

THE MAGIC BIRD
Burung Ajaib

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THE MAGIC BIRD

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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

Magic Bird is a rewriting folklore from East Borneo. This story is from a book of Kutai Legend and Folklore compiled by Drs. Anwar Soetoen (Chair) and published by Local Government of Kutai District, East Kalimantan, 1974. In the beginning, the title of the story was *Ranggam Tutup Burung Keramat* and it was changed into The Magic Bird. The book was rewritten in a simple language so it is expected to be understood easily and can attract attention of children at the same level of primary school. In addition, children are expected to understand and learn the values in the story.

Dina Alfiyanti Fasa

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THE MAGIC BIRD

There was once a kingdom in the depth of a forest named the Jungle Kingdom. It was inhabited by all creatures but the human beings. Despite the fact that it had been inhabited by beasts and plants, the inhabitants acted as though they were human. Though each kind of animals had its own king, the highest power of the kingdom was invested in their Supreme Ruler, King Mouse-deer.



The kingdom was located at a jungle surrounded by the vast sea. Large trees stood strong around the jungle. They served as the border of the kingdom as well as the gate into the area of Jungle Kingdom. The deeper one went, the thicker and darker it became because of the trees' bushy leaves. The kingdom was mountainous and scarcely visited by human. Behind the westward hill, a herd of deer led by their king was grazing. On the branches of large trees, a troop of monkey was hanging on their tails as they were eating some fruits. Some birds were encircling a fruiting rose myrtle. Meanwhile on the ground, a pride of lion was sitting idly.

After rising to power, the King Mouse-deer successfully ended inter-animal conflict within the vast Jungle Kingdom, such as the conflicts between the Ants and the Elephants, Wolves and Goats, and Monkeys and Lions. All problems within the kingdom could be solved, one at a time.

With his wits as a Supreme Leader, King Mouse-deer could solve any problem that rose in his kingdom. With his wisdom, all problems were finely solved. Though kind in character, he wouldn't think twice to act firmly when necessity demands. And he could be entertaining if the situation suited him to do so. The image of astute, wise, firm, and funny really suited him in reality.



For this, the King Mouse-deer or the Supreme Leader had been known throughout the entire kingdom and he had the fullest trust from his people.

Recently, the Supreme Leader had spent much time on his throne, made of shining marble, especially for him. Time passed quickly. The glory days of the Jungle Kingdom would soon pass. Mmm... why things moved so quickly? In the past, only fertility and green as far as the eyes could see. Now, things were declining gradually. The trees of the hills were starting to wither away.

The leaves were falling. Seasons came unpredictably, sometimes it's dry, sometimes it's raining. The nature had been so interchangeable. I wanted to amend the mob law into the Law of the Wise Mouse-deer. I want to restore the greatness that had ever been achieved by the Jungle Kingdom. Can I? Will I be able to achieve that? His reverie was disrupted by the coming of the white bull, his most trusted vicegerent.

"Forgive me for the disruption, Supreme Leader," said the vicegerent as he bowed.

"Yes, yes, yes. That's fine, Vicegerent."

"There is something that I must report to you immediately, Sire."

"What is it, Vicegerent?"



“Supreme Leader, according to the report of the Food Minister, our food stock is running low, especially rice. Vegetables were not as abundant as it once was. The same thing happened with the fruits.”

“Just like the problems of human beings, Vicegerent.”

“That is correct, Majesty. Someday we might have to import everything we need.”

“Well, we have everything for free, as for human?” The Supreme Leader and his vicegerent laughed at this.

“If I may borrow human’s term, the emerging problem is ‘scientifically complicated and difficult’, Sire.”

“Uncle Vicegerent, ‘complicated’ and ‘difficult’ are barely dissimilar. Next week, invite all the kings of animals in the Jungle Kingdom to deliberate. We will accommodate suggestions, solutions, for the sustainability of life in this kingdom.”

“Aye aye, if that is the best solution in your opinion, Supreme Leader,” said the vicegerent as he bowed. Then, the White Bull immediately did what he was told to.

Before the time of the deliberation, King Mouse-deer toured some areas of his kingdom alone in disguise. He wanted to remain unidentified by anyone that he was surveying the most food-critical and arid areas. The days passed and the kingdom became



dire. The population of the Jungle Kingdom grew rapidly. Meanwhile, vegetation didn't bear fruit as much. The mob law seemed to be in effect again; the strong ones won. Under the circumstances, small animals who weren't gifted with strength would be most vulnerable.

The day of the planned deliberation came. Before sunrise, kings of the animals were busy preparing themselves to attend the function. At that time of morning, they had a clamorous preparation for the convention. Groups and groups of animals made their way to the site of the deliberation.

In the middle of a large and lushy field did all the kings of animals convene. Shortly after, the Supreme Leader followed by high-ranking officials of the Jungle Kingdom entered the field. The Supreme Leader stood on a heap of earth that looked like a small hill. The convention thus began.

“Beloved kings of the Jungle Kingdom. The population growth of our kingdom had been very rapid in the midst of shortage of food supplies. We could see that the earth at our kingdom are drying. Some food experts have conducted research in order to improve crops to no avail. Hence this meeting is conducted. I would like to obtain some inputs from the kings of the Jungle Kingdom.”

“Honorable Supreme Leader, our kingdom has enchanted the humans so much that they have cut large trees on the kingdom

border. We knew what would happen should those trees were cut,” said King Orangutan.

“Supreme Leader, what if we turn our droppings into compost? That way the manures would serve as fertilizer so our soil would return to fertility,” said King Buffalo. “We agree, Supreme Leader. Aren’t goats’ droppings also good for fertilizer?” King Goat continued.

“I propose that we ask the opinions and suggestions from the soothsayers of the Jungle Kingdom,” said King Elephant excitedly.

“True, Majesty,” King Bird replied. “I agree, Majesty,” said King Monkey

“True, Supreme Leader,” said another animal king.

Many animals agreed to the suggestion of King Elephant. Finally, the Supreme Leader gave the occasion to the soothsayer of the Kingdom, King Turtle.

“Honorable soothsayer of the kingdom, I will now give you the chance to express your opinion.” The deliberation turned silent. All animals wanted to listen to King Turtle.

“Thank you, Supreme Leader,” said King Turtle courteously. “I am concerned with the goings-on of our kingdom. I plead Lord the Almighty for guidance.

The guidance showed of a fertile and prosperous kingdom. Humans and animals lived together in harmony and respect. They looked happy as their needs were all met.”

“How can they be?” asked King Wolf.

“What a nice life they had, eh?” said King Leopard.

“How come?” King Squirrel replied.

“Here we go, My Dear Friends. The Kingdom had a holy bird or a consecrated bird which they called Ranggalang Tutup or Kakangkaput. The prayers of the bird were always answered by God. The bird was so magical. The humans in the kingdom always held a Ranggalang Tutup thanksgiving after the harvest. The event was conducted as an offering of thanks to the Ranggalang Tutup bird and to all agricultural tools they ever used. Cooking some new rice before the Ranggalang Tutup thanksgiving was considered taboo or bad jujus.”

“What was the bird like?” asked the convention participants.

“According to the guidance I received, it was at the size of a Myna. The colour was grey. Its sound was toot-toot-toot-toot hence the name Ranggalang Tutup or Kakangkaput,” said King Turtle.

“What a great bird,” other animals commented as they shook their heads.

“We’d better have that kind of bird so our lives won’t be difficult,” said King Serpent.

“But how? The place was very far away. We have to pass the vast sea and the sea waves are huge. Meanwhile, as far as anyone can see, the water was just blue. Who can do this?” asked the soothsayer. All animals fell silent. They were imagining the intricacy of getting the sacred bird.

“Soothsayer, how does one get this Ranggam Tutup Bird? It must be very hard to catch,” asked the other animals.

“For this matter, I shall leave it to the Supreme Leader entirely.”

The Supreme Leader smiled gladly upon hearing all the inputs from his people. “Alright. As I listened to all you had to say, I want us to have this Ranggam Tutup Bird. We should all think about ‘how’ together,” said the Supreme Leader.

“Majesty, what if we trap the bird by using sap?” asked an animal.

“What if we trap the bird by using nets? We’ll use food as bait.”

“We have to politely ask for it to the overseas kingdom. We’re not stealing.”

“What if they don’t want to give it to us? Surely they won’t let us be their competitor.”

“Stop being prejudice, but we will accommodate all the possibilities, then we will think of a solution,” said the Supreme Leader. The Supreme Leader was on the brink of his patience. By suppressing his own feeling, he attempted to speak wisely, “Now, now! We haven’t discussed about who would be the envoy to carry out this noble quest,” said the Supreme Leader. All participants of the convention fell in an instantaneous silence. Everyone feared of being assigned as envoy. Actually, once decided they could not turn it down.

“It is almost nightfall. We have been arguing over this matter all day long. We haven’t found any solution to our problem. I thank all the kings who had provided inputs. Alright, we shall reconvene three more days for our second convention. The second convention would be a grand convention. All kings must be present with their squad whom they consider pertinent to become the envoy. The agenda for the next convention would be the selection of the envoy.” After closing the convention, with a slow pace, the Supreme Leader went for his retreat. The kings went home. Whilst wait for the second convention, the animal subjects were frantic. They feared that they would be assigned by the Supreme Leader.

“Good morning,” said the Supreme Leader. “The awaited moment for the second convention has finally arrived. Beloved

convention participants, we have now come to the moment for determining the envoy to the overseas kingdom.”

“Supreme Leader, in order to pass through the vast sea, we naturally have to consider the animals that could fly,” Wild Boar suggested.

“The animal that is light in weight, that can stick to the sea water,” said another animal. “Yes, true,” said another. “The Dragonflies would be appropriate,” suggested another. “How are they going to carry the bird if it were the Dragonflies?” asked another animal. “He’s got a point.” “Who should we meet there?”

“Beloved convention participants, please calm down,” said the Supreme Leader elegantly. “This matter is indeed complicated. We are now left at which ones.

I think King Birds is eligible to serve as envoy since you belong to the same kind with the target, and thus it will make your approach easier.”

“Approved!” said other animals in unison.

“You can’t just approve to that blankly! Where should we rest?” replied King Bird spontaneously. “Forgive me, Supreme Leader. We the birds need some time to assemble and discuss this matter.”

“Take your time, but keep it short. Approximately one hour of human time.”

“Thank you, Supreme Leader.”

Kings of all kinds of birds soon assembled. They discussed to decide whether to accept or reject the decree of the Supreme Leader.

“So, how?” asked King Bird. “Who will go?”

“My God! The destination is far, far away. You can’t imagine the exhaustion.”

“It’s as bad as giving up your life.” “Come on! Find the solution quickly. We’re running out of time,” said King Bird.

“If the bird had looked like a Myna, what if we make King Myna the envoy?”

“Darn! How, huh?” “Decide! Yes or no?”

“The thing is, if we reject the decree of the Supreme Leader, will we be ready for the sanctions?” “There will be sanctions, eh?” “You bet. Why do you think there isn’t?” “What is our consensus?” asked King Bird. “If we don’t reach an accord, let us just reject.” “Alright then.”

In such a short time, they all agreed to reject the assignment as envoy. King Bird and entourage returned to the convention chamber and reported to the Supreme Leader.

“We the birds would like to beg for your forgiveness, Majesty. Considering the field of the journey, we don’t think we can do it,” said King Bird.

“Alright then, if you have all agreed to this. Now, we have all heard that King Bird is incapable to serve as the envoy to the overseas kingdom. If any of you lot do not wish to help, so be it. But I only ask you to think about the greater good of our kingdom.

Had I been able to fly, I would go there myself. So, how? Shall we continue this deliberation or not?” said the Supreme Leader steadfastly.

“Pur... lease. Pro... ceed, Su... preme... Lea... der,” said King Monkey in stutter.

“Everyone in favour?” asked the Supreme Leader.

“Aye!” said the animals in unison.

“For the continuity of the Jungle Kingdom, I shall appoint an envoy. I shall hear no more ‘incapable’ because I will have thought out this matter very well.”

It was quiet, nobody dared to speak. Everyone looked restless, for they all feared of being made the envoy. The silence was broken by a dignified voice, “Anyone shall fear crossing the sea so vast and waves so big. However, the subjects of this kingdom must nurture their love and responsibility to this realm with all their hearts. So, I have decided, that our envoy would be the butterfly lot.”

“Huh?” the Queen Butterfly and her lot were thunderstruck. In their utter astonishment, their wings were twitched as they were frightened and horror-stricken. “Why were we appointed? What mistakes have we done?” muttered the Butterfly lot.

“Ma... ma... jesty..., we do love our homeland, but we would like to apologize as well as explanation, what have been the grounds for our assignment? Have we done anything wrong that we must be punished this way?”

“That’s right, Majesty. Have mercy on the Butterfly lot. They’re weak,” said other animals.

“Perhaps the Supreme Leader had his own consideration.”

Comments of the conventioners differed. Some agreed with the assignment of the Butterfly lot as the envoy and some didn’t. They didn’t even care about the shining, scorching sun. All were focused on Butterfly lot as all animals cared for their fate.



The Butterfly lot was group of amazingly beautiful and handsome critters. Their bodies consisted of head, chest, two pairs of wings, abdomen, and six legs. There were males and females. Some were black with blue and red combinations, some others were yellow with white and gold colour.

They were beautiful and the combination of their colours were adorable. Amidst the pros and cons, the Supreme Leader gazed upon his subjects as he smiled. Thanks to his wits, he could handle the almost-tense situation.

“Queen Butterfly, I’m happy to hear your answer. Listen carefully, Queen Butterfly. It’d behoove you to select those that are the strongest among your lot, as many as you can muster.”

“What if we’re exhausted?”

“You may rest on top of the ocean’s white ripples, or you can rest on top of the leaves that are drifted by the sea. You can use those leaves as boats. Hence, the egg of the Ranggalang Tutup Bird must be carried in a relay manner. Now, once you reach the overseas kingdom, Queen Butterfly and her squad should find the Ranggalang Tutup Bird, then tell them our situation, and ask one of their eggs.”

“What if they reject our plea?”

“Then Queen Butterfly must tell them the condition of our kingdom. Ask for their favour, I believe that the beauty,

liveliness, and intelligence of the Butterfly lot would be able to get us out of trouble.”

“Majesty, what if they are persistent? We are still worried and to be frank, utterly frightened. Yet, we want to prove our love to this homeland, and it turned out that it must be fought hard. If we reject, who would want to journey to the overseas kingdom? We are frightened if our kingdom will become worse.”

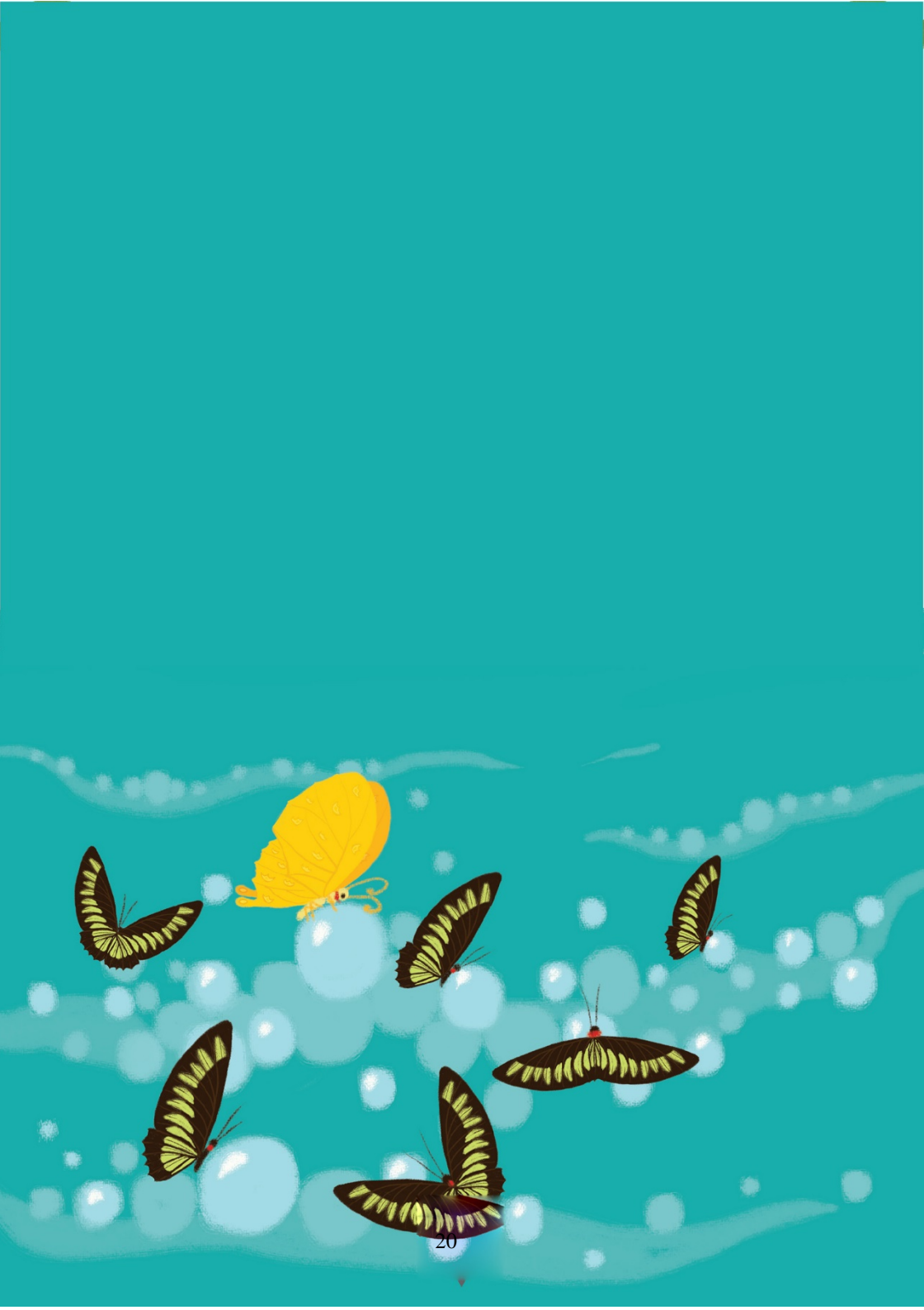
“Sacrifice must be made by someone,” said the animals.

“Yes, we cherish the struggle of Queen Butterfly and her people,” said the Supreme Leader. “My decision is appropriate. The sea has never been calm. Its waves are always curling and pounding. Its ripples are white as snow. When you’re tired, you can rest on those ripples. It would have been fun had I been able to fly. What you can be sure of, we are proud of you who are willing to make the sacrifice.”

“Supreme Leader, this task is enormous. For this, we have a request.”

“By all means, Queen Butterfly.”

“If we prevail, if we succeed to bring the egg of the bird, then our kingdom recuperates, we implore you that our lot should be the first to taste the crops from now on to the next lineage. What say



you? Please respond.” “We have no objection.” “By all means.”
“Approved!”

All convention participants agreed to the request of the Butterfly lot. In their view, the request of Queen Butterfly hadn't been too much. This was appropriate considering their struggle and sacrifice in accomplishing their duty. All participants were pleased since the envoy had finally been appointed. They cheered as they surrounded the Butterfly lot and hailed them.

“Magnificent! Long live our heroes! All the best of luck! That's the spirit!” shouted the participants in turn.

On a given day, the Butterfly lot convened at the beach. They were lovely and handsome. Sea waves came in high curls; their ripples headed to the coastline. As the waves hit the beach, they roared, hence the beach sand became watery grey. As they looked at the sea, Queen Butterfly and her six squad were worried and frantic.

“Let us all pray. May we prevail,” said Queen Butterfly.

The bright morning sky helped the Butterfly lot to fight in helping the prosperity of the Jungle Kingdom. After praying, Queen Butterfly waved her hands to the crowd of wavers on the beach.

“May God protect Queen Butterfly and her entourage,” muttered the wavers.



“Now! Let’s start this tough struggle,” said Queen Butterfly. Then she started flying followed by her squad that had been previously chosen depending on their level of skills.

After flying for quite some time, Queen Butterfly and her squad reached half the route. Days and time passed unnoticed yet they kept on flying. The anxiety and fear have now gone and been replaced by the sense of responsibility and thirst for success. According to the advice of the Supreme Leader, they rested on the ripples of the waves.

“My brothers, how? Anybody’s ailing?” asked Queen Butterfly caringly.

“No, Majesty. We’re just exhausted. How about you, Majesty?”
“I’m fine”

“We’ve been on the ocean for several moons. We have yet seen the end, My Queen.” “Yes, correct. Smart humans said, if we want to prevail, we must be very patient, beyond measure.” “It’s been tough, My Queen.”

The heat during their journey was so overwhelming that their sweat poured. There was no shelter. As far as anyone can see, only the blue seawater. Vaguely from a distance, an island came to view behind the fog. The butterflies kept on flying slowly, continuing their journey. “When will we arrive, huh?”

At hearing this, Queen Butterfly didn't answer. She just smiled.

The sun was leaning westward. The night slowly crawled, the stars in the sky started to illuminate as their guiding light. They were only accompanied by the roaring waves. It was very cold. As she squinted, Queen Butterfly saw a tree drifting on the ocean. She then hinted her squad to perch on the wood. Finally, they slept on the drifting wood. Very early in the next morning, they proceeded their journey.

“Look! Is that the land of hope?” said one of the butterflies.

“It's even beautiful from afar” replied by another butterfly.

“Come on, let's proceed. I hope it won't take long for us to reach our destination. The longer the colder, the sooner the better.”

It was morning. It was Queen Butterfly who first flapped her beautiful wings on the pink-sand beach that had looked like a stretched Middle-Eastern thick carpet. It was beautiful. Her six squad followed. The cliffs stood firm, and on those cliffs did pine and pandanus trees grow. Meanwhile, in the eastern side of the beach, coconut trees were lining up. Their leaves were waving as though they were greeting the arrival of Queen Butterfly and her lot.

“What a charming sight,” said one of the butterflies. “True. It's so stunning.”

They rested as they sucked the nectars from the flowers on the beach. Seven beautiful, large butterflies drew the attention of male butterflies around them. They then got acquainted. There was a handsome butterfly who cared so much about the seven butterflies from the Jungle Kingdom. They shared stories to each other.

“So your intention to come here is to find the Ranggalang Tutup Bird?”

“Yes. Please help us. We really need the bird to overcome the difficulties in our homeland.” “The bird lives at the peak of the mountain. Once you’re done resting, I shall take you there.”

“Thank you for your kindness, Friend,” said Queen Butterfly, full of hope and joy.

Before noon the new friend happily took Queen Butterfly and her squad to Mount Hope. The new friend acted as if he was a tour guide.

“Is the place of Ranggalang Tutup far from here?”

“Quite far. It’s on top of the mount.” “We’re sorry that we’ve troubled you, Friend.”

“That’s alright. After all, we’re all here for each other.”

“We’re sorry. How can we ever repay you for your kindness?”

“Don’t think about it. I am not expecting reward from you. We in this Prosperous Kingdom believe in God. If we do kindness to fellow creatures, He’ll reward us.”

“Inhabitants of this Prosperous Island is really religious,” replied Queen Butterfly.

“We’re grateful to God. I happened to hear some humans’ conversation. They said that this Kingdom had been prolific and prosperous, and that their king was just and wise. In average, the humans here are very rich.”

“How about the animal kingdom here? Is it the same?”

“Not too different. We really could enjoy living in this realm without having to be greedy.” “We’re impressed.”

The sky was bright. The cool air had made them feel not too hot. The seven butterflies flew gracefully to the summit of Mount Hope guided by their new friend.

After reaching the peak of Mount Hope, the new friend directly hailed the Ranggam Tutup Chief of Tribe “Welcome. Please come in.” “Why, thank you, Chief.”

“What is it that I can help you with?”

“Honorable Chief of Ranggam Tutup Tribe, I have with me some guests from afar. I met them on the beach. They would like to say something to you, O, Chief.”

“Oh, is that so?” “Please, Queen Butterfly of the Jungle Kingdom wishes to deliver their intent,” said the new friend.

“Thank you, Chief. We have come here in order to seek help. As we speak, our kingdom is in peril. Disasters have come continually and our food stocks are running low.” “What can we help you with, Queen Butterfly?”

“Chief, we had been assigned to ask a chick of the Ranggam Tutup Bird”

“How will you carry the chick there?” “I have with me a bag, Chief”

“It won’t withstand the sea wind.” “Really?”

“Actually, what has the hazard and difficulty in your kingdom got to do with the Ranggam Tutup from our kingdom?”

“It’s a long story, Chief,” said Queen Butterfly as she sighed.

“Do tell! I’ll listen so I can understand your thoughts.”

Queen Butterfly then spun the yarn about the lack of food in the Jungle Kingdom, the deliberation they held, and the solution

offered by the kingdom's soothsayer that they should raise a Ranggam Tutup Bird as the bird's prayers had always been answered.

"Oh!" exclaimed the Tribal Chief in awe. "How interesting," he said as he smiled for he just learned his guests' perspective. "It was just an assumption, Queen Butterfly."

After staying for a night, Queen Butterfly finally bid farewell to the Ranggam Tutup Tribe Chief, their new friend, and to all the animals in the vicinity of the tribe. The butterfly squad managed to obtain a Ranggam Tutup egg to brood. The parting moment then came. There was a strange feeling in their hearts as they remembered the kindness of other animals that had been so caring and willing to help them.

In the Jungle, at a quiet morning, the Observation Bird was watching over from a very tall tree. The moment he looked at the ocean, he saw some successive black dots. Moments later, those dots became clearer. He soon flew to report to the Supreme Leader.

"Supreme Leader. I wish to report. During the patrol, I saw some black dots in the ocean. As I watched over them, it became apparent that our envoys have returned."

"Really?" "That is correct, Majesty."



“Did it look like that they were carrying something?”

“Not too clear, Majesty.”

“I hope that Fortuna is on our side. Inform the Information Minister Cicada so he could tell all kingdom subjects to welcome our envoys.”

“Consider it done, Majesty.”

All subjects of Jungle Kingdom came to the beach to welcome Queen Butterfly and her squad. The seven black dots from the ocean came closer. The figures of the seven butterflies became clearer. All animals on land were anxious. They were wondering, “Had the butterflies succeeded in accomplishing their duty?”
“Hurray!”

The booming sound of the animals was heard in welcoming the butterflies who were still flying. Unnoticeably, the most trusted squad member of Queen Butterfly who has gone tired in carrying a small bag waved his hand to the welcomers.

“Ouch!” said the egg bearer.

“Oh! What is the matter with you?” said Queen Butterfly as her face turned red in the attempt to contain anger. “Very sorry, My Queen. I’ve been reckless.”

“What if it breaks?”

All animals held their breaths. They looked pale as the egg slid and fell into a cluster of snake fruit trees laden with spikes. Fortunately, the egg didn't break. As they came closer to the snake fruit tree, Queen Butterfly and her squad didn't dare to fetch the egg as they feared the spikes of the trees might rip their wings. Subjects of Jungle Kingdom were baffled. How to fetch the egg from the snake-fruit tree cluster?

“Calm down. Relax. There's a solution to every problem,” said the Supreme Leader who just arrived at the beach.

“Forgive me, Supreme Leader,” said Queen Butterfly full of guilt.

This was the moment of test of competence for the Supreme Leader, could he overcome problems in the kingdom or not. After a short moment of thinking, the Supreme Leader said, “My brother, King Squirrel, please come forward.”

“Yes, Majesty.”

“You are the only one who could fetch the egg from the spikey, snake-fruit tree cluster. You're small, but your fur is thick, you can contain the sharp, snake fruit thorns.”

“I am ready, Supreme Leader. But I wish to propose a condition.

If it were true that the Ranggalam Tutup bird would make our fruits abundant, after the Butterfly lot tasted the blossoms, my descendants and I should be the first to taste those fruits.”



“What do you say, audience?”

“Affirmative!”

It was very difficult for King Squirrel to fetch the egg from the cluster of snake-fruit trees as the spikes were dense and sharp. But, the tenacity and the hard work of King Squirrel finally bore fruit; the egg was successfully collected from the cluster. When the egg had sat before the subjects of the Jungle Kingdom, they were again in confusion as to who should brood the egg till it hatches.

“So no one wants to brood the egg voluntarily?” asked the Supreme Leader.

“The eggshell is too thick, Majesty,” said the lots of Chicken and Duck.

“It’d take months,” replied the bird lot.

“Need I remind you that, in line with the result of our recent deliberation, we need the Ranggam Tutup Bird? Like it or not, this egg must hatch. Now, I am going to raffle to make it fair. Nobody should say no. Have you forgotten the tough struggle of the butterflies? Have you no love to the Jungle Kingdom?” said the Supreme Leader in an upset tone. Subjects of the Jungle Kingdom bowed down, they felt guilty, but still nobody wanted to volunteer. In the end, they agreed to the raffle. The raffle resulted in favour of the Magpie Robin. At first she objected to the result,

but after she was persuaded and told of the sacrifice made by the butterflies to obtain the egg, she finally agreed. For months, the Magpie Robin brooded the Ranggam Tutup egg. Finally, at the break of one dawn, the sky was clear, the air was cool, and the wind blew slowly.

From inside the cage, a sound was heard, “crack... crack...” A hatchling was trying to get out of the egg. The hatchling nodded its head and flapped its wings. Its eyes were moving, trying to look at its surroundings. All subjects of Jungle Kingdom who saw this cheered in happiness. It was only the Magpie Robin that was not cheerful as she couldn't straighten her legs and walk as usual. She could just hop. But she felt no sadness. The exhaustion and the pain she had to endure during the brooding period had paid off by the presence of the Ranggam Tutup Bird.

She was happy that she had been able to help the Ranggam Tutup Bird. Even up to now she could not set her legs straight. The sacrifice she made and the service she performed to the continuity of the Jungle Kingdom had been great.

Time moved fast. The hatchling has now grown into a chick. She started to learn how to fly. She flapped her wings so her legs would lift little by little. Then her legs would touch down again. She has also been able to make sound.

“Toot, toot, toot, toot,” the Ranggalang Tutup Bird sounded. All residents of the Jungle Kingdom breathed in relief. They were back to their enthusiasm in toiling the forest, fields, and farms. It didn’t take long after the Ranggalang Tutup made its sound that there was an extreme change in the Jungle Kingdom. Rain poured and fertilized the soil. Vegetations started to grow lush green again. Flowers blossoming and spread their fragrant scent. Fruits were borne in abundance. Crops exceeded the needs. Butterflies flew and romped on the blossoming blooms. Birds were singing in happiness and squirrels hopped on the trees.

Thanks to the service of the Magpie Robin, and the cooperation of all Jungle Kingdom residents, the difficulty and deficiency of food had been overcome. The residents of the Jungle Kingdom returned to their prosperity, all animals lived in peace.

This incident provided a very valuable lesson to all residents of the Jungle Kingdom that they must all help each other and be willing to make sacrifices for the common benefit and the greater good.

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