

VULENGGEDINGO
Vulenggedingo

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THE OLD WOMAN AND VULENGGEDINGO

Once upon a time, in Kampung Timbulon, there was an old woman who lived in a small shack. The shack was made of wooden boards and roofed with palm leaves. There were only guest room, bed room and a very cramped space one might call kitchen. The lawn of the shack was adorned by various kinds of colourful flowers. Tall trees grew next to the shack. Between those trees grew feral grass. From the space between those trees, on the twigs and branches, lived some monkeys. Once in a while, they hopped down from the trees. Meanwhile, behind the shack, the vast sea outstretched.

In order to make ends meet, the old woman worked as a fisher. One time, she wanted to catch some fish from the sea behind her shack. When she reached the sea, she busied herself to put baits on her fishing hook. When she finished placing the baits on the hook, she tossed the hook into the sea. The hooks then reached the bottom of the sea. Some hours passed while she waited for her hooks to lure some fish. Her hope didn't seem to turn into reality as not even a single fish was lured by her bait.

The day had passed. The night was about to come. The remnant of day was now only twilight in the almost-night sky. Shortly, dark clouds thickened and passed to cover the sky. The wind was

blowing hard. Sea waves crashed white ripples on the its tip like cottons prancing on a stage that followed the roar of the sea. As the night fell, the old woman decided to return to her shack though she failed to catch any fish. When she was about to return home, suddenly her hook shuddered, indicating that her bait was taken by fish.

“Hey, look! My hook shudders,” cried the old woman while waving her hand to a young man who was fishing with her.

“Why did you cry out and call me, Nana? Did your bait lured a fish?” asked the young man as he approached the old woman.

“Yes,” answered the old woman.

With joy, the old woman lifted and checked the hook she had pitched into the sea.

“Wow! Oh my God! What is this? Turns out I haven’t been waiting for nothing. The hook I had placed lured a fish,” muttered the old woman.

“Look, Nana. A *vulenggedingo* had taken your bait,” said the young man as he glanced at the old woman. The old woman looked content as she saw her catch. She then took the *vulenggedingo* home. *Vulenggedingo* had been jellyfish in Buol language. Along the way home, the old woman thought about how the *vulenggedingo* might bring her some luck. The old

woman finally reached the door of her shack. Once she finished placing her fishing tools beside her shack, she soon got in. She then grabbed a tray that was hanging on the kitchen wall. She poured water into the tray and put the vulenggedingo into that container. Since then, she found herself a new errand; keeping the vulenggedingo as pet. She put more water into the vulenggedingo container every day. She petted it gently. She'd also talk to vulenggedingo as she would to a small kid.

“Hey, vulenggedingo! Don't get bored of accompanying me. I have no friend but you. Though you can't speak, I want you to know how you've brought me comfort through your presence,” said the old woman while poured some water into vulenggedingo's container. Vulenggedingo became her main attention, as well as subject of her tenacity and compassion.

One night, the old woman was asleep beside vulenggedingo's container. In the sleep she had a dream where she met a handsome and gallant young man. The handsome young man politely greeted her and asked for help.

It was already day time. The rays of the sun showered the earth. The woman was awakened and opened her eyes slowly. She then sat down and said, “Oh God, had I been dreaming?” She tried to remember her dream that felt so life-like. She looked perplexed. The commotion in her mind was visible through her face.

One day the old woman heard a voice that called her. “Ah... no, that was just my hallucination,” she said as she was trying to convince herself. Suddenly, she could hear the voice again. She was frightened and had a goosebump.

“Nana! Nana! Nana,” the voice kept on calling, but she ignored it. But then, as voice became more audible, she listened more carefully and tried to find where the voice came from. She finally found out that the voice came from vulenggedingo’s container. She approached the container and to her surprise, she found that it was the vulenggedingo that she’d been petting that made the voice. The vulenggedingo said, “O, Nana, help me.”

“How is it possible that a vulenggedingo could talk?” she thought. Out of curiosity she asked, “How could you have a voice and speak like a normal human?”

“Alright, Nana. I’ll tell you about my disguise and show you my true appearance, but you have to promise me, never to repeat about me to anyone and never ask me to leave this shack,” the vulenggedingo continued.

The old woman was nervous, but then replied, “Yes, I do promise you.”

Immediately, the vulenggedingo slid out of its container. He turned into a hefty and handsome young man. He excitedly told the old woman of his disguise as a jellyfish. He said, “Nana, I

deliberately disguised myself as a jellyfish because people would be sickened and frightened of the way a jellyfish would look. But you, to my surprise, you took me in and cared for me despite my appearance.” Ever since the yarn was spun, vulenggedingo called the old woman ‘Nana’ and the old woman called him Vulenggedingo. For them, living in a meager shack didn’t mean they couldn’t live a happy life.

Everyday, Vulenggedingo helped Nana’s errands. He always cleaned the area around the shack and tried to fish in the sea. Tall trees couldn’t be found around the shack anymore. Time passed unwittingly. Vulenggedingo had lived with the old woman for quite some time. So far, the young man displayed outstanding characters.

The sun had gone and dusk had turned into night. On the eastern horizon, the moon came into view. The moonlight seemed melancholic. Once in a while groups of thin clouds passed before the moon. Soon after, the moon shone brightly. Stars twinkled in the night sky. The sky turned into what appears to be a gleaming musical stage.

That night, suddenly Nana remembered Vulenggedingo’s request before he turned into human. She then walked slowly to Vulenggedingo who is now star-gazing. “You’re musing, huh?” said the old woman as she sat nearby Vulenggedingo. The old woman broke a conversation with Vulenggedingo.

“What can I do for you?” asked Nana. Vulenggedingo didn’t quite understand the question. He didn’t seem to care what Nana had said.

“My grandson, Vulenggedingo, are you even listening?” asked the old woman.

“What is it, Nana? I didn’t catch what you asked,” answered Vulenggedingo, and his eyes were on Nana.

“Alright, I will repeat my question,” she continued. Before she repeated her question, Vulenggedingo remembered.

“Yes, I remember, Nana. I asked for your help to propose marriage to one of the king’s daughter,” said Vulenggedingo with a smile in his face. Without even thinking, the old women accepted Vulenggedingo’s request.

“Alright, child. If that’s what you want, I’ll prepare everything. I’ll leave for the palace tomorrow to deliver marriage proposal to one of the king’s daughter,” replied Nana. The next morning, at the break of dawn and as the rooster crowed, Nana left for the palace. Equipped with all necessary supplies, she left alone.

Vulenggedingo’s Proposal

Kampung Timbulon was part of a kingdom led by a generous king. Despite his great power, still a humble man he was. He cared so much about his people. Whenever his subjects were in a

shortfall, His Majesty would send help immediately. His people revered him and obeyed all his rules and commands. The king was so fair and wise that made Kampung Timbulon safe, peaceful, and prosperous.

The king had seven daughters. They'd grown into lovely princesses. The seven princesses always amuse themselves around the palace's courtyard. It was adorned by countless flowers of various colours. Yet, sometimes, they enjoyed morning landscapes of the beach. In short, the king lived very happily with his seven daughters. However, behind all the happiness, something changed the king.

Kingdom's courtiers wondered the change in the king's temper. He mused in many occasions. He looked pale, despondent, and unlike most of the time, no smile on his face. To everyone's surprise, he just wanted to be alone. That afternoon, the king summoned courtiers to discuss something. At the court's hall, courtiers felt sorry for the king; looking pale-faced as though he had no passion for anything.

"Forgive me, Sire. All the commanders and I have answered your summon," said one of the courtiers as he bowed and opened the conversation.

"Forgive me, Majesty. I've been observing you for quite some time. It looks to me that something is troubling you. For that, I

beg you to tell us all, Your Majesty. What kind of sorrow that had turned you miserable and depressed like this?” he continued.

“Why, thank you very much for being thoughtful. Maybe you’re all astonished as to why I have summoned you this afternoon. In this assembly, I’ll try to be blunt. At the moment, I am in distress. It’s actually nothing. So, I’d like to ask for your help to resolve this matter together,” uttered the king in a pale face. “Forgive me, Majesty. All commanders and I are actually baffled by the matter at Your Majesty’s hand. I think it’s better for you to be candid. I can assure you, all commanders will always be by your side to seek resolution for such matter,” said one of the courtiers who sat nearby the king.

“Alright. Recently I have turned restless, I haven’t been able to sleep well nor have I been able to dine as usual. I’ve been haunted by my own dream. I had a dream of being visited by a vulenggedingo,” said the king.

“Vulenggedingo?” replied one of the courtiers in amazement. “If I’m not mistaken, vulenggedingo is a kind of jellyfish,” he continued.

“You’re right,” said another courtier. After the king revealed his dream, all courtiers looked at each other. Deep down they could understand why the king had been disturbed nearly all the time

“Forgive me, Majesty, if this is the matter, I think it would be better if we summon all soothsayers in the kingdom. Then we could ask them to unravel your dream,” said a tall courtier. Other courtiers and officials supported the idea of the courtier. The king also agreed with the plan. The next day, soothsayers assembled in the palace. Meanwhile, the king sat alone in the hall and one courtier came to meet him.

“Forgive me, Sire.” After bowing, the courtier reported that soothsayers had been in the palace. “Lead them into the assembly hall,” asked the king.

“Aye, Sire,” said the courtier as he bowed. The courtier then came to meet the soothsayers and invited them to move into the assembly hall.

“Dear soothsayers, I thank you for convening in this hall. I have deliberately summoned you all as there is something I wish to ask you,” said the king in opening the discussion.

“Alright, Majesty. All soothsayers and I are actually bewildered. What is it that made you summoned us in such a sudden?” asked a soothsayer.

“To be frank, there is no emergency,” said the king.

“Then, have Your Majesty something important to say to us?”

“This is not significant either. Merely a meager issue, yet it might affect me badly if I let it be.” “Forgive me, Majesty. I really don’t understand.”

“Soothsayers, come closer. I want your opinion,” asked the king. After bowing soothsayers moved forward. There were ten soothsayers sitting on the front row.

“Majesty, my companions and I are ready for your order,” said an elder soothsayer as he bowed.

“Uncle Soothsayer, just as I’d told my courtiers, I dreamed that I was visited by a vulengedingo. What say you about my dream?” asked the king.

All soothsayers bowed. Each used his own skills. After deliberating, the elder soothsayer said, “Forgive me, Majesty. In our opinion, someone shall soon come to the palace to offer marriage to one of the princesses.”

“Is that so, Uncle?” asked the king with an excited face.

The king looked jubilant after what the elder soothsayer had said. As a token of his gratitude, he gave them gifts and all soothsayers finally went home bringing gifts from the king. Long story short, Vulenggedingo’ Nana reached the gate of the kingdom. A guard asked, “Nana where are you from and where do you wish to go?”

The old woman answered, “I am a subject who wishes to meet His Majesty the king.”

The guard of the kingdom gate went to meet the king. After bowing, he informed the king of a visitor at the gate. The king ordered the guard to let the visitor pass. The guard bowed again to the king and went to meet the old woman and said, “Nana, do come in.”

As she heard the guard, the old woman hurriedly went into the palace to meet the king.

Nana bowed to the king and said, “Pardon me, Majesty, I’ve come to this palace in the hope of offering marriage proposal to one of your daughters so she could be the wife of my grandson. If you would allow me,” she immediately delivered her intention. She also explained that her grandson was a vulenggedingo.

The king smiled and then uttered, “I do not object as to what would my son-in-law be as long as he can be responsible and he loves my daughter. Yet, it is not for me to decide. I will ask my seven daughters.”

Then, the king asked an old nurse who also attended the meeting to summon his daughters. He said, “Summon my seven daughters to meet me in this chamber.”

“Alright, Sire,” replied the old nurse as she bowed to the king. She then left the chamber. Soon the old nurse and the seven princesses came to meet the king.

“Dear daughters, this nana came to offer marriage proposal to one of you as the wife of her grandson. Is there any of you who wished to accept the proposal?” asked the king to his seven daughters.

“Forgive me, father. With all due respect, I shall not accept the proposal,” the eldest denied the marriage proposal from the old woman. Upon the denial of his Princess Eldest, the king then asked the second princess. It turned out that the answers from the second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth princesses were similar to that of Princess Eldest. Yet, Nana Vulenggedingo had not been desperate.

“Now, it is left to princess youngest to answer. May her answer be different from her six siblings,” prayed Nana Vulenggedingo in her heart.

“Nana, if Princess Youngest denied your grandson’s proposal, that means we’re not meant to be bound as one family,” said the king to Nana Vulenggedingo upon asking the last princess.

“Princess Youngest, what say you? Will you accept the proposal, or will you give the same answer as your sisters?” asked the king to Princess Youngest.

“Forgive me father, my answer shall not be similar to that of my sisters.” Said Princess Youngest as she curtsayed.

“What do you mean, Princess Youngest?” asked the king.

“I accept the marriage proposal,” answered Princess Youngest.

“Finally, the proposal of this nana for her grandson is accepted by Princess Youngest. Have you given it a thought? You shall be wedded to a vulenggedingo. Have you given it a thought as well?” asked the king while he hugged Princess Youngest.

“I have, father. As long as I have your grace,” said Princess Youngest as she curtsayed.

“Nana, your proposal has been accepted by my youngest daughter. Tell this to your grandson. We hope your grandson is prepared for the dower we appeal,” said the king. “I am sorry, Sire. What would the dower be?” asked Nana.

Before deciding what the dower would be, the king had a discussion with all attending court members. He was a king that was very wise and populist in making decision over anything. Indeed, he was the supreme ruler in the kingdom, yet he always considered others’ opinion before coming to a decision.

“Alright, Nana. We have decided that the dower shall be a palace made of gold,” said the king resolutely.

“Thank you, Sire. Thank you, Princess Youngest. May God reward your sincerity in accepting this wedding proposal of ours. I now bid you all farewell.” The old woman excused herself as she bowed. “What is your hurry?” asked the king.

“I shall tell my grandson this news. He must be thrilled,” Nana answered.

“Don’t you think it’s better to return home tomorrow morning?” the king suggested.

“I cannot wait to tell my grandson this joyful news, Sire” said Nana.

“Yes. Yes, but the journey alone at a night like this would be unsafe for you, Nana.”

“But....,” replied Nana but she was then interrupted by the king.

“Stay in the palace for tonight, Nana.” “Alright, Sire. Thank you,” replied the Nana.

She finally accepted the king’s advice. What’s the harm of taking one’s advice if it’s for my own good, she thought. The night grew late. The sound of owls heightened the eerie ambiance of the night. Crickets had ceased to sound.

Even ants had stopped their marching. Nana found it difficult to close her eyes. She wanted the night to swiftly turn into morning.

She could imagine the happy face of Vulenggedingo upon hearing the good news she'd bring him. At the break of dawn, nana met the king to excuse herself and bade the king farewell.

“Take this for your supplies on the way home, Nana!” said the king as he handed Nana some supplies for her journey home.

“Thank you, Sire,” replied Nana. “Best regards to your grandson.”

“Aye, Sire. I shall send him your regards. I bid you farewell now, Sire.”

“Farewell, take care on your way home, Nana.”

The sun had moved westward. It didn't take Nana all day long to reach her shack. She then called Vulenggedingo.

“Vulenggedingo!” she shouted. Her gaze swept the entire lawn of her shack. She couldn't find Vulenggedingo there.

“Vulenggedingo! Vulenggedingo! Vulenggedingo!” called the old woman.

Vulenggedingo swiftly came out and ran towards the shack lawn. His eyes sparkled with bliss when he found out his dear Nana had gone home. Judging the gestures of Nana, he was certain that Nana had brought him good news.

“Sit, Nana! I knew you’re bringing me good news,” said Vulenggedingo as he gave her some water and led her to sit nearby. Nana followed suit and sat nearby.

“Be thankful to God, Child. Good news. Princess Youngest accepted your proposal, but the dower is quite difficult,” said Nana.

“What’s the dower, Nana? Tell me,” asked Vulenggedingo anxiously.

“A palace made of gold,” said Nana.

“Calm down, Nana. I’ll meet the requirement of dower asked by the king,” said Vulenggedingo decisively.

That night, Vulenggedingo sat on a bamboo couch. With his supernatural power, sitting legs crossed, he pleaded to God.

“O, God, build me a luxurious palace.” Vulenggedingo pleaded devotedly and solemnly. Once he finished his prayers, Vulenggedingo turned into jellyfish one more time. The next day, a palace made of gold stood nearby the king’s palace.

The rise of the golden palace created commotion among the kingdom’s guards.

The Coronation of Vulenggedingo

After the agreement on the wedding day of Princess Youngest and Vulenggedingo was made, courtiers of the kingdom started doing wedding chores to prepare the wedding ceremony. Princess Youngest looked determined in following all the bridal care and preparation. Finally, the long awaited day, the wedding day of Princess Youngest with Vulenggedingo, arrived. All subjects of the kingdom were invited to the palace to attend the wedding day of Princess Youngest. The wedding party was not only attended by members of the court who were clad in beautiful outfits, but also kingdom subjects alike. The king greeted the arrival of the members of the court and his subjects delightedly. All invitees were served with various delicious culinaries and entertained by numerous local arts from various corners of the kingdom. This made the wedding ceremony of Princess Youngest so lively and all invitees were jubilant. They were happy though they saw Princess Youngest sat side by side with a vulenggedingo in a container.

The wedding party was over. All guests bade farewell for returning to their own places of origin. The palace returned to its quietness and maids were busy cleaning and tidying up the palace.

Princess Youngest and her husband, a vulenggedingo in a container, lived in the palace. The granny of her husband was also

asked to live at court. Normally, while waiting for the night, Princess Youngest spent her time by watering the flowers in the palace' garden. When she hit boredom, she returned to her chamber. In her chamber, she looked at her husband, a vulenggedingo in a container. Then she would return to watering the flowers at the garden of the palace.

At nightfall, the sounds of nocturnal animals started a choir-like sound. All palace occupants were sound asleep. But not Princess Youngest. She pretended to shut her eyes on her bed. Actually, she was paying attention to the container of vulenggedingo. She was curious as the water in the container always ran out.

As the night turned very late, she couldn't find the vulenggedingo in its container. She could hear a sound of water splashing faintly, as if someone was having a bath. Vulenggedingo's wife tried to find the source of the sound and she was shocked to find a mighty and handsome young man was having a bath.

“He is handsome, with a clean and fair complexion. Who is he?” muttered Princess Youngest. She was certain that the young man had been the embodiment of the vulenggedingo that had gone missing from its container. Princess Youngest did not intercept and approach the young man directly. She let the young man to have his bath. Vulenggedingo was not aware of the fact that a pair of eyes had been watching him. As soon as the young man finished his bath, Princess Youngest, couldn't help her

contentment. Princess Youngest approached her husband, the mighty and handsome young man. Vulenggedingo confirmed his wife's presumption. Soon after, the mighty and handsome young man told his wife about his disguise. Princess Youngest was very jubilant as she had a handsome husband, who was also gallant and noble in character.

The next day, Princess Youngest and Vulenggedingo met the king in the assembly hall. The king and the other six princesses were shocked as they saw Princess Youngest came with a mighty and handsome young man.

“Who is this young man, my child?” asked the king.

“Forgive me, father. He is my husband, the vulenggedingo that had been in the container,” answered the Princess as she curtseyed.

“Don't you lie to us,” snapped Princess Eldest and the other princesses.

“I am not lying to you, Sisters. He is my husband all along, whom you saw as a vulenggedingo in the container,” replied Princess Youngest. Soon after, Vulenggedingo told everyone who he had been.

Seeing that things became tense between Princess Youngest and her sisters, the king then made a decision upon Princess Youngest

and Vulenggedingo by saying, “Alright, My dear child Princess Youngest. There are some things I wish to say to you and your husband. First, Vulenggedingo, you actually are a prince and now you have been my daughter’s husband.

Hence, you shall not be addressed as Vulenggedingo. People should address you as *Prince* Vulenggedingo. Second, I have reached an old age. So, I shall dub you the king of this palace.”

“It is for you to decide, Father. For me it doesn’t really matter being addressed as prince or not. However, for the sake of respect to the royal family, I shall accept it,” said Vulenggedingo as he bowed.

“Pardon me, Father. Have you given the second issue some good thought?” asked Vulenggedingo.

“I *have* given it some good thought,” said the king.

“Then, I am ready to be the king of this palace,” Vulenggedingo answered.

Prince Vulenggedingo had consented to be a king. Coronation ceremony was then prepared. All subjects and relatives of the royal family helped in the preparation. The palace was decorated with various adornments. The palace floor upon where the banquet would take place had been decorated with beautiful carpets. Guest seatings were also prepared. Delicious foods such

as cakes and various kinds of fruits were prepared by the chefs of the palace. They provided many kinds of culinary treats.

On a specific set of day, the coronation of Prince Vulenggedingo took place. The guests of honor arrived. They were then led to the coronation site. Seats were full of guests of honor. Officially, Prince Vulenggedingo had now been crowned. As a newly-crowned king, Vulenggedingo headed to a podium. But, before he started paces to the podium, he looked at the guests for a moment, nodded honorably and commadingly.

“Guests of honor, royal officials, and to all my subjects. On this happy day, we thank The Almighty for His blessings. May we all forever be under His protection. As the new king, shall sincerely thank you all for your presence. I vow to undertake all duties as king to the fullest extent and for that I salll take full responsibility.”

Once the coronation ceremony of King Vulenggedingo was concluded, guests returned home. King Vulenggedingo also awarded many kinds of valuable gifts to all present subjects.

Princess Youngest and Vulenggedingo Lived Happily

One night, Princess Youngest had a dream that she had gone with her six sisters to a place, but then she was abandoned by her sisters. She woke up from her sleep. At the same time, the sound of dingoes howling and crows cawing were faintly heard from

outside the palace. Princess Youngest grew restless. She wanted the night to pass immediately. The next day, in the palace's courtyard, Princess Youngest told her husband about her dream. "I am so scared that it'd turn into reality in our lives, Dear Husband," said Princess Youngest.

"My lovely, don't fall into those superstitions. Dreams are just adornments of slumber. I don't think you should believe and scared about the dream." Vulenggedingo calmed his wife. He smiled. He loved Princess Youngest very much as she was not only lovely, but also delicate and sincere. King Vulenggedingo and his queen had no idea that the sisters of Princess Youngest were watching them. Seeing how loving King Vulenggedingo to Princess Youngest, Princess Eldest and her five sister had grown envious and spiteful.

One day, the king went on some tour duty. He went out to monitor some of his territories. The six sisters of Princess Youngest made a plot against her once they knew the king was about to leave. One month after King Vulenggedingo left for duty, Princess Youngest' sisters started to set their plot into action. They came to visit Princess Youngest and asked her to go to the sea.

"Knock... knock... knock...." there was a sound of the door being knocked from the outside. "Who is it?" asked Princess Youngest from inside the room.

“It’s me, Princess Eldest, and your other sisters,” answered Princess Eldest.

“Come in!”

Shortly after, the door creaked open. Her six sisters were in the presence of Princess Youngest. Princess Eldest shut the door and approached a chair nearby the bed. Meanwhile, the other five princesses surrounded Princess Youngest.

“We were worried about you that Vulenggedingo had left for quite some time. What if you come with us to the sea,” said Princess Eldest persuading her. Cheerfully, Princess Youngest approved her sisters’ request.

“Allow me to ask for leave from father, Sis!” asked Princess Youngest. But, Princess Eldest put a stop to the idea.

“No need to, Youngest Sister. It will only for a short while.”

Princess Youngest followed suit. Then, off Princess Youngest and her six sisters went to the sea. Upon reaching the sea, the sisters of Princess Youngest tried to find a boat, then took her on board the boat. Without any hint of suspicion, Princess Youngest followed them no questions asked. When the boat reached the open sea, the six sisters got rid of Princess Youngest, with a hope that she would be eaten by fish. Then the six sisters returned to the palace. Once they reached the palace, their father was

astonished by their gestures. He also wondered where Princess Eldest might be as he hadn't seen her for long. Then, he asked the whereabouts of Princess Youngest to her other sisters.

"Eldest, my child. Have you seen your sister, Princess Youngest?" asked the king.

"I beg for your forgiveness, Father. A while ago we took Princess Youngest to the sea. When we were at sea, a storm suddenly hit us, and our boat became unsteady. Princess Youngest sat on the brim of the boat and suddenly fell overboard. We have all tried to help her, but a big wave had taken her away."

The old man could not say anything. He could only cry and weep for the Princess Youngest. "What will I say to her husband once he returns?" said the old man in agony. Long story short, by God's help, King Vulenggedingo was on his way to perform his duty and it so happened that he passed the waters where his wife had been rid of. He heard a voice crying for help.

"Help...! Help...! Help..!" cried Princess Youngest. She was expecting immediate help.

"Help...! Help...! Help!" cried Princess Youngest as she waved her hand. No boat or ship that passed the waters. The woman yelled still, crying for help. Yet, nobody came to her aid. Faintly, the cry for help was heard by King Vulenggedingo and his entourage. The king ordered his men to find the source of the

sound. The king's guards immediately execute the order. The captain of the ship quickly turned the wheel of the ship, directing the ship towards the source of the sound.

From a distance, a guard saw something floating and moving in the sea. He reported his vision to the captain, and the captain made the ship sail towards the heading.

“There's someone in the water. What happened to him?” asked a guard loudly.

The king ordered his guards to help the person. The guards prepped some equipment then pulled the person on board. Once the person was rescued, King Vulenggedingo approached. He was very shocked.

“Isn't that Princess Youngest?” he asked in disbelief.

The guards who helped the person to get onboard was as shocked as King Vulenggedingo. They also recognized the person. Vulenggedingo hadn't said anything when suddenly his wife passed out. He panicked about his wife. He then called a guard. All the king's guards were also in panic. But they vigorously helped their king. They couldn't do much as they were at sea. Being a caring husband, the king looked after his wife. “My dear wife, how did this happen?” he muttered. He had such a profound sadness. Unknowingly, his tears pooled on his eyes.

“Why were you at sea like this? What happened, Dear wife?” asked Vulenggedingo as he looked at his wife, full of affection. Suddenly, his wife woke up. Vulenggedingo was thrilled that his wife has been up. They hugged as if nobody would be able to split them no more. The guards were also moved by this heartbreaking scene. Princess Youngest immediately told her husband what happened to her. After thinking for a while, Vulenggedingo said to his wife, “Alright, I will put you in a chest with a hole on it. Should anyone peek through the hole, you should glare back.” Shortly after, Vulenggedingo’s ship made port. The wives of the king’s guards and the six sisters of Vulenggedingo’s wife also came to the port to greet them. The six sisters of Princess Youngest looked thrilled and they soon looked around the items Vulenggedingo had brought with him. They wanted to know the contents of the chests Vulenggedingo had brought home. Yet, before they had a chance of knowing the contents of those chests, King Vulenggedingo suddenly asked them how his wife had been.

“Where is my wife? Why hadn’t she come here to greet me? Hadn’t she missed me?” asked Vulenggedingo to Princess Youngest’s six sisters. By pretending to be consumed by sadness, they told Vulenggedingo what they had experienced with Princess Youngest.

“Some time ago we took Princess Youngest to the sea. When we were at sea, suddenly a storm swarmed over us and the boat that we were on was tottering. Princess Youngest, who sat on the corner suddenly fell to the sea. We’ve tried to help her, but a giant wave overwhelmed her.” said Princess Eldest.

“Oh, my poor wife. And none of her sisters could help her?” asked Vulenggedingo. Yet, neither one of Princess Youngest’s sister answered Vulenggedingo’s question. They were busy peeking into the chests to know the contents. When they were peeping into a chest, their eyes were glared by Vulenggedingo’s wife. “Something is wrong with these chests.” said Princess Eldest to her five sisters. Soon after, Vulenggedingo took his wife out of the chest. All the six sisters of Vulenggedingo’s wife were thunderstruck when they knew that their sister was very much alive. Then, they asked pardon from Vulenggedungo and admitted that they had made mistake. They promised not to repeat what they had done. Vulenggedingo and his wife approached the six sisters of Princess Youngest. “This is God’s will. We have to realize that!” said Vulenggedingo wisely as he turned to his queen.

“Right, this is all God’s will. We needn’t avenge fellow human let alone our own sisters. We have to love each other and we must dissociate ourselves from being envious and spiteful,” said Princess Youngest, reminding her six sisters.

“You truly are of noble hearts. Though we have wronged Princess Youngest, you still forgave us,” said Princess Eldest as she hugged her youngest sister. King Vulenggedingo and his wife with her six sisters returned to the palace. They jested each other and laughed cheerfully as though nothing had ever happened between them. Inadvertently, they reached the gate of the palace.

“Father, we’re home. Look who is with us,” cried Princess Eldest.

“Father,” said Princess Youngest calling her father.

“God protect and grant you long life, Child,” said king emeritus as he hugged his daughter.

Now Princess Youngest had returned to her family. Finally, King Vulenggedingo and Princess Youngest lived happily in the golden palace. Compassion and love came between them. It was that very compassion and love that had soothened their lives.