

PUAN AND TADDUNG
Puan dan Si Taddung

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PUAN AND TADDUNG

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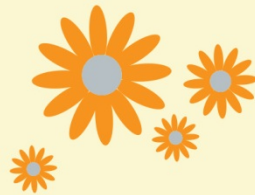
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Cerita Rakyat Kalimantan Timur

PUAN DAN SI TADDUNG



Ditulis oleh
Aminudin Rifai



PUAN DAN SI TADDUNG

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Foreword

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

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

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

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

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

Jakarta, June 2016

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

Preface

Alhamdu wa syukru lillah. The writing of folklore Puan and Taddung has been completed. This children story comes from one of the folklore originated in East Kalimantan.

Children stories originating from regional literature will enrich the treasures of Indonesian literature. The story will also play a role in increasing reading material for the community, especially for children. As such, the writing of children stories is part of the National Literacy Movement.

The story of Puan and Taddung should be presented as a reading material for children because it contains moral and spiritual lessons. The contents of moral and spiritual teachings in it are hard work, diligent worship, gentleness, humility, devotion to parents, defending the truth, and other lessons.

Samarinda, April 2016

Aminudin Rifai

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PUAN AND TADDUNG

1. Taddung

Once upon a time there was a small village named Tanjung Batu. There were not many people lived there. No one ever thought if the village would become one of trading centers of Berau Kingdom. Generally, it was a quiet village. There would only be a little hustle in the morning. When morning came there was indistinct sound of kitchen utensils used coming from the houses that were a little distance apart. Sometimes a baby's cry was also heard. Then there were some people going to the river. Some people had a short conversation while preparing to work, either farming or hunting. When they had gone to work, quietness dominated the village.

In that village lived a young man named Taddung. Taddung is a poor man. Though most people in the village had a modest life, but Taddung had a more difficult life. He lived with his mother in a small house. His father had passed away and he was the only child.

His mother was a physically weak woman. She was not too old, but she was not able to work in the field anymore. She could only collect dried twigs as firewood. Taddung loved his mother very much. Aware of his mother's weak condition, Taddung did

everything to support their life. Taddung went for hunting, collecting firewood, working in the field, cleaning the house, and taking care of his mother.

Taddung was also able to cook. Because of his great love towards her mother, Taddung never thought of getting married. He lived merely to work and help his mother. He did not want to think of another woman but his mother. Besides, he also realized that he did not have a good look. For that reason, he did not have courage to meet women. What he did not know was that some girls in the village wished to be proposed by him. They were not impressed by his look, but by his virtue of being devoted to his mother. They, like most villagers, were also deeply amazed at him because he was intelligent and powerful. At first, everyone in the village had always underestimated him, until he proved himself capable of defending the village from pirates. At that time there were many pirates attacking village. The pirates were said to have come from the sea. They got off their ship, and then entered the mainland to the remote areas. From the sea was all they knew about the pirates' origin. They did not know the pirates' clan or tribe names.

The pirates, of course, never introduced themselves. They just came and attacked without ever greeting. The pirates were very mighty and vicious. They were able to move fast, went up and down the hill, and walked through the forest in search of a

village. Upon finding one, they would loot everything they could find in the village. They would never hold back to harm anyone they encountered in the village and punish anyone who dared enough to fight them. Thereafter, they would burn down the village and went on to look for another village. They returned to the sea only when they had got a lot of booty. They arrived so sudden. They move like running horses. The villagers rarely could save or hide their possessions.

One day a gang of pirate ambushed Tanjung Batu village. There were only seven pirates, but the villagers were desperately in fear. They were trying to hide their food and valuables.

The pirates, however, moved faster than they did. Before they were able to do so, the pirates had already seized any food and valuables they could find. They held their machetes high and attacked whoever against them.



The villagers screamed in fear. They asked for mercy from the pirates. Instead of acting gentle, the pirates were more violent. As the people screamed louder, the pirates became more and more violent. All of sudden a young man came out from the crowd and stood before the pirates.

It was Taddung, a poor and underestimated man in the village. With a loud voice he challenged them.

“Hey, you who come from the sea, I know you are heartless, but I am sure you are real men.”

Everyone looked towards where the sound had come from. Silence fell for a few seconds. Both of the pirates and the villagers did not suspect there would be a man standing alone against the pirates. But the silence did not last long. The gang of pirate recovered consciousness and their anger culminated.

“Hey, you ugly man, how dare you speak so loud! What are you saying?”

“If you are real men, take our belonging manly.”

“What do you want?”

“Take our belonging once you have defeated me. Let’s fight in a manly manner. Who wants to....”

Taddung had not finished talking, all seven pirates ganged up on Taddung violently ignoring chivalry and invitation to fight one on one.

They were very angry at Taddung's resistance. To everyone's surprise, Taddung managed to dodge and counterbalance the pirates' attack. The villagers were surprised. The pirates were also stunned for a second. They could not believe such a young man they had underestimated possessed such a sophisticated martial arts skill. The shock did not last long. They re-attacked Taddung violently.

Taddung, on the other hand, handled the attack calmly. His *mandau* (saber) collided with their machetes and axes. Taddung was indeed powerful. None of the pirates could harm him. He, on the contrary, managed to slash one of the pirates with his saber. The pirate who got slashed screamed in pain and collapsed. The other pirates ceased on attacking Taddung. They stepped back slowly. Then they quickly snatched their friend who collapsed and carried him while running scared leaving the village. The villagers cheered in an instant. They hailed Taddung. Some men lifted Taddung's body up and paraded him around. All villagers cheered.

“Hail Taddung!”

“Taddung is a hero!”

“Taddung is a savior!”

“Taddung is a protector!”

Since then Taddung became the most respected young man in Tanjung Batu. All men in the village wanted him to teach them martial arts. In the beginning Taddung took their wishes into consideration. Taddung thought that the village required to be protected by its people from pirates' attack. For that reason, he needed to teach them martial arts skill. Taddung's mother, on the contrary, did not feel delight.

“No, Taddung, it's not the time yet. Your soul is not ready. If you rush to be a teacher now, I am afraid you will be arrogant and you will have skill no more. Besides, I still need you to take care of me. If you were too occupied with them, you will neglect me. Wait until I am no longer around, when your soul has really matured.”

Having so much love for his mother, Taddung had no courage to disobey. He rejected them politely. But the villagers insisted to be his students.

“Please, Taddung, it's for the sake of our village,” said them persuasively.

“I will never disobey my mother. If you keep insisting, I will take my mother and leave this village.”

After hearing Taddung's firm reply, they fell silent. There was nothing they could do. Days passed. Life in Tanjung Batu went on as usual. The villagers worked in the field and went for hunting. One morning some villagers were busy preparing supplies for farming. Suddenly, someone came to the village, running scared. Tanjung Batu was in a stir. Those who were not going to farm or hunt were gathered around the person. They asked insistently,

“What is going on?”

“Why do you run in fear, brother?”

“Which village are you from?”

Wheezing, the man said that pirates were back. His village was being attacked by a large numbers of pirates. They were very violent. He could sneak out and runaway. He ran through the dark night, slipping among the thorny reeds and the trunks of the trees. Upon hearing the story, the villagers of Kampung Batu became very frightened. They began thinking the pirates might come to the village soon. They looked at each other and panic.

“We must tell Taddung.” suggested one of the villagers suddenly. The rest immediately agreed. They went to Taddung's house abuzz. They would ask Taddung to protect the village like he did before. Taddung was not aware of the panic among the villagers. He woke up early but he was busy taking care of his mother and

preparing himself before going the forest. He did not pay serious attention at the commotion at the village end. When the villagers arrived, Taddung was surprised. They told him the reason they came noisily. Taddung asked them to speak clearly. One of the onlookers then told him what was going on. Taddung got their point right away. He told them to wait outside. He needed to talk to his mother and asked for her permission.



“This time I will not give you my blessing to face them, my son. They are too many.

Besides, I do not want the villagers rely on you only and do nothing. Think of a way, my son.”

Taddung tried to understand what his mother had said. He came out to face the onlookers. He told them what his mother had said. The villagers looked frightened upon hearing the message.

“Please help us, Taddung.”

“Please help our village, Taddung.”

They pleaded and some began to cry because of panic. Taddung was sad to see them. But he would not disobey his mother. Taddung believed there was a hidden wisdom behind it.

“Alright, please be calm. I will not disobey my mother. But we must not be panic. Let’s think of a way out.”

“There is no other way out, Taddung. This village has no other mighty man but you,” pleaded one of the villagers and concurred by the others.

“Indeed.”

“True.”

“Taddung is the mighty one.”

“Only Taddung can save us.”

“Help us, Taddung.”

“Help us, Taddung.”

“Help us, Taddung.”

They kept begging. Taddung budged and replied.

“My brothers, I will help you. I will save our village....”

Taddung had not done talking yet, but the onlookers cheered in an instant. Taddung then spoke louder, “My brothers, I have not finished yet.”

They were back in silence. They were waiting for what Taddung would say.

“My brothers, I shall help you, but I shall not fight against the pirates. They were many in number. If I have to deal with them on my own, I might be overwhelmed. And as you know, I have no blessing from my mother. Without it, I have not a heart to do it.”

“Then, what will you do to help us?”



“Alright, wait a moment. I need time to figure a way out.”

Before they replied, Taddung had gone into his rickety hut and closed the door behind. Taddung thought hard to find the best way to save the village. For a few minutes he sat alone and figured out a strategy.

Shortly after Taddung came out to meet the villagers.

“Give some of your possession away. Take out some wood from your house.”

They were in confusion of what Taddung meant, but they didn't think twice to follow the command. Perhaps it was because they were terrified and wanted to be safe from the pirates. So they dismantled some boards from their houses and returned to Taddung's house with the boards.

“Now we all should go to the other side of the hill.”

Taddung gave another order. The villagers obeyed him.

“Take all the goods. Take land clearing equipment along,” instructed Taddung.

The villagers were puzzled with Taddung's request. They looked at each other. But they had no other way but to follow the order. They ran back to their houses to prepare everything Taddung had asked. They were in panic and overwrought while preparing

everything as fast as they could get. Then they returned to the meeting point carrying all the goods as instructed on their back before leaving for the village entrance at the other side of the hill. They brought all the goods and equipment as Taddung ordered. Some brought kitchen utensils and some carried wood planks taken off from their houses. Some also brought machete and *mandau*.

Some other carried fire-lighting equipment. They brought a lot of things. As they arrived at the other side of the hill, Taddung settled for spacious and flat land and told the villagers to put their belongings there. Then they put what they carried down. Some of them immediately threw themselves to the ground and took a rest. Taddung looked around and then he gave order, “Make fire.”

Those who heard it passed it on to their friends.

“Make fire.”

“Let’s go, make fire.”

They did not expect Taddung would give such an extraordinary order. They swiftly prepared the equipment to light a fire. Taddung gave them the next order.

“Burn all our belongings.”

Everyone was shocked. They did not believe Taddung would give such command. They thought it was silly.

“What?”

“How can we burn our possessions?”

Taddung barked authoritatively, “Set all our belongings ablaze!”

They finally set fire and started throwing all their goods from the village into the fire. Mixed emotions of confused, scared, and unwillingness filled them up as they did it. They hesitated to burn their belongings. Those may not be valuable, but were essential for their daily lives. On the other side, panic and fear still haunted them. The pirates had invaded another village. They had a feeling that the gang of pirates would have been wandering not far from where they were. In the end, they had no choice but to follow what Taddung had instructed them to do though they had no idea what was the purpose.

They set the fire and started to burn all the things they had brought. Taddung then asked them to look for dry branches and twigs. The heat and flames got so intense as they put the dry branches and twigs into the fire. They stepped back from blazing fire. They were staring at their possessions. Tears were unbearable running down their cheeks.

Taddung spoke loudly once again, “Hurry, we must leave this place. We must go home now.”

So they were ready to go home.

“Remember, everyone. Do not take back what you have brought here. Everything should be burnt down. We shall go home bare hand.”

All villagers obeyed him. Taddung gave another command for them to rush.

“Quick, run to the village!”



They were running back home through the hill towards their village in the other side of the hill. When they arrived on the hill, Taddung ordered two young men to stay hiding and spying what was about to come. So the others, except the two young men, ran back to the village. When they arrived at the village, everyone was exhausted and breathless. They all gathered sharing the same anxiety and panic as seen on their faces. Some sat down outstretching their legs. Some others could not just sit down, but they also did not know what to do. Taddung tried to look calm.

He then said, “Brothers, we surely hope the pirates won’t come to our village. But if they should come, then be it. And what we should do now is to prepare ourselves and be ready to face them.”

They responded to Taddung’s words noisily.

“Oh, help, Taddung.”

“Help us, Taddung.”

“Protect us.”

Resignation was shown on their faces. Taddung replied, “We shall help ourselves and save our village together.”

Taddung then gave the next command. “Brothers, let’s face it together. All women and elders, take the children with you and hide away from the village. Take some food you think would be

enough. Take also your valuables, but if it is too large or heavy just leave it.”

After a short pause, Taddung continued.

“I need valiant men, young and old, to stay behind and prepare weapons. We gather as fearless men. We must face anyone who will attack our village at any time. No matter what, we must defend our possessions. We should not be afraid.”

Taddung’s words were anesthetic. The men’s souls flared. Panic and fear disappeared. They prepared weapons for themselves. The women were also re-energized. They were getting ready to take the children and the elders into hiding, Taddung’s mother went along. Tense filled the air as the night got deeper. But the men of Tanjung Batu had no fear because Taddung had rekindled their spirit. They were in alert mode. No one set fire. Suddenly, they heard steps from afar. They sounded like in a rush. Everyone was ready and wielding weapon. As they listened closely, they began thinking those were not steps of gangs of pirates. Instead, those were steps of only not less than two people. Despite so, the villagers remained alert and ready to draw their weapons. Finally, the steps came closer. It turned out those were the steps of the two young men left behind to see what happened after the villagers had left. The villagers gave them warm welcome and waited impatiently for their report.

“What’s the news?”

“What did you see?”

“How is it? Have the pirates come near to our village?”

Each one of them fired the two with questions though in low voice afraid of being heard by the pirates. Taddung calmed them down.

“My brothers, please be quiet. We should give them time to catch their breath before telling us what they have seen.”

The two young men, though still panting, showed smile with relief.

“We are safe,” said one of them.

Jumping happily was the immediate reaction of the people even before the two young men explained in detail what had happened.

“Really?”

“Is that true?”

They stirred up expressions of wonder and joy.

“So what have you both seen that make you think we are safe now?” Taddung interrogated the two young men.

So they told them every single thing they had seen from hilltop. Just as prediction, a large number of pirates really came at dusk. It was apparent that they were heading to Tanjung Batu Village. The gang saw the smoke and headed to where the villagers had burnt their property earlier in the afternoon. They found burned-out property: wood wall panels, cooking utensils, farming equipment, and many more. They did not stay long and went away from Tanjung Batu. It seemed they had concluded that another gang of pirate had preceded them and burned down the village they were about to loot. There was nothing left but scorched items. They looked disappointed and returned to where they had come from with bare hands.

Upon hearing the story, all the villagers cheered. They praised Taddung for his smart thinking. Now they understood why Taddung asked them to burn their property. He asked them to sacrifice by burning their property to deceive the pirates. Taddung made a ploy for the pirates to think that the village they were about to rob was no longer exist.

“We are safe!”

“We are safe!”

“Horayyy!”

“Thank you for the greatest man in our village!”

“Hail Taddung!”

“Long live Tanjung Batu!”

The villagers shouted gleefully. They immediately called the women and children who were hiding. That night they returned home and slept with nothing to worry of.

2. The Mandate of a Mother

The life in Tanjung Batu went on normally. Taddung was still busy taking care of the house and his mother. One day his mother called him. Taddung immediately came to his mother and sat down attentively to listen to what his mother about to say.

“Taddung, my son, would you do me a favor?”

“Your wish is my command, mother,”

“My son, I want you to bring me a holy deer.”

Taddung was surprised to hear her mother’s request. He had no idea what a holy deer was.

“Mother, what is holy deer like?”

“Holy deer is spotless and odorless, son.”

“Where can I find the holy deer, O dear mother?”

“Go hunting, son. Follow your heart. It will lead you to the forest where you can find the holy deer.”

“How about you when I leave you alone?”



“Don’t you worry about me, son. Be worry if you cannot find the holy deer.”

Taddung then packed his supplies. Though he still had no idea of the holy deer whereabouts, he decided to go. He had promised her mother to do everything she asked him to. That night Taddung mused. He composed himself and braved his heart and soul for the journey next day. Before morning came Taddung had woke up and said goodbye to his mother. His mother looked happy. She was very proud of his kindness and compliance.

“I shall leave, Mother.”

“Be careful, my son. You have my blessing.”

“Thank you, Mother.”

“Oh, by the way, remember this. Whenever you meet someone who is doing something good to you, then you must follow him and learn the goodness of that person.”

“Yes, Mother, I shall do.”

“Alright, off you go.”

“I am leaving, mother.”

“Farewell, My son.”

Taddung walked bravely. He held back his tears of parting. He is a man. He must be strong. He followed his heart that directed him into the forest. Taddung kept walking on and on. One day, two days, three days passed, but he had not felt tired or weary. He did not stop although he felt a little hungry. He decided to stop and rest only when he could not bear the hunger anymore. When he was tired, he took a little of his supplies. He knew that he had to use the supplies efficiently because he still did not know how long his journey will take until he found his purpose. Taddung continued walking. He only slept a while at night. Even if it was late he kept on walking as long as he could make it. As he was walking, he put his eyes and ears in alarm clamping on the surroundings. Ten days passed. He ran out of supplies. Taddung could only eat any fruit he could find. He had been used to with the forest. He could recognize edible, non-toxic, and bitterless fruit. As far as he had been going, he did not find any trace of the deer. He met a group of boars several times, instead. Taddung was glad he could avoid them and not get attacked.

Taddung kept walking. For weeks he walked looking for the deer. Weeks passed and he still did not find it. Desperation began to take control on him. What if the holy deer was never existed? He sat down feeling weak and a little despair. Rarely taking rest and always keeping his senses awaked had drained his strength. He had a little eye dizziness. So Taddung felt asleep, and then fainted.

3. Holy Deer

It was unclear of how long Taddung had been sleeping or fainting. He did not know it. Gaining conscious, he felt being in a strange place. He could sense a warm airy room and that he was lying down on a piece of sheet above a ground floor. Taddung opened his eyes and looked around.

He was in a warm but cool hut. It was not spacey enough but there seemed to be a divider between the front and the back side. The front side was large enough to accommodate four people. He did not know how he could be there.

“I carried you here, young man. What’s your name and where are you going?”

An elderly man approached and brought him water to drink. The old man, though he looked old enough, seemed to still possess strong power. Despite of his age, in overall the man had good posture, just slightly hunched forward.

The look of his eyes was authoritative. He also had obvious voice. When the old man showed up from the back of the shack, Taddung was a little surprised. He then thought the old man was the owner of the shack where he was lying down. Taddung was immediately trying to stand up to show respect, but the old man quickly held him and told him to stay lying down.

“You are still weak. Just lie down.”

“I apologize, grandfather. My name is Taddung, grandfather. I’m on hunting.”

“O, I see. You came from a far place. You have had a long and tiring journey. I found you unconscious in the forest. Now have some rest. We can talk later on.”

With his thin but strong hand the old man massaged Taddung who began to feel peaceful and comfort in that shack. He had recovered from fainting. He felt refresh. He was so grateful for the help the old man had given him.

“There is no need to exaggerate, Son. It’s been our duty to help others.”

Taddung was amazed by the old man’s kindness. Hence, they were lost in conversation as if they shared the same blood. The old man shared many stories of human life and character. He also taught him many knowledge and philosophy.

While having conversation and sharing knowledge, the old man massaged Taddung’s body so that he was more refresh and recovered his fatigue. Taddung had gained his health back. He planned to continue his task of hunting into the forest, but the old man held him back. The old man asked Taddung to stay longer to learn more knowledge. Taddung could not decline because he

remembered her mother's message before his departure that was to gain knowledge from the old man that had saved him. Taddung postponed continuing on his journey. He decided to stay longer. He wanted to get more knowledge from the wise old man. A month passed since Taddung first stay in that old but impressive shack.

One day, Taddung remembered of the unfinished task from his mother. He planned to ask the old man whom he thought could give him adequate information about the secret behind her mother's task.

“Grandfather, may I ask?”

“O, yes, of course, young man.”

“Have you ever heard of holy deer?”

The old man looked a little surprised, but then he smiled.

“Why do you ask about it, Taddung?”

Taddung then told him that he was on a journey to serve his mother. His mother sent him on a quest to look for holy deer. Taddung never heard of and had no knowledge about holy deer, but he still did as his mother asked him to do.

“Taddung, you are a great young man. You are dutiful and careful to your mother. It is a great love for your mother that you would

do her command without asking a lot. You give what she asks eventhough you do not really understand about it. That means your love is pure.”

Taddung was flustered at the wise old man’s compliment. The old man continued, “Taddung, few days past, I have briefly taught you of knowledge and philosophy of life. I have told you that this life we are living is driven by God, The Creator of Universe.”

“I understand, grandfather.”

“You have a noble character. Do not let your good deeds be useless.”

“What does it mean, Grandfather?”

“I have a question for you, Taddung. Why are you so dutiful to your mother?”

“It is because I love her, Grandfather.”

“Why do you love her?”

“Well”

Taddung could not give him an answer.

“Taddung, from now on, make all the good deeds you do because of Allah so that they are not lost in vain. All this time you have

been dutiful to your mother with no reason. Now, change it all. Be dutiful to your mother because it is religious orders.”

“Thank you, Grandfather.”

“Get prepared and leave for your hometown tomorrow in the morning. Send my regard to your mother.”

“But, Grandfather, I haven’t found the holy deer.”

“Forget it and go home. Just tell your mother about our meeting. Remember to give her my regard. Just go home. It’s been months since you left your mother all by herself.”

Upon hearing what the old man had said, Taddung couldn’t stop the tears running down his cheeks. He remembered his mother.

After the old man left him, Taddung immediately packed for the journey he was about to take the next day. Next day predawn, Taddung had walked away from the shack. Just as the beginning of his journey, he walked straight up. This time he went back to see her mother at home.

Taddung was back walking through the forest he had come before. This time he walked happily because he no longer needed to trace any sign of the holy deer. The journey home was faster than when he left home. Taddung arrived in Tanjung Batu less than a week. He knocked on the door. His mother welcomed him

with a gaunter face, but she looked happier to see him. Taddung immediately embraced his mother while crying a happy tear.

After the emotional feeling subsided, his mother asked him, “How is your hunting journey, my son?”

“Deeply regret, mother. I cannot find the holy deer.”

“Then how come you back?” His mother inquired an explanation.

Taddung then told her about his journey; of how he kept walking with little rest until breathless and fainted.

He also told her about a virtuous and highly knowledgeable old man who helped him. The old man had also sincerely taught him several lessons. One of which was to be a dutiful son with intention to worship Allah. He also told her that the old man was the one who ordered him to return home.

His mother smiled as she was listening to Taddung.

“You have come with a result, my son.”

“But how come? I still have not found the holy deer, Mother,”

“You have found it, my son.”

Taddung was puzzled upon hearing what his mother had said.

“What does that mean, Mother?”

“That is true, my son. You have found the holy deer. It is not actually a deer. You have found it with the help of that virtuous old man.”

Taddung did not say a word. He still did not comprehend what his mother had said but somehow he felt peaceful inside his soul.

Suddenly his mother spoke breaking the silence, “Taddung, I want you to leave tomorrow in the morning to see the old man again.”

Taddung could not believe what he had heard. He had just come back, but now his mother wanted him to travel that far again. He got the urge to protest, but then realized.

He took a deep breath and let it out calmly. He regretted his mistake and wholeheartedly replied, “I am ready to leave tomorrow morning, mother.”

“Excellent, My son. You are real man. Give him my message. Tell him that I want you to take the holy deer to Tanjung Batu.”

“I shall do, mother.”

When morning came Taddung departed onto the same journey.

He walked lightly, as if he was flying.

Long story short, Taddung had come back to the old man's place. The old man welcomed him in a way as if he had known that Taddung would return.

“So you come back quickly, young man.”

“I do, grandfather. My mother asked me to go here again.”

“O, I see. What is your mother wish?”

“She wishes I can take the holy deer to Tanjung Batu.”

The old man laughed crisply. There was a happy stroke on his face.

“Oh well, very well, young man. You have to stay here for 99 months in order to be able to bring home what your mother wishes for.”

“I shall do, grandfather.”

Taddung immediately established his intention to be dutiful to his mother because of Allah. He would follow the old man's requirement to live there for 99 months.

If it is calculated in year, 99 months equals to 9 years. During that time, Taddung had to live separately from his mother and could not keep contact with her.

It was obviously saddening, but that was what his mother wanted. Though Taddung did not fulfil his mother daily needs, he was still considered to be dutiful to his mother. He carried out his mother order to wander and bring home a holy deer. Every day Taddung worked as usual. He helped the old man to work on the farm and do the household chores. The old man taught him knowledge and philosophy all the time while he was doing his activity. There was also time specifically allocated to study, ie, before dusk until night. As a beginning the old man taught him about manners, philosophy, and psychology in general.

At the same time, he was also taught movements to worship God. Taddung felt it was strange, because he had never seen such movements before.

“Just do it, needless to question.” That was what the old man would say whenever he saw confusion in Taddung’s face.

So Taddung did everything the old man taught and instructed him wholeheartedly. There was no knowledge that he did not digest.

There was no command that he did not do. There was no restriction that he did not keep away from or leave behind. Month 66, the old man took him to the back of the shack. To Taddung’s surprise, there was a fairly large village at the back of the shack. In the middle of the village there was a house, most likely, headquarter. As they were passing through, every one showed

their respect and slightly bowed to the old man. They seemed to know him well.

“Salam (peace, a way of greeting in Islam), Master.”

“Salam, my child.”

At that point Taddung realized that the old man was the leader and teacher for the villagers, and that the villagers were the old man’s loyal students.



The old man took Taddung walking around the village and showed him the peaceful life there. Taddung was very fascinated. He dreamed of making Tanjung Batu as peaceful as the village. They walked passing several houses before stopping at a house.

“Salam.” The old man greeted the householder.

“Salam, Master.”

The householder replied happily and proudly knowing the old man came. The householder asked them to come in.

The old man introduced Taddung to the householder and vice versa. At first Taddung was a bit awkward. Thankfully for him the householder was very friendly so it helped to erase his awkwardness. They talked about many things accompanied with food and drink that were served by the householder’s wife. The atmosphere got more intimate. They lost in conversation until the old man said something specifically toward the householder that surprised Taddung.

“Taddung is a powerful and considerate young man. He is 35 years old now. That means 5 years ahead he will reach the age of maturity of a man.

At that age he will become a teacher and a leader in his village. I have an opinion that Puan, your daughter is capable of becoming Taddung’s wife and supporting him in his struggle.”

The householder listened to the old man calmly. To Taddung's surprise, the householder replied instantly, "We are ready, Master. I will accept this young man as my son-in-law."

Taddung was even more surprised. He, however, must emulate the attitude of the householder who was likely to be his father in law. He must act like a student who was always reverent to his teacher.

"Your command will be done, grandfather..., uh I mean, Master."

Taddung answered him slightly stammering. From now on he was going to call the old man master.

"Fantastic student."

In short, a further discussion about the plan for Taddung and Puan's marriage was held. Puan was also invited to the discussion to meet with Taddung for a while.

How surprised Taddung was when he saw his bride-to-be. She was still so young and beautiful. At first he had doubt whether she would accept him. Taddung was aware of himself. He was just a poor and ugly young man. Unexpectedly, Puan accepted Taddung with pleasure. Taddung, in her eyes, may not be good looking, but he had a calm and mature facial expression. That night an agreement was made. They would be married without necessarily being engaged first. Taddung presented a silk, his only

possession, as a dowry. The fabric was happened to be inserted by his mother between Taddung supplies.

Everyone gathered in a wooden house located in the middle of the village. They named it *surau*, an Islamic assembly building. When the people had gathered, the marriage began. That night Taddung fulfilled his role as a real man. He was ecstatic for having a beautiful young wife. Puan and Taddung lived happily in that village. Every afternoon and night Taddung spent every afternoon and night by taking knowledge from the grandmaster who taught him more knowledge. At the end of his learning year, the old man inherited a sophisticated *silat* skill. Taddung finally arrived at the last day in the 99th month that the old man had required.

That night Taddung started a conversation, “Master, it has been 99 months I live here as your command. Tomorrow I shall take my wife home to Tanjung Batu.”

“Indeed, my student. You have absorbed my knowledge successfully. I allow you to return to your hometown.”

“Master, what about my mother’s request to bring home a holy deer?”

“Then take it, my student.”

“Where is the holy deer, Master?”

“It is in two places.”

“In two places?”

“Indeed, one is in your heart, and the other one is in the heart of Puan, your wife.”

Taddung conveyed his respect. He asked to leave.

“Salam, Master.”

“Salam.”

Taddung went back to his wife. Together they were preparing supplies for their journey. Taddung had told his parents in law and some neighbors about his plan to leave for hometown this afternoon. The next day they were ready with their supplies. When they were about to say goodbye, they were surprised by the villagers who had gathered. Some of the men were also carrying some supplies.

“O Taddung, we highly respect you as new member of this village. We are sad that you have to leave us, but we cannot hold you to stay. It has been a part of your duty to return home.”

“Thank you, my brothers. I shall always remember your kindness.”

“Taddung, it is most likely your wife has been pregnant. We have asked some villagers to escort you back to Tanjung Batu. There are eight men who will carry the stretcher alternately.”

The villagers were truly kind to Puan and Taddung. They could not resist their kindness. They finally left for Tanjung Batu. It took some time for them to arrive at Tanjung Batu. Taddung and Puan went straight to the hut where Taddung’s mother lived. The hut looked lifeless and full of dust. Taddung’s heart was pounding. At the same time, the villagers came. They were so happy with Taddung’s arrival, but they regretfully had to tell him that his mother had passed shortly after he left years ago. Taddung could not help to cry.

He regretted to have gone and left his mother for so long. Puan and everyone there comforted Taddung. When he began to calm down, someone asked him, “Taddung, your mother left us a message that she allowed you to be a master after she had died.”

Taddung was back in tears. He did not answer. Instead, he asked, “Where is my mother buried?”

“Taddung, your mother wishes her grave to be secret. She only wanted you to always pray for her whenever and wherever without the necessary to visit her grave.” Taddung sobbed and tears came again.

“Mother, I have come home taking the holy deer. Why don’t you wait for me, Mother? Why do you leave me?”

The villagers consoled him again. It was not long before things settled down. Taddung began to control himself. He opened the door of his house. The villagers helped him cleaning up the thickening dust.

After a few days, the eight men from Puan’s village had to go back to their village.



Before leaving, the eight men vowed to always keep peace on between the two distant villages. They promised to never attack each other for whatever reason. They returned home bringing gifts of crops given by the people of Tanjung Batu.

Taddung started to repair the hut. He and Puan lived happily in the hut. They could not get even happier when their first child was born.

The villagers billed Tadang's promise to teach them his martial arts skill and his knowledge. This time Taddung could not say no. He invited the villagers to build a hut as a learning center.

He applied the knowledge he learned from the grandmaster. He explained to the villagers who became his students that power does not lay in the fighting skill or in invulnerable body. The ultimate character lies in the good character or noble morals.

Just like what he had learned, Taddung focused his teaching mainly to put trust in God. He also made the hut as a place for worshipping God.

There it goes. Tanjung Batu had become a more enjoyable village. Its dwellers believed in God and respect others. They would be rough only to bad people, for example the pirates.

Since Taddung had opened martial arts school, the villagers were able to protect themselves and the village. Since then no pirate

dared enough to come to the village. Many young men from neighboring villages came to study in the school. It was the beginning of joint defense effort to confront pirates.

Taddung reminded the villagers to always maintain vigilance. Pirates might come at any time and unexpectedly. They may not be able to penetrate defenses of the villagers for the moment, but they will never stop finding opportunity to re-attack the village. A little off guard may invite an unexpected attack.

People from other villages enjoy visiting Tanjung Batu to trade exchange farm products. Over time Tanjung Batu became a crowded village. Taddung was appointed as a high-ranking officer in the village.

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Riwayat Pekerjaan/Profesi (10 tahun terakhir)

2004–sekarang: PNS di Kantor Bahasa Kalimantan Timur

Riwayat Pendidikan Tinggi dan Tahun Belajar

1. S-2: Ilmu Sastra FIB UGM (2009--2015)
2. S-1: Sastra Indonesia FIB UGM (1991--2002)

Informasi Lain

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Tenaga fungsional umum Badan Pengembangan dan Pembinaan Bahasa (2001—sekarang)

Riwayat Pendidikan

S-1 Sarjana Sastra Indonesia Universitas Padjajaran Bandung (1996—2001)
S-2 Linguistik Universitas Indonesia (2007—2010)

Informasi Lain

Lahir di Bogor pada tanggal 7 Juni 1977. Aktif dalam berbagai kegiatan dan aktivitas penyuntingan, di antaranya menyunting di Bapenas dan PAUDNI Bandung.