show you where the cows are. But before that, I need to be provided with a cup of coffee and two soft-boiled cassava," Asked him.

"This is ridiculous! Enough with that. If it is true you can show where the cows are, we will give you a huge reward. But otherwise, you will be outcasted from this village!" Threatened the chief.

"Hmm ... well, then. I take your word, chief. Now, I want you to listen to me. While I sleep here, follow my son, I will give him instructions through my mind power. But remember, do not let anyone disturb my sleep because it will fail everything," said Mister Belalang.

Villagers who panicked that night just can believe with what was said by Mister Belalang. They began to obey all that said by Mister Belalang and follow all the instructions given by him. Villagers gathered to listen to Mister Belalang's story.

Mister Belalang then continued.



"Everyone, do not worry about it. Your cows were in the bushes on the west, towards the sunset. I have tied them under a mahogany tree with my power so they do not run. You should immediately take them. If not, maybe the cows will die, "said Mister Belalang convincing with his bluffing.

Villagers look more curious with what Mister Belalang said. The group which before not believe him is now starting to join in to listen as to believe what was said by Mister Belalang.

Mister Belalang still acting. He counted his fingers while closed his eyes like a real shaman who was reading spells.

Cannot wait for more to prove the truth of what Mister Belalang said, at that time the villagers rushed off to the woods which told by Mister Belalang. The village chief and the village personnels led the group into the woods that night. Lemangguide the group to where the cows are. He was familiar with the place which meant by Mister Belalang.

Soon with earlier guidance from Mister Belalang, the villagers managed to find their cows. Apparently, the cows were still under the tree tied by the thieves earlier.

The cows were still completely there. The village chief and the villagers did not think they would easily find their cows.

"Well... I have never thought of it! Apparently, everything that Mister Belalang said was true. It turned out that people like him have a very high augury. What a great man he is! "Said one villager with a happy face.

"Yes, that's true. I was thinking the same thing. It turned out that what he was the truth, "said another villager.

Although unable to find the thief, villagers seemed happy to get their cows back.

That same evening, they bring the cows back to the village. The village chief leads his party back to the village while herding their cows.

Arriving at the village, they went to Mister Belalang who still looked asleep. They woke him and told him how they can find cows.

As agreed before, the village chief then presented Mister Belalang a goat for his services to locate the cows which have been stolen.

Since then, Mister Belalang was known by the villagers as the village foreteller. Villagers who used to mock him now turned to be respected and be polite to him.

Eventually, his fame as a foreteller heard until the kingdom. At that time, King Indera Tanjung was in a confusion. He got a challenge of intelligence by the king across the country. For days

The King looked depressed. He must immediately find the clues of the riddle.

That afternoon, Patih come before his king in the palace. He tried to find out what really makes his king never ride his horse around the village again these few days.

King Indera Tanjung was firm and charismatic. His politeness and helpful behavior towards poor people made him highly respected by the citizens. He never hesitates to go down to the village where he mingled with citizens to attend traditional ceremonies.

"I'm sorry, Your Highness. Not to be disrespectful, but these days, it seems that there is something complex you have been thinking about. With your permission, I could be a help, what is going on?" Asked Patih as he bowed his head.

King Indera Tanjung stunned because of the questions asked by his Patih. Actually, King Indera Tanjung knew well that his Patih never going to let his King burdened by the problems in his mind. As he approached, King Indera Tanjung was then told his problem to his Patih.

"Look, Patih. You know what other King from across the sea wanted from us? I'm still confused about what to do. Until now I have not been able to find answers to the riddle. I do not want this kingdom fell to the arrogant king," said King.





Patih patiently listened to his king. He remembered the cruelty of TheKing across the sea when he treats small kingdoms which he conquered. Patih does not want the same fate come to his people.

When he was thinking, Patih suddenly remembered the story of Mister Belalang in the village. Aforeteller who is believed to have high power.

"My apology, Your Highness. If you believe in me, I seemed to know who could help Your Highness now, "replied Patih.

"Who do you mean?" Asked the King curious.

"Well, Your Highness. I recently heard that there was a powerful foreteller in our village. If the foreteller in the palace could not be able to handle the situation, maybe we can call him, "said Patih.

Patih spoke elaborately to his king about the greatness of Mister Belalang, including incidents of how he could find the cows which were missing.

The king seemed to believe what was said by his Patih. Not waiting for too long, he then ordered his Patih to call Mister Belalang to the palace. Patih immediately carries out the orders of the King Indera.

Mister Belalang was called on the same day to the palace.

"Hail, Your Highness," worship Mister Belalang. "What on earth has made a noble king summon me to this magnificent palace?" Said Mister Belalang lowered his head.

"Well, Mister Belalang. I was challenged by the king across the sea to compete in intelligence. No one of my foreteller in this kingdom could help me.

I think you are the only person who can I count on at this time. It is a very heavy case because the country is at stake, "said The King.

"Compete in intelligence?" He asked while wrinkled his eyebrows. "May you, Your Highness tell me what are the challenges?" Continued Mister Belalang curious.

"Well, Mister Belalang. I will explain everything. I ask you to listen carefully because I do not want to repeat it again. Here's the story. There is one king challenge me to compete in intelligence. He gives you three questions which we have to answer. If we managed to answer all the questions correctly, they will hand over the wealth they bring. However, if we fail, our kingdom will be taken over by them and everything in this kingdom will belong to them, "said King to Mister Belalang.

Mister Belalang could only nod. He listened carefully to everything explained by King Indera Tanjung.

The first question I had to guess the animal in a tube. The tube is made of glass, but covered with a cloth so that nobody can see it, "said the king.

"Animal in a tube?" Asked Mister Belalang wondering. "Do they give clues to us, Your Highness?"

"Yes, they give it. This animal can fly, but not birds, can jump, but not a frog, "said King. "What about it, Mister Belalang? Do you know which animal it is? "Asked The King.

Mister Belalang could only nod. Of course, he knew that he could not just answer the riddle. He could not also guess the answer spontaneously because he was not a psychic or foreteller as the King knew.

"Hmm ... it looks like I've ever heard this puzzle, Your Highness. Maybe later I should think it over, "said Mister Belalang, rubbing his forehead like he was thinking.

"Well then," said King. The king was then continued.

"Then, the second question, I was asked to guess the number of cucumber seeds. They will show two pieces of cucumber. They are already preparing the cucumbers from the beginning. The first one is small and the other one is large. We have to answer the exact number of seeds of each cucumber. There is no chance to repeat the answer. Once wrong is considered wrong. "

"Did they give any clues this time also, Your Highness?" Asked Mister Belalang.

"Ah, this time they do not give any clue. Even they do not give any clue about the size of the cucumbers. They just said that there is two size of the cucumbers. The first one is small and the other one is large. Basically, our task is only to guess how many seeds there are in each cucumber," said The King.

"Oh ... is that it, Your Highness?" replied Mister Belalang.

He looked even more confused. It is impossible that he could count the number of cucumber seeds if he not split it in half. Even though he does not know the answer, Mister Belalang still trying to look calm. He did not want The King becomes suspicious of his ability as a foreteller. Mister Belalang just listened while nodded to his king.

"And what about the third challenge, Your Highness?" Asked Mister Belalang.

"The last question, I asked to guess which is the base and tip of the timber. They will give us a piece of wood that has been cut to the same size. Without any clues, we should be able to determine which is the end and which is the base of that timber. I do not know what kind of wood they will bring. It may be teak or other wood. Ah, that kind of riddle, you know," said The King.

"Forgive me, Your Highness. Right now I do not have the answer yet. If I get the answer, I will surely present it to you, Your Highness, " replied Mister Belalang.

"Mister Belalang!" Shouted the King stood up while stamped his foot. "Do not mess with me! I give you three days to give all of the answers! If you cannot provide me with the answer, I will imprison you! "Shouted the King.

Mister Belalang can only bowed. He did not dare look at the face of The King who looked reddened.

In his heart, he muttered, "How unfortunate I am this time. If I cannot answer all the riddles, it's the end for me. "

"Forgive me, Your Highness. If I may know, where is exactly the location of the kingdom you mean? As a foreteller, I need to know their origins before I can actually activate all my power, "said Mister Belalang.

"Well if you really need to know. They are actually a large and powerful kingdom in Malaka Strait. These few months they were sailing and stopping by in several kingdoms. Now they are living on a boat near the river not far from our kingdom," said The King.

Mister Belalang can only nod as he listened to the king.

"Hmm.. well, Your Highness. As I had expected. They are not common people. They are highly powerful people. We have to be

careful with them, Your Highness, "said Mister Belalang with his eyes closed as he rubbed his hands together to pretend like a foreteller who was foretelling something.

King noticed strange behavior from Mister Belalang. The king thought that Mister Belalang was using his power.

"Alright then. You should start thinking about the riddle from now on. I do not want you to disappoint Me, "said The King. The tone of his words began to be calm.

Mister Belalang was in shock. Questions started appearing in Mister Belalang's head. His heart is restless. His eyes stared toward the king wooden chair with an empty gaze. Sometimes the middle-aged man took a deep breath.

Shortly after, The King ordered the palace's maid to escort Mister Belalang and Lemang to their rooms in the palace.

As they arrived at the palace room, Mister Belalang and Lemang looked really nervous.

That night they could not sleep well as they kept remembering the threats of the King that afternoon. They both talked all night.

Day and night they continued to think of the solutions. Their magnificent bedrooms did not make any differences, they cannot sleep well. Nor nice meals which were served did not enjoy by them.

Until one night, Mister Belalang said on Lemang, "Son, don't you listen to what was said yesterday by our king? I have a plan. If we succeed, we will be safe. "

"Plan? What plan is it, Mister? "Asked Lemang curious.

"We had to go across the kingdom to investigate that King. You should investigate all of their activities. Try to look for the secret of the riddle which they provide.

Who knows, you can find clues there. "

"Calm down, I already set how you could get out of this palace. I would tell the guards that if you have to go home to take the medicines required for my power. If I were gone, they would be suspicious. "

"Well then, sir. I will follow your instructions, "said Lemang.

As usual, Lemang can only obey what is said by Mister Belalang.

That night Lemang left the palace to the place of The King across the sea. By using a small boat, he goes through the river near the forest to the mouth of the river where the ship from across the sea was located.





Secretly Lemang crept and successfully entered the ship. When he tried to sneak into the room of the king, he accidentally heard a conversation between the king and his son. Incidentally, at that time, they were talking about the riddle. Lemang listening to their conversation through the room window hole.

He then fixated his ear near the bedroom walls to be able to hear the conversation clearly.

"Father, what actually a riddle you gave to that king?" Asked that king's son.

"Wait until tomorrow, son. By the time we play tomorrow, you'll find out all the answers, " said the king.

"Ah, but I'm very curious, Father. Come on, Father. I want to know right now, "persuade the boy.

Unable to bear his son's whine, the king then finally tells the answers of all the riddle one by one. Meanwhile, Lemang listens carefully to their conversation. He recalled what the king said so that later he forgot any of the answers.

After listening to all their conversations, Lemang then hurried away from that place, worry that anyone could see him. He slipped out of the ship.

When the guards were not concentrating, he managed to escape from the control and managed to get out of the boat without anyone know.

With great enthusiasm, Lemang rushed back to the palace. He cannot wait to tell his story on the ship to Mister Belalang.

Arriving at the palace, he went straight to Mister Belalang. In the room, he saw Mister Belalang was sleep lying on a soft mattress palace.

"Mister, I have come back from there, mister. Mister, please wake up, "Lemang wake Mister Belalang. The shake was finally woken up Mister Belalang from his sleep.

"Aah, you were already back, Lemang," replied Mister Belalang, rubbing his eyes with his hands. "How? What you get from there?"

"Look, You would never have thought what I got from the king across the sea!" Said Lemang with vigor.

"What exactly did you get there?" Asked Mister Belalang curious.

"Well, sir ..."

Lemang was then told all the experience he gained while sneaking to ship from across the sea earlier. Including the king across the sea talks with his son about the riddle.

Hearing his story, Mister Belalang began to maneuver.

"Good, son. Hmm, what did I told you. If you obey my words, everything will surely be finished, " said Mister Belalang.

The next day, the long-awaited time had arrived. The atmosphere inside the palace seemed crowded. The soldiers and palace aides seemed busy preparing everything to welcome the arrival of the king across the sea. Dishes for the guests is served complete with fresh fruit filled guest tables that had been prepared.

That afternoon The King across the sea and his entire group finally arrived at the palace. Behind the gates of the kingdom, the palace guard already knows the arrival of the king across and his entire group. King Indera looked worried when he saw his guest comes with complete horsemen like going to war.

Confidently the king across the sea and all his bodyguards get into the palace. Inside the palace, he was immediately greeted by the King, who had been waiting anxiously. King across the sea was immediately greeted him with a cynical smile and said, "What about now, King Indera, do you ready to start this match?"

The king paused. The greeting from the king across the sea sounded like a mockery which appeared to drop his pride. He realized that the day was very important to him. That day he will have to answer the riddle if he does not want the king across the sea to take over his throne.

Resolutely then the King said, "Yes I am. Don't you worry about it? We've prepared everything to deal with this game. "

"Hmm ... good for you. I am glad to hear that. Do you remember those challenges, right? "

"Of course I am. I still remember it. Come on, do not waste any time longer. Let's start now, "challenged King Indera.

King Indera seemed to be annoyed with the king's arrogance. Understandably, that king has been famous for his proud and his habit to mock other minor kingdoms.

"Hahaha ... How glad I am to hear it. Me too, I cannot wait to start this match. How, King Indera? Do you already have the answers? "Asked the king across the sea.

"Yes, I have. I represent all my answers on this foreteller, "said the king while pointing to Mister Belalang who was standing right beside him.

"Hahaha...", the king across the sea laughed at Mister Belalang stature which did not convince enough for him.

"Look, King Indera. I just want to remind you of the rules. If he's wrong, the whole kingdom and all inside it should be given to me. However, if you think you would not be able to meet my challenge, I suggest you back off. I will give you convenience. You only need to submit your throne and I'll make you as my

advisor. What about it King Indera? Do you want to continue this game? It seems that you cannot defeat me, hahaha ... "he added with a laugh.

"No way! Don't you dare to say that words! I will not retreat at all! a promise is a promise! We will see later. Who wins and who loses, "replied King Indera upset. His eyes reddened and his face looks tense. It is very clear that he could not hide his anger. The king across the sea's words hit him like a slap in the face. More than just a mockery of an arrogant king, conqueror of small kingdoms.

"Hahaha ... Okay, then. I'm getting excited when I see my opposition had the courage like this. I never thought that you are a stubborn too. It seems that we cannot wait any longer for this match. Let's start! "Said the king across the sea.

A gong sounded three times, a sign of the beginning of the game. The audience began to gather in a circle in front of the palace grounds.

In the middle of the palace ground, there is one large table that has been prepared for the match. Two kings sitting in a chair facing the table, accompanied by their bodyguards. Mister Belalang standing right next to the King.



Before long, one mediator then read the game rules along with the agreement between them. After it, the king across the country began to ask the riddle. The crowd atmosphere suddenly went silent. They wondered what questions will be asked and also the answer.

Loudly the king across the sea said, "The first question. I want you to listen carefully because I will not repeat it for the second time. Here's the question, which animal is in this tube? This animal can fly, but not bird, can jump, but not a frog, "he said aloud.

Mister Belalang rubbed his forehead like he was lost in thought. Meanwhile, everyone who watched it seemed tense. They are waiting for the answers given by Mister Belalang.

"Hahaha ... What else were you thinking, old man? It looks like you cannot answer it," mock the king across the sea while holding the tube covered with black cloth.

Mister Belalang rubbing his hands.

With his eyes closed, then he said, "All creatures are God's creation. Every creation has a name. If it has a name, it has a meaning. If my answer is not wrong, it must be true. If my answer is wrong, it means I have not succeeded yet. Error is only from human. Truth is from Almighty God.

"Hahaha ... What exactly you are mumbling about, old man? Come on, just say it if you cannot answer it! "Said the king across the sea irritated with strange behavior from Mister Belalang.

"Okay, sir. I will answer it. The animals that are in the tube is none other than the grasshopper! Try to open it, King! Show us what's inside it! "Replied Mister Belalang raise his voice.

How surprised the king is to know that Mister Belalang is able to answer the first riddle.

"How good is he. I never thought he could easily answer my question, " said the king across the sea to himself.

Once the box is open, everyone sees the animal in the box was indeed a grasshopper. Everyone can see a grasshopper is hopping inside the tube. All the spectators who witnessed it breathe in relief. They clapped to Mister Belalang who just managed to solve the king across the sea's riddle. The atmosphere at the kingdom is suddenly in an uproar.

"All right, old man. This time you are lucky. Your answer is correct. The animal in this tube is a grasshopper, "said the king across the sea. Listening to the king across the sea's statement, Mister Belalang still looks calm. He smiled a little while scratching his head.



"Don't be happy yet everyone! Remember, I still have two other questions to be answered!" Said the king across the sea irritated.

That king then took a box. Inside the box, there is two cucumbers he has prepared earlier.

After takes out the cucumbers from the box, that king then said, "Pay attention to what is in my hand. Now I'm holding two cucumbers. I ask you to answer how many seeds there are in each cucumber in my hand, "said the king across the sea while swinging the cucumbers.

"Sorry King. May I hold the cucumbers?" Asked Mister Belalang.

"Hahaha what would you do with these cucumbers?" Asked the King. "It is okay if you want to hold it," he added.

Mister Belalang then take that two pieces of cucumbers. He pretended to observe both cucumbers and smelled it, like a badger which was sniffing its food.

"Hahaha ... what are you doing, old man? You are so weird. How can you know the seeds number in these cucumbers only by sniffing on it? Hahaha ..., " said the king across the sea laughing to see weird behavior from Mister Belalang.

Mister Belalang ignored the king's mockery.

He then gave those two cucumbers back, "Hmm ... it seems like I know already, King. I'll try to answer the question."

"Hahaha ... You're head is getting bigger, aren't you? Come on, answer it quickly, "said the king across the sea.

"Yes, sir. Hopefully, my guess does not slip. The large cucumber has three seeds, while the small cucumber has seven. Even though the first one is larger, but the number of the seeds may not many. To prove it, just split those cucumbers in half, "said Mister Belalang.

The heart of the king across the sea skipped a beat to heard Mister Belalang's answer. He did not think that Mister Belalang managed to guess the number of seeds of both cucumbers properly.

With a pale face, the king across the sea then split both the cucumbers in half. After splitting it to half, the number of the seeds in each cucumber was the same as what was said by Mister Belalang.

"How is it, King? Now it is proven that my answer is right. " Said Mister Belalang with a smile.

Hearing the words of Mister Belalang, that king was shut in silent. He could not hide the tension in his face. His eyebrows are wrinkled and his eyes reddened. He could not hide his frustration.

"Do not be happy you old man! Now I will give you the last question. This question is the most difficult. If you cannot answer it, I will still be the winner. "

The king then lifted an iron box. He placed the box on the game table, then said, "Old man, I have set up a box. Inside this box, there is a piece of timber. I ask you to guess which one is the ends and which one is the base of this timber, "said the king across the sea while picking up the timber from the box.

Mister Belalang then take the timber.

While rubbing the wood he said, "Hmm.. how could I have guessed it when the size of both ends is the same?" asked him innocently.

"Hahaha ..." the king laughs whole-heartedly. He seemed very confident that he will win the game. "I've told you. Just give up. You definitely will not be able to answer this riddle, " add him.

"Hmm ... no need to say that King. We will not retreat at all. Let me try to answer this riddle. I need a pan. A pan which filled full with water, "said Mister Belalang.

"Maid! Just provide fast what have just asked by Mister Belalang!" Said the king who looked tense. This question is the last riddle. If Mister Belalang failed to answer the third question, Mister

Belalang will still be defeated despite guessing the other two previous questions correctly.

Not waiting for long, one of the waiters bring a large pan filled with water as asked by Mister Belalang earlier.

After ready, Mister Belalang then gently plunged the timber into the pan.

Shortly after, Mister Belalang said, "Well! Now I can give you the answer. Let's see, the part sinks are the base, while part arises is the end. "

"How about it, King?" Said Mister Belalang pointing his gaze firmly to the king across the sea.

King across the sea shocked to hear Mister Belalang's answer. He did not guess at all that Mister Belalang can answer all the riddles he gave.

"No! Impossible! How you can guess all of my questions! It did not make sense! "Said the king across the sea furiously. He did not expect Mister Belalang can defeat him.

The fact that these past time, there was no one who is able to exceed his intelligence in riddle games.

The king shouts broke the tension. The spectators who watched the game instantly cheered accompanied by shouting hype.

Everyone mend together to celebrate the success of Mister Belalang who had just won the intelligence competition.

The audience cheering unstoppable to Mister Belalang like welcoming soldiers who returned from the battlefield. The atmosphere in the palace suddenly hyped up.

Happy faces filled the palace, including King Indera Tanjung who throughout the game did not move an inch from his chair.

The king across the sea then finally admitted his defeat. He and his troops then returned home to his country. All the possessions he carried must he put behind, handed over to King Indera Tanjung as payment for his defeat.

The next day King Indera Tanjung throw a party. He wanted everyone in his kingdom to celebrate the victory. Wealth from the king across the sea then is used in the celebration party. King Indera Tanjung wants everyone in the kingdom to enjoy his victory.

The villagers and citizens are invited from across the country. Representatives from other kingdoms also come along to fulfill the invitation. Every citizens and villager came to the palace ground and celebrate the party joyfully.

Considered as a vital person in the winning, King Indera Tanjung then presented Mister Belalang some gold metal and a piece of land. Mister Belalang was really happy to accept the king's gift.

King Indera Tanjung was actually offered Mister Belalang to become one of the aides in the palace. However, Mister Belalang rejected it. He prefers to stay in the village with the other villagers.

With the gift of land, Mister Belalang use them for gardening. He planted tubers and beans. He sold the products to the market and exchanged it with rice.

Meanwhile, most of the gold metal gave by the king exchanged with a few goats for breeding. Some of them were used to pay for Lemang's school fees.

Since that event, Mister Belalang diligently goes to the farm and take care of his goats. The crops and livestock are enough to meet the daily needs. At the same time, Lemang started school. In the morning he went to school. At noon he went looking for grass to feed the goats.

In order not to be called as a foreteller anymore, Mister Belalang claimed that all his powers have been gone after redeemed with answers asked by the king across the sea. Since then, people are no longer asking for his help to foretelling. However, villagers still know him as a powerful foreteller who likes to sleep.

Mister Belalang and Lemang get lessons and benefits of the various events that they experienced. Mister Belalang no longer need to lie to others about his job as a foreteller. Instead, he tries to get rid of that image.

Fortunately, by saying that his power has been gone due to answered questions from the king across the sea, people no longer come to him to ask for something that actually he could not answer precisely.

Mister Belalang now seems more diligently working in his fields to feed himself and Lemang who are attending school. His fields looked lush and the goat's number was increased. The fields produce plants with good quality. And so with the goat. Mister Belalang's goat is fat and can be sold at a high price.

Lemang became a smart kid in his school. He was also a diligent and humble kid. He was favored by his friends because of his cleverness and his good attitude. Lemang never shy to help Mister Belalang herding his goats after school. Mister Belalang and Lemang then live prosperously.

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Lahir di Tamianglayang pada tanggal 10 Maret 1976. Lebih dari sepuluh tahun ini, terlibat dalam penyuntingan naskah di beberapa lembaga, seperti di Lemhanas, Bappenas, Mahkamah Konstitusi, dan Bank Indonesia. Di lembaga tempatnya bekerja, dia terlibat dalam penyuntingan buku Seri Penyuluhan dan buku cerita rakyat.