

**A TALE OF DEWI SAMBOJA**  
*Kisah Dewi Samboja*

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**Language Development and Cultivation Agency**  
**Ministry of Education and Culture**  
**Republic of Indonesia**  
**2018**

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Translated from  
*Kisah Dewi Samboja*  
written by Nia Kurnia  
published by  
Language Development and Cultivation Agency  
Ministry of Education and Culture  
in 2016

This translation has been published as the result of the translation program organized  
by The Center for Language Strategy and Diplomacy Development,  
Language Development and Cultivation Agency, Ministry of Education and Culture  
in 2018

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# A TALE OF DEWI SAMBOJA

## 1. The Beautiful Princess of Galuh Kingdom

The birds chirped happily, welcoming the sun. The breeze swayed the yellowing paddy stalks on the field. Water flowed from the spring in the mountains, following every bend of the rivers. That was how it was in the beautiful land of Sunda, a land surrounded by mountains.

In the land of Sunda, with its cool air and beautiful mountainous scenery, there was a kingdom called Galuh Kingdom. It was famous for its fertile land and its wise and benevolent king. All people loved the king.

The king had several children. His youngest daughter was called Dewi Samboja. She was very close to her father. She often went with his father when the king visited his subjects in the villages.

“Sambojaaaaa.” That was how the king called her whenever he would go out of the palace.

“Father, wait for meeee.... I want to go with you,” Dewi Samboja would reply. She loved following the king to the villages. She was an active and cheerful girl. Apparently, she inherited the king’s friendly disposition. She always greeted everyone she met along the way and she often threw her sweet

smile.

“Good morning, what are you doing, good Madam and Sir?”  
Dewi Samboja was curious what the two people were doing.

“Good morning, Princess. We are pulling out weeds that will harm our paddy plants.”

She nodded and smiled before running away to keep up with her father. That smile was always on her beautiful face no matter what happened.

As Dewi Samboja grew up, the people grew to love her even more. Everyone in Galuh Kingdom admitted that she had beautiful face and nice attitude. Every once in a while she took her father’s place to visit the villages because the old king could not go around as often as he used to do.

A small breeze touched the paddy stalks and made a yellow wave moving incessantly on the field. Dewi Samboja went to visit a village that day. Wearing her best smile, Dewi Samboja watched how the farmers took care of their fields. Everyone was beaming with happiness because it would be harvest time soon.

“Good people of Galuh Kingdom, please forgive your king. He is not able to visit you to day. He sent me to see you in his stead. He knew harvest time will soon be upon us and he asked me to remind you to store some of your harvest in the barn for the dry

season,” Dewi Samboja sent the king’s message to everyone present.

“Of course we remember that, Princess,” they replied.

Dewi Samboja did not immediately leave after that. Of course she would linger around for a long time, sitting on her horseback or talked to the people on the field. Sometimes, she would sit in the hut and watched the farmers chatting, gossiping, and joking around. She loved to see young people guessing riddles or making toys from whatever materials they found around them.

Dewi Samboja was always cheerful and it showed in her face. Even though she was the youngest daughter of the king of Galuh, Dewi Samboja was always humble. She was pretty and friendly. Every morning, she never missed greeting the farmers. She was glad that the people lived in prosperity under his father’s leadership. She always prayed to God Almighty, expressing her gratitude for God’s blessings of fertile land in Galuh Kingdom.

“Thank you, O Lord. You have let me be born as the daughter of the wise king of Galuh. We are really grateful because You have blessed us with beautiful and fertile land. I pray that You grant us the strength and patience to take care of this world.” Dewi Samboja always took some time to sit alone and reflect, focusing all her thoughts and emotions to achieve an inner peace in her heart.

## **2. Prince Anggalarang from Pananjung Kingdom**

The wind felt refreshing amidst the hot sun that was beating all over the prince's muscular body. His name was Anggalarang. Every once in a while, the prince would try to invite more breeze by fanning himself with his hand.

Prince Anggalarang was the son of Prabu Haur Kuning, the king of Pananjung Kingdom. He loved to sail and practiced martial arts with his guard and best friend, Patih Sawung Galing. He had the skill and the courage to beat the storm in the ocean, and to destroy the pirates who threatened people in the ports. The pirates often came to ports and asked people to pay tributes.

As the day went by, Prince Anggalarang grew to be a handsome and well-built young man. Prabu Haur Kuning had often asked him about the possibility of marriage.

“My dear boy, you are an adult now. It is time for you to get married. All our relatives want to know, do you have someone you love? One of our relatives has a beautiful daughter. She is of age and she will gladly accept your marriage proposal should you want to.”

“Please forgive me, Father. It's not that I do not appreciate your offer. With all due respect, Dewi Sekar Laras is like a sister to me. I cannot love her as a woman to spend the rest of my life with.” Prince Anggalarang poured his heart honestly.

“If Dewi Sekar Laras does not suit you, what about Princess Sekar Tanjung from the kingdom over the sea? I heard she is looking for a husband.” Prabu Haur Kuning made another offer.

“I beg your pardon, Father. I wish to make my own choice, if it is possible. I would like to find out more about a princess from a nearby kingdom. The news of her beauty and kindness has gotten me curious about her, Father.”

“Very well, if that is your choice. I will not push you. Choose the girl that suits you. I only want to remind you that, as a king, I need you to be decisive. I am getting old and this kingdom needs a young king. The sooner you get married, the better it will be for our kingdom,” Prabu Haur Kuning ended that discussion.

Prabu Haur Kuning always tried to make time to talk with Prince Anggalarang in the short period of time between the Prince’s sailing adventures.

Since that last discussion, Prince Anggalarang found that he fell in love to a girl, a princess, whom he never met before. All he knew about the princess was what he heard from the rumors.

However, he believed that the princess, who was called Dewi Samboja, was his destined soul mate. He intended to find out whether or not the rumors about her were true.

### **3. King Galuh Delegated His Duties to Patih**

King Galuh was getting old. He delegated most of his duties to monitor the people in Galuh Kingdom to his *patih*, his second-in-command. As always, Dewi Samboja tagged along to see the people, whether it was the king or the *patih* who went to the villages. She loved having conversation with the people of Galuh. All these just showed how kind and beautiful she was.

One day, Dewi Samboja told Patih that he should always invite her along whenever he went to the villages. She loved meeting the people. She did not want to be the kind of princess who only sat quietly in the palace. She wanted to be close to the people. Direct contact and close conversation with them would always make her happy.

“Mr. Patih, my father has appointed you to act in his behalf to control and monitor the people of Galuh. Since I have always been following him to the villages since I was little, I would appreciate it if you invite me along too.”

“Very well, Princess. I will tell you if I ever go to the villages again. I am truly glad that you care so much about the people. They must miss you if you did not come along when I visit. In fact, I once heard some of them talking about you. They were very happy whenever you visit. They also admire your beauty and kindness.” Patih shared his opinion to the Princess.



Dewi Samboja was always cheerful and full of spirit. She would always be ready for those visits.

#### **4. Dewi Samboja Met Prince Anggalarang**

The news of how beautiful and kind Dewi Samboja was had spread to other kingdoms. Every prince and nobleman was curious about her. They were always eager to try and meet her, including Prince Anggalarang, the crown prince of Pananjung Kingdom in the Southern Coast.

“Father, I heard some news. There is a gorgeous and kind princess in a nearby kingdom. Her name is Dewi Samboja of Galuh Kingdom.

People say that she has not only a pretty face but also a good heart. Please allow me to find out if this is true or not, Father.” Prince Anggalarang knelt before the king and asked for his permission.

“Very well, Son, I grant your wish. You are an adult now. It is time for you to take the throne and replace me,” said Prabu Haur Kuning, putting his hand at the top of Prince Anggalarang’s head as a sign of blessing. He then kissed the Prince’s forehead.

Prince Anggalarang was the only child. Before he could sit on his father’s throne, he had to have a queen first. It was not easy for him to find a suitable wife, until he heard about the kind Princess

of Galuh. The Prince had always been independent, even since he was a boy. Her mother had died when he was so young. Now, he had grown into a strong and courageous man. He had been training in martial arts and sailing since a young age. He was accustomed to the harsh waves and storms of the sea. He had sailed many times and Patih Sawung Galing had always accompanied him. They had become the best of friends since those days.

“Patih, would you accompany me in my journey? I would like to find the truth about a rumor. It has to do with a princess in another kingdom. Would you be so kind to travel with me?” Prince Anggalarang asked Patih Sawung Galing, his father’s right hand man.

“Of course, My Prince. I would love to come with you. I would be a good support and company. Wherever you go, I will go with you,” said Patih Sawung Galing.

Thus, Prince Anggalarang went to Galuh Kingdom, accompanied by the loyal Patih Sawung Galing. It took days of travel through mountains and jungles. They faced various challenges and obstacles along the way, including wild animals.

Even though it was hard, Prince Anggalarang’s strong will allowed them to go through all the obstacles. All the time, the Prince thought about the best way to confirm the news he had

heard. In his opinion, it would do no good to ask the Princess directly. He had to observe her from afar to see her true face.

Finally, he found the perfect way. He would ask Patih Sawung Galing to pretend to be a starving old man and tested the kindness of the Princess.

“Patih, what should I do to confirm the rumors? How can we measure one’s heart? It is easy to see how pretty her face is, but it is hard to know how beautiful her heart is.” Prince Anggalarang said to Patih Sawung Galing one day.

He let his horse strode on its own, his mind was busy making plans. “Patih, what if you disguise yourself? Can you pretend to be an old man? A starving old man?” Prince Anggalarang asked.

“I think it’s a great idea, My Prince. But I think it would be easier to find a genuine old man than to disguise me.”

“You are right. Let’s find a village and ask around.”

It was not long until they found an old man who was willing to help them. They dressed him in rags and made it look like he was ill from hunger. Then, they continue to travel. According to the old man, Dewi Samboja enjoyed talking to the people every day. If she could not make it in the morning, she would be there in the afternoon.

That afternoon, Prince Anggalarang, Patih Sawung Galing, and

the old man arrived in a village. It just happened that Dewi Samboja was visiting that village. Prince Anggalarang told the old man to come closer to the Princess and start acting. She was sitting in a hut where the farmers were taking a break from a hard day's work.

While the old man ambling along towards the hut, Prince Anggalarang and Patih Sawung Galing hid themselves behind a tree. They watched the old man carefully. The Prince felt his heart pounding in his chest. Was all the news true? Was Dewi Samboja the one he had been looking for, the girl who would be his queen?

Dewi Samboja stopped to rest for a while after her afternoon tour on horseback. She climbed down her horse and walked to a hut. She was chatting animatedly with several farmers who were resting there when an old man came. The old man walked slowly with hands on his stomach. His body was bent forward and his face was frowned. Clearly he was extremely weak from hunger. Seeing a starving old man, Dewi Samboja quickly approached him and took her provision. She gave the old man her food and some money and invited him to rest in the hut with them.

“Old man, please enjoy this food. Here, have some money too. I am sorry we have been careless that you have to starve in this kingdom,” Dewi Samboja said, biting back tears.

“Thank you very much, Princess. I would accept this food and money gratefully. Thank you very much. You are indeed a kind princess. I will take my leave now, Princess. I will always remember your kindness. I promise I will enjoy this delicious meal and use the money to buy what I need,” said the old man. He then went away.

Dewi Samboja felt a mix of confusion and sadness. How come someone could be hungry in this land? She thought all the people of Galuh lived in prosperity, but today she realized that there were still some people who lived in poverty.

“I have always thought that all Galuh people were prosper and wealthy, or at least live decently. How naïve I am. I have to do something. I cannot let anyone in this kingdom go hungry.” Dewi Samboja said to herself.

Behind the tree, Prince Anggalarang watched Dewi Samboja without even blinking. He was mesmerized by the beautiful Princess. He realized that all the rumors were true. She was beautiful as she was kind. He decided to go to the hut and meet her. He had spent days following and watching Dewi Samboja with Patih Sawung Galing. They had even asked some villagers to help as spies.

Today was the day. Prince Anggalarang was sure now. He had made his mind. Prince Anggalarang and Patih Sawung Galing

finally met Dewi Samboja. Patih Sawung Galing introduced himself and the Prince to Dewi Samboja. He explained that the Prince admired her. He also explained the reason why they came all this way to see the Princess.

“Excuse us, Princess. My name Patih Sawung Galing and this is Prince Anggalarang, the crown prince of Pananjung Kingdom. The Prince wished to know you, Princess. We have heard about your beauty and kindness. We have travelled so long to see you. The Prince would like to ask you to be his queen.” Patih Sawung Galing knelt before the Princess.

Hearing that, Dewi Samboja did not give any respond to the request. Instead, she told them to see the King of Galuh, her father.

“Excuse me, Mr. Patih and Prince. I do not mean to be rude but this is not my decision. I need to talk to my father first. Besides, this is the first time we meet each other.” Dewi Samboja said politely with a beautiful smile.

Dewi Samboja knew she could not be hasty in choosing a husband. A rush decision might ruin her whole life. As a Princess and a child, she had to respect her parents. She also had to set a good example for her people.

“I think you should also talk to my father. Come with us to the palace. If it is meant to be, he surely will give the best decision.”

Prince Anggalarang and Patih Sawung Galing respected Dewi Samboja's decision. The Prince was confident that King Galuh would accept his proposal and bless their marriage.

When they arrived at the palace, Dewi Samboja announced the guests. "Father, there are two people wish to see you. They are Prince Anggalarang and Patih Sawung Galing."

King Galuh nodded, inviting them in. The two guests went forward and bowed down in respect. Patih Sawung Galing again acted as the spokesperson, explaining their intention to the King.

"Excuse our boldness, O great King of Galuh. We come from Pananjung Kingdom in the Southern Coast with a good intention of asking the hands of Princess Dewi Samboja to marry our crown prince, Prince Anggalarang. We have talked to the Princess about this, but she will not give any answer before you give your decision, Wise King."

"As a parent, I only wish that my children live a happy life. Even though Dewi Samboja will never disobey whatever I decide, this is her life. I is only right for me to ask her opinion and feeling about this." King Galuh looked at the Princess who was standing on his right.

Dewi Samboja only nodded her head slightly and smiled. King Galuh knew what it meant. For a while, King Galuh kept quiet and closed his eyes. He was considering this matter very

seriously. Then, he finally open his eyes and spoke.

“Patih Sawung Galing, I have made my decision. I will accept Prince Anggalarang’s proposal to marry my daughter. Now, you can go home to give the good news to the King of Pananjung.”

“Thank you very much, Your Majesty. We will leave for Pananjung Kingdom soon. Thank you very much.” Patih Sawung Galing and Prince Anggalarang took their leave and went out.

Dewi Samboja walked them to the outer gate of the palace. Before they left, Prince Anggalarang talked to Dewi Samboja.

“Thank you, Dewi,” he smiled and bowed. “I will go back home and ask my father’s blessing. Prabu Haur Kuning will be glad to have you as a daughter in law.”

Dewi Samboja stood in front of the gate, watching the Prince disappeared in the horizon.

## **5. Dewi Samboja Married Prince Anggalarang**

A huge wind blew and shook the trees. The leaves fell and scattered on the ground. Prince Anggalarang and Patih Sawung Galing kept urging their horses to run. They wanted to get to Pananjung Kingdom as soon as possible. Prince Anggalarang could not wait to tell Prabu Haur Kuning about his plan to marry Dewi Samboja. As soon as they arrived at the palace, Prince



Anggalarang jumped down from his horse and walked briskly to find the King.

“Father, I have found her. I have found the perfect wife. She is gorgeous, kind, friendly, and well-mannered. She is the youngest daughter of King Galuh. I have decided to marry Princess Dewi Samboja, Father.”

“Calm yourself, Son. There is no rush. Let your heart be calm so you can examine your feelings. If you are sure, and if she is meant to be your wife, you need to prepare yourself. I knew King Galuh. He is a good and wise king. I believe his daughter is good too. With such a good parent, how can she not be? Trust me. Calm yourself for the next three days. Then we’ll talk.” Prabu Haur Kuning gave his son an advice.

Three days passed. Prince Anggalarang had become more and more certain about his feeling. With confidence, and with blessings from his father, Prince Anggalarang and Patih Sawung Galing once again set out to Galuh Kingdom.

The morning air was cold; the sun had not fully risen yet. Birds were chirping when Prince Anggalarang set out on his second journey to Galuh Kingdom. Patih Sawung Galing accompanied him, along with several hand-picked soldiers. With each step towards Galuh Kingdom, Prince Anggalarang became more and more certain that Dewi Samboja was destined to be his wife.

After a few days on the road, Prince Anggalarang and his companions arrived in Galuh Kingdom one afternoon. The sentries patrolling the town center welcomed them and took them straight to the palace. They had received a command from the king to welcome the Prince whenever he arrived.

“Come, Prince, follow us,” the leader of the soldiers saluted the Prince and led the way.

In the palace, Prince Anggalarang and Patih Sawung Galih went to meet King Galuh. Their companion waited outside the palace and rested. The Prince and Patih Sawung Galih greeted the King and he welcomed them warmly. This time, the Prince spoke directly to the King, introducing himself properly and explaining his intention to marry the Princess. He was sure that Dewi Samboja would be a great queen.

“Your Majesty, I apologize if I am rude, coming here without an invitation. I come here with a wish to ask your permission to marry your daughter, Dewi Samboja. Her beauty and kind heart are special, and I really fall in love with her. Please give us your blessing, O Wise King.” Prince Anggalarang asked for the King’s permission and blessing, bowing with respect the whole time.

King Galuh smiled and nodded listening to the Prince. He knew that Prince Anggalarang was the perfect match for his daughter.

He was sure. All his dreams and prophecies from the kingdom's fortune tellers pointed that Dewi Samboja's husband would come from a kingdom in the Southern Coast.

“Prince Anggalarang, I do give you my permission. Honestly, I wish Dewi Samboja to get married soon. I am old now. I want to see my youngest daughter get married before I leave. And I am sure you are the man, Princess.” King Galuh said with tears of happiness on his eyes.

“Thank you very much, Your Majesty. I feel grateful and honored that you bless this marriage. I promise do my best to be a good husband to her.”

The day wore on and the dusk settled. Prince Anggalarang and Patih Sawung Galing, along with their companions, spent the night at Galuh Kingdom. They were shown to a villa in the palace complex to rest. Early the next morning, they would set out to Pananjung Kingdom again.

At dawn, the Prince, Patih, and their soldiers woke up and got ready. The sun had just risen and Prince Anggalarang could not wait to leave. He wanted to tell his father, Prabu Haur Kuning, the good news.

They said goodbye to the King and the Princess and got on their horses. Soon, they were on the way, leaving a cloud of dust behind. Once in a while, they stopped to give the horses a chance

to rest. The horses ate grass and drank from the nearby stream. After such short breaks, they resumed the journey. At night, they either made a camp on the roadside or in the forest. This went on for a few days before they finally reached Pananjung Kingdom.

Prince Anggalarang and Patih Sawung Galing did not waste time to see the King of Pananjung.

“Greetings, Father. I have met and had an audience with King Galuh. The King accepted my proposal and sent his regards to you, Father. He wished that the marriage would be held as soon as possible and he gave us a month to prepare.” Prince Anggalarang reported.

Prabu Haur Kuning smiled happily. He quickly summoned several people to help preparing the wedding. Everyone got busy, finding and doing everything that would be needed for the royal wedding. A few weeks later, a long line of people marched towards Galuh Kingdom. Unfortunately, Prabu Haur Kuning could not leave his kingdom unattended, so he stayed in Pananjung.

The wedding ceremony lasted seven days and seven nights. Everyone was happy and having a good time. All people of Galuh were excited that their beloved Princess married a good Prince. Every day, various forms of arts, including dancing, singing, and puppet show, were performed to entertain the guests

and the people.

## **6. The Demise of Prince Anggalarang**

After the parties, everyone was tired. The newly-wedded couple decided to stay in Galuh for a while. They had not decided where they would finally reside because both Galuh and Pananjung Kingdoms needed them as the successors to the throne. They figured that they would like to enjoy some time for themselves before making a decision and got back to their lives as Prince and Princess.

“Dear Husband, there is one thing on my mind these last few days. Father once told me that he wished I would stay in Galuh Kingdom and rule because he wanted to go on a spiritual retreat. At the same time, I know that King of Pananjung wants you to be the successor to him. What should I do?” Dewi Samboja spoke out her mind to Prince Anggalarang.

“Dewi, I understand your worries. Let’s just enjoy our honeymoon first. We’ll deal with this later. We’ll talk to both our fathers about this matter and find a solution. This is a huge matter and it should be decided wisely. We need to find the best solution so that our kingdom will grow even stronger, not fall apart.” Prince Anggalarang gave his opinion.

Little did they know, it was their last intimate conversation. The marriage did not last long. Dewi Samboja and Prince

Anggalarang never had the chance to discuss what to do with the Kingdoms with King Galuh and Prabu Haur Kuning. They did not even have the chance to visit Pananjung Kingdom after the wedding. Before Prince Anggalarang took Dewi Samboja to Pananjung Kingdom, some *bajo* or raiders attacked Galuh Kingdom.

A cold night settled in the kingdom. The seven days and seven nights wedding parties had lulled everyone and lowered their guard. On that fateful night, a terrible thing happened. A notorious group of *bajo* came to Galuh Kingdom. Their leader, Kalamasudra wanted to kidnap Dewi Samboja.

In the middle of the night, the *bajo* stealthily entered the kingdom. Out of the blue, the roosters all around the kingdom crowed and broke the silence of the night. Dewi Samboja bolted awake in her room. She was surprised and confused to see that it was not dawn yet. She quickly shook Prince Anggalarang's shoulder and woke him up.

“Wake up, Husband. It's so strange. Do you hear the roosters' crow? What is happening? It is the middle of the night. Wake up, Husband. This might be an omen.”

Prince Anggalarang rubbed the sleep from his eyes and sat up straight. The whole palace had woken up, including the King. The King issued a command to the captain of the guards. Every

soldiers spread out to check the situation. By that time, all *bajo* had entered the palace. One of the soldier overheard a muscular man talked to his fellow raider. It was Kalamasudra, the leader, telling his people to cover him while he attempted to kidnap the Princess.

The soldier rushed over to the captain and reported what he heard. The captain quickly told the King. Upon hearing this, King Galuh instructed Prince Anggalarang to take the Princess far away from the palace. However, they were too late. Kalamasudra and his people had begun the attack. King Galuh braced himself, holding a spear on one hand and a *kujang* on the other. Some *bajo* went for the King, some others took care of the guards. Meanwhile, Kalamasudra went to Dewi Samboja's room.

A battle ensued. The King and his guards defended themselves fiercely against the raiders. But they were no match for the savage *bajo*. The guards fell one by one and the old King began to get tired. He was wounded all over. Finally, a *bajo* managed to stab him in the chest and the brave King fell down.

Seeing that, Prince Anggalarang who were protecting his wife and trying to get away shouted. He could not just leave now. The King has fallen.

“Guards, protect Dewi Samboja. Go! Quick! Take her out of here. The King has fallen. I will try to hold them off. Dewi, run! I will

find you later.” Prince Anggalarang blocked all the attacks coming from the raiders, trying to give his wife a chance to run away. As good as the Prince was, he was no match for the savage raiders and their leader. Dewi Samboja barely reached the door at the end of the corridor when she heard his husband fell. Kalamasudra had just killed the Prince.

“Nooooo! Faaaatheeerrrr! Oh, no, my husband...” Dewi Samboja tried to break free from the guards who were trying to save her. They held her tightly and half dragged her outside. All *bajo* tried to force their way through the soldiers.

With a broken heart, Dewi Samboja ran away, leaving the bodies of her father and her husband in the palace. Several soldiers and maids followed her. They headed to the mountains amidst the clamoring sounds of swords clashing, people shouting, roosters crowing, and owls hooting. Tears streaming down Dewi Samboja’s cheeks. She had just lost his father and his husband in one night and she did not know if she would ever come back to the Kingdom. She forced herself to keep running. Behind her, the soldiers and the maids kept glancing behind, afraid that the raiders would catch them. In the palace, the battle still raged on and the raiders were winning.

Dewi Samboja did not know and did not care how far she had run. All she knew was that she had to keep running. Her heart was beating so fast and so loud but she could not stop. The



surviving *bajo* had pursued her. She kept praying that God would save her. She had to survive for her people. She was the sole heir to the Kingdom.

“Dear God, please save us from this unimaginable horror. Please grant us strength and patience to get through this. Please protect us.” Dewi Samboja kept repeating the prayers in her head. Her legs were starting to give up. She felt like she was going to faint anytime soon. She looked behind and breathed a sigh of relief. They had lost the *bajo*. Dewi Samboja told her followers to stop when they arrived at the foot of Sawal Mountain. They found a cave and decided to hide there. They called it Rengganis Cave.

## **7. The New Life**

The palace had been overtaken by Kalamasudra. This forced Dewi Samboja to hide and live in the mountain. With several soldiers and maids who came with her that night, she started a new life as common people. The night they ran away, they brought nothing from the palace. All everybody cared was the safety of the Princess. Now they had to start over with nothing.

Amidst all these hardships, Dewi Samboja forced herself to stay strong. She convinced herself that something good would come from this tragedy.

Every day, she meditated and practiced martial arts. She believed that she needed them. She had to be strong, both physically and

spiritually. Dewi Samboja and her small group of followers planted paddy for a living. They did it using *huma* technique, planting the paddy on the highland.

Everything had changed for Dewi Samboja. Her life had taken a complete turn. She had learned to accept the reality and tried to survive in her new dwelling. The only thing she was worried about was that one day the *bajo* might find her. Thus, she decided to disguise her identity. She changed her look, her way of living, and her name. She called herself as Nini Bogem, an elderly woman who lived with a group of people near Rengganis Cave. Over the months of their hiding, Nini Bogem and her people had built a tight and closed community.

Every once in while she missed the Kingdom and the palace she had left. When it was too much to bear, Nini Bogem would climb the mountain and looked at the direction where Galuh Kingdom was. She took in everything and remembered the good old days. She had often felt the urge to go back, just to see how Galuh people were doing after she left. However, she always managed to contain herself. She felt that she was not ready yet.

“O, Father, Dear Husband, it has been a year I live in isolation. Should I leave this mountain and go back to society? I really miss Galuh Kingdom and all the people there.” Dewi Samboja talked to herself.

## 8. Dewi Samboja's Disguise

One day, Dewi Samboja felt that it was time to leave the mountain and go back to Galuh. However, she had to be careful not to reveal her identity. After thinking long and hard, she finally found a way to check the condition in Galuh Kingdom without revealing herself. She would perform *ronggeng*, a traditional dance commonly performed during the harvest season.

“Everyone, I had an idea,” Dewi Samboja announced her plan. “When the harvest season starts, and there will be *ronggeng* performance everywhere around Galuh. I really want to go back there. I think it would be a perfect cover for us if we pretend to be a group of *ronggeng* performers. What do you think?”

“We’ll do whatever you want us to do, Princess. We’ll follow you wherever you go. Our job is to protect you and keep you safe,” they replied, bowing their heads in respect.

“Very well, then. I appreciate your loyalty. And please stop with the bowing, we are not princess and maids and soldiers anymore. We are disguising ourselves as common people. We have to act and think like them.” Dewi Samboja reminded her people.

Ever since that day, Dewi Samboja assumed a new identity. She practiced a lot to perform the best *ronggeng* performance. She meditated, practiced her singing and dancing, and practiced fasting. Everyone in her group did the same. Those who would

play the music practiced with their instruments. Those who would perform the dance practiced their dancing. They practiced for months so that when the time came, they would be able to pull it off.

With each passing day, her will to go back to Galuh got stronger. Now she was ready to see what happened to Galuh Kingdom with *bajo* sitting in the palace. Dewi Samboja disguised herself as Nyi Rengganis, a *ronggeng* performer. She and her follower moved from one place to another to perform *ronggeng*. Secretly, she gathered information about her enemy.

As time passed, Nyi Rengganis became so popular. Her group received a lot of invitations to perform, even after the harvest season had passed. They performed in wedding parties and practically every ritual ceremony. Every time they performed, people came to see them in droves. Everyone loved to hear Nyi Rengganis sing. Her voice was so beautiful and mesmerizing it touched everyone's heart. Those who watched their performance and heard Nyi Rengganis singing would be entranced and join the dance.

## **9. Dewi Samboja was Reunited with Patih Sawung Galing**

Dewi Samboja kept performing *ronggeng*, both as singer and dancer, and kept going all over the Kingdom. She was famous as the mountain *ronggeng* who had stolen the heart of her audience

with her unique and mesmerizing voice.

Dewi Samboja kept her true identity hidden very well. Nobody knew that she was the Princess of Galuh Kingdom except her followers. Everyone knew her as the famous mountain *ronggeng*. The news of Nyi Rengganis, the amazing *ronggeng* gunung, finally reached the ears of Patih Sawung Galing and Kalamasudra.

Patih Sawung Galing suspected that Nyi Rengganis might be the missing Princess in disguise. Ever since he heard of the tragedy in Galuh Kingdom, he had been trying to track the whereabouts of Dewi Samboja. He came close several times but he had never been able to confirm his suspicion. He had been following Nyi Rengganis and her group ever since they performed in harvest celebrations. The first time he became suspicious was when he found out that Nyi Rengganis sometimes assumed the identity of Nini Bogem. He had been watching them closely ever since. Over time, he became more and more convinced that Nyi Rengganis was none other than the missing Princess.

“Even though Dewi Samboja disguised herself so completely, I can tell that Nyi Rengganis or Nini Bogem is her,” he thought.

Now that he was certain, Patih Sawung Galing went back to Pananjung Kingdom. He needed to report this news to Prabu Haur Kuning. The King should know that his daughter in law

was alive and disguised herself as a *ronggeng* artist.

“Your Majesty, I am now certain that Dewi Samboja is alive. I have followed a group of mountain *ronggeng* led by a woman called Nyi Rengganis for months. Based on what I saw and several conversations I overheard between the people in the group, I am sure Nyi Rengganis is none other than Dewi Samboja in disguise. I would like to report that she is planning to take back Galuh Kingdom from the *bajo*, Your Highness.”

Prabu Haur Kuning had been waiting for this news for a long time. He was glad that there was some hope at last. Although his son was gone, Dewi Samboja, his daughter in life was still alive.

“Thank God, I’m glad she is alive. There’s still hope for us all. Patih, I want you to keep following her. Keep an eye on her, protect her. She is the only hope we have for the future of our Kingdoms.”

“I will, Your Majesty. I will go back and keep a close watch on her. I will protect her from those *bajo*. I will follow her wherever she goes, Your Highness.” Patih Sawung Galing took his leave.

Patih Sawung Galing was the right hand man of the King. He was only five years older than the late Prince Anggalarang and he had been the Prince’s best friends. After the untimely death of Prince Anggalarang, Patih Sawung Galing was the only person in

the world that could give joy to Prabu Haur Kuning. He was loyal to his King and now he would do the King's bidding, protecting Dewi Samboja.

After making preparation for his journey, Patih Sawung Galing bid farewell to Prabu Haur Kuning. Riding a horse, he set out to where Dewi Samboja currently resided. A couple of soldiers accompanied him.

The whole way, he thought, "What should I do? I can't just walk up to her. There is a chance the raiders recognize me. If they put two and two together and follow me, it will be really bad." He was deep in thought most of the time that his companions often had to call out loud to get him out of his reverie.

Patih Sawung Galing realized that he could not follow Dewi Samboja as himself. He needed a disguise. The three of them then stopped at a village to find clothes that common people wore.

"I will change my appearance. Ah, it reminds me of the day Prince Anggalarang asked me to disguise myself as an old man. I think I will finally do it."

Thus, Patih Sawung Galing disguised himself as a rugged old man dressed in dirty clothes. He went around finding information about mountain *ronggeng* performance and tracked it down. Apparently, his disguise worked because Dewi Rengganis did not

recognize him. He followed the group around everywhere and stayed with them all the time. The two soldiers who came with him acted as spies. One of them kept a close watch at Dewi Rengganis and the other was sent to spy on Kalamasudra.

One day, Patih Sawung Galing approached Dewi Samboja who was resting amidst her group. He whispered to introduce himself, revealing his identity.

“Forgive my rudeness, Nyi. I have been following you around for quite a while and I know who Nyi Rengganis truly is.” Patih Sawung Galing said under his breath.

“Who are you, old man? I’m sorry, do I know you? What do you want from us? If you want something to eat, please feel free to take some of our provisions. Take some money too if you need it,” Dewi Samboja told him compassionately. Her voice was so sweet.

Hearing that, Patih Sawung Galing felt a pang of sadness in the pit of his stomach. Tears streamed down his cheeks.

“Excuse me, Princess. I am Patih Sawung Galing. Do you remember me? Prabu Haur Kuning sent me to protect you, Princess. He is so happy knowing that you are alive.”

“If I were the Princess you are talking about, I think you’d understand if I cannot trust you. If I were the Princess, don’t you



think I have to be careful? How do I know that you are truly Patih Sawung Galing?”

Dewi Samboja stood up and assumed a defensive martial art stance. She was ready to fight. As much as she wanted to believe that the old man was Patih Sawung Galing, she had to prove it first. The only way to do that was to see for herself.

“Patih Sawung Galing is known for his loyalty and his expertise in martial arts. If you are truly Patih Sawung Galing, you’ll be able to defeat my people. I’m sorry I have to ask you to fight them.”

“Very well, Princess, your wish is my command.”

Patih Sawung Galing prepared himself to fight a number of Dewi Samboja’s soldiers. He knew he could not use his full power, he would not want to injure them. The soldiers gave their all to try to take him down, but no one could defeat Patih Sawung Galing.

The fight only lasted for several minutes. When it was over, all the soldiers were on the ground, but no one was badly injured. Patih Sawung Galing then took off his disguise and returned to his true appearance.

Seeing that Patih Sawung Galing won the fight easily, Dewi Samboja began to lean towards believing him. When he revealed himself, all the doubt in the Princess’ mind evaporated.

“Patih, I am sorry. Forgive me to have been so rude. With what I have been going through, I cannot afford to be careless. Please forgive me.” Dewi Samboja knelt before Patih Sawung Galing, crying tears of joy. Finally someone came to help her.

“Please, Princess, no need to do that. Don’t cry. I swear I will protect you from now on. My biggest regret is that I could not protect King Galuh and Prince Anggalarang that night. I have given my word to Prabu Haur Kuning that I will protect you with my life, Princess.”

Dewi Samboja was touched and glad at the same time. Patih Sawung Galing reminded her a lot of her late husband. A memory from that terrible night resurfaced in her mind. She had been talking with Prince Anggalarang about what to do with both their kingdoms. They never had a chance to make a decision concerning the future of Galuh and Pananjung Kingdoms. But now Patih Sawung Galing was here to help her taking back her kingdom. She found her strength returned and she felt ready to move.

Patih Sawung Galing decided to join Dewi Samboja’s *ronggeng* group. He assumed another disguise, presenting himself as a male *ronggeng* dancer.

As the day went on, Dewi Samboja grew closer to Patih Sawung Galing. Deep in her heart, she wanted to marry him. However,

she needed to take back her kingdom first. She asked Patih Sawung Galing to help her taking back the kingdom from the *bajo*. She was sure that Patih Sawung Galing had what it took to defeat Kalamasudra and his men.

“Patih, forgive me for being direct. I would like you to be my protector since my husband has gone.” Dewi Samboja expressed her wish to Patih Sawung Galing.

“I respect and understand what you want, Princess. But it is not my place to decide on a matter like this. I will talk with Prabu Haur Kuning to ask for his permission and opinion.” Patih Sawung Galing replied.

“Very well, Patih, I will be patient and wait for the King’s consent. I totally understand. You are a loyal *patih*. Let’s forget about this for a while. We have to prepare the attack. We need to remove Kalamasudra from the palace and take back the kingdom.”

Dewi Samboja put off her own wish and focused on the greater good of her people. Patih Sawung Galing did the same thing. He postponed the plan to return to Pananjung Kingdom and ask for the King’s permission. They had to put the Princess on her rightful place before they did anything.

## **10. Dewi Samboja Married Patih Sawung Galing**

The news of a beautiful and amazing *ronggeng* named Nyi

Rengganis had reached Kalamasudra. He was curious to see how good and pretty she was. He sent people to invite Nyi Rengganis to perform at his palace.

“I really want to know if she is as good as everyone says. I need to see for myself. I will invite her to perform here.”

Kalamasudra’s men came to the place where Nyi Rengganis’ group was residing. It was Patih Sawung Galing, disguising as a *ronggeng* dancer, who received them.

“Hi. We are sent by Kalamasudra. His Highness demands that Nyi Ronggeng come to Galuh palace and perform there to entertain His Highness Kalamasudra.”

“Very well, good gentlemen. Please wait here. I will deliver your message to Nyi Rengganis,” Patih Sawung Galing said. He went to find Nyi Rengganis and the Princess gave her approval.

He then returned to Kalamasudra’s men. “Gentlemen, the good news is Nyi Rengganis has agreed to perform at the palace. Please expect us in a few weeks.”

“Very good. If she goes back on her promise, know that Kalamasudra will find her and all of you will feel his wrath. Kalamasudra wants her to sing and dance at the palace and that’s what you will do,” the man threatened.

When they were gone, Dewi Samboja and Patih Sawung Galing

discussed what they should do. They knew that it would help their cause to come to Galuh and perform in front of Kalamasudra.

Before they departed to Galuh palace, they discussed the best strategy to take down Kalamasudra. It was decided that Dewi Samboja and some of her people would keep performing to distract Kalamasudra while Patih Sawung Galing and the others would attack.

Sawung Galing sent one of his soldier to go back to Pananjung Kingdom and tell Prabu Haur Kuning. With this development, he would need support. Patih Sawung Galing also requested that the King would send some of his best soldiers. While Dewi Samboja distracted Kalamasudra, Patih Sawung Galing and the soldiers would attack.

A week later, the soldiers from Pananjung Kingdom arrived. The *ronggeng* group then went to Galuh Kingdom. Patih Sawung Galing and the soldiers followed them discreetly. At the palace, Kalamasudra was elated that the beautiful *ronggeng* finally arrived. The performance started and lasted for a long time. Kalamasudra was in awe because Nyi Rengganis was truly mesmerizing. Soon, he joined the dancers and was immersed in it. All his people were enjoying themselves so much that they did not bother to keep watch to their surroundings.

Amidst all the fun, Patih Sawung Galing gave the signal to attack. He and his soldiers quickly surrounded Kalamasudra. Kalamasudra was taken by surprise and he failed to respond in time.

Patih Sawung Galing easily subdued him and attacked his vital nerves. Kalamasudra was immobilized.

“Listen, *bajo*. Your leader, Kalamasudra, has been defeated. Surrender! Throw away your weapons and we will spare your life!” Patih Sawung Galing shouted at the top of his lungs.

All *bajo* immediately obeyed. They thought there was no point in resisting since their leader had been taken. Kalamasudra only nodded, signaling them to comply. He could not move and talk at all. All the strength had left his body.

With that, Galuh Kingdom was taken back from Kalamasudra and returned to its rightful ruler. The evil and greedy Kalamasudra could not defeat Patih Sawung Galing. He was forced to kneel down and surrender. However, Patih Sawung Galing did not kill him. He just attacked Kalamasudra’s nerves so that he could not move anymore. Patih Sawung Galing wanted to give Kalamasudra a chance to repent. Kalamasudra would be banished from the kingdom and imprisoned in an isolated island.

“Sudra, I am not an evil man like you. I still have a conscience. Even though you have been nothing but an evil and cruel man, we

will give you a chance. You have taken the life of our King and Prince, but we will let you live.”

It was touching to see. Kalamasudra and all *bajo* were taken to a ship which would take them to an isolated island. They would spend the rest of their lives in the island. After dropping the prisoners and ensuring that they had no means to escape, the soldiers returned to Galuh Kingdom.

Dewi Samboja was elated. She admired Patih Sawung Galing who had defeated Kalamasudra. What he did with the *bajo* group had convinced her that Patih Sawung Galing was a good man.

“Patih, you have proven your loyalty and your strength. I am sure you will be the perfect man to take Prince Anggalarang’s place,” Dewi Samboja could not hold back her tears of joy.

“Princess, come with me to Pananjung. We’ll see Prabu Haur Kuning. I want you to meet His Highness. It would mean a lot for Prabu Haur Kuning to see his daughter in law is alive and healthy.” Patih Sawung Galing bowed to Dewi Samboja.

“Yes, Patih, I will come with you to Pananjung Kingdom. I have always been wanting to go there and meet the King. I will prepare everything for our journey.” Dewi Samboja then left Patih Sawung Galing to make her preparation.

The next morning, the air was cold. Dewi Samboja, Patih

Sawung Galing, and their soldiers set out to Pananjung Kingdom.

The horses' hoofs clapped-clopped on the dirt road. When they were tired, the Princess told everyone to stop and take a rest.

The whole way to Pananjung, Dewi Samboja talked a lot with Patih Sawung Galing. The more she talked with him, the more certain she became that this man was perfect to be her husband. She could not wait to reach Pananjung Kingdom. She wanted to see Prabu Haur Kuning to ask for the King's permission. She wished to keep her promise to marry Patih Sawung Galing if they took back Galuh Kingdom from Kalamasudra.

They finally arrived in Pananjung Kingdom. Prabu Haur Kuning welcomed them warmly. Dewi Samboja and Patih Sawung Galing bowed to the King. After making small talks, Dewi Samboja uttered her wish to marry Patih Sawung Galing.

Hearing that, Prabu Haur Kuning could not hide his happiness. He genuinely wished that Dewi Samboja would end up marrying Patih Sawung Galih. Patih Sawung Galing was more than just the right hand man for the King. The King regarded him as his own son, particularly after Prince Anggalarang passed away.

“I understand what you want, Princess. I feel that I have no right to tell you to marry Patih Sawung Galing. I am glad that it was you who bring it up. I approve of this marriage. I am happy that you will have someone like Patih Sawung Galing by your side.”



Prabu Haur Kuning put his hand on the top of Dewi Samboja's head, blessing her.

Dewi Samboja's and Patih Sawung Galing's disguises were over. Nyi Rengganis and her dancer were no more. There were only the beautiful Princess and the strong Patih. Dewi Samboja kept her words and married Patih Sawung Galing.

Dewi Samboja then made an important decision and united Galuh Kingdom and Pananjung Kingdom. She also accepted Prabu Haur Kuning's request to be the queen of Pananjung Kingdom.

Prabu Haur Kuning appointed Patih Sawung Galing as his successor. Patih Sawung Galing gladly accepted the honor and responsibilities that came with it. He took his wife, Dewi Samboja, to live in Pananjung Kingdom. Sawung Galing was the ruler of Pananjung and Galuh Kingdoms and Dewi Samboja was his queen. They decided that Pananjung Kingdom would be the center of the two Kingdoms.

Dewi Samboja was happy to be the Queen of Pananjung Kingdom. Prabu Haur Kuning was also glad. He now could breathe easier. His responsibility was over, Pananjung Kingdom had had a new King. He prayed to God that the new king would have what it took to do the best for the people.

Prabu Haur Kuning decided to spend the rest of his days meditating in Rengganis Cave.