

THE GOLDEN DRAGON OF LAKE RANAU
Naga Emas Danau Ranau

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THE GOLDEN DRAGON OF LAKE RANAU

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NAGA EMAS DANAU RANAU

Cerita Rakyat dari Lampung

Ditulis oleh
Yulfi Zawarnis

Naga Emas Danau Ranau

Cerita Rakyat dari Lampung

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1. KESUSASTRAAN RAKYAT-SUMATERA
2. CERITA RAKYAT-LAMPUNG

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, imginative 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

Praise the Lord, Alhamdulillah, the story of the Golden Dragon of Lake Ranau was able to be completed. The Story of Golden Dragon of Lake Ranau was taken from folklore that developed around Lake Ranau, West Lampung. Part of Ranau Lake belongs to South Sumatra. Beside golden dragon, around Lake Ranau there is also developed the story of *Kelekup Gangsa*.

The Golden Dragon of Lake Ranau tells the story of a large golden scaly dragon guarding Lake Ranau. This dragon would appear on the surface of the lake when many people around the lake commit crimes. This story can be completed thanks to the support of various parties. Therefore, the author would like to thank:

1. Dra. Yanti Riswara, M Hum., Head of the Lampung Province Language Office who has encouraged the author to quickly complete this story;
2. the organizing committee that has provided an opportunity for the author to work on this story;
3. The author family and colleagues in Lampung Province Language Office and all those who have provided conducive conditions, support, and encouragement to the author to concentrate on completing this story;

The author hopes that this story can enrich the literary treasures in Indonesia and can provide moral values and teaching to all readers.

Bandar Lampung, April 2016

Yulfi Zawarnis, M.Hum.

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THE GOLDEN DRAGON OF LAKE RANAU

1. The Forbidden Forest

Sukau Village was suddenly gripped by terror. This afternoon, a wood gatherer reported to the village chief that his friend had been lost in the forest. This was not the first time someone was lost in the forest. Several months ago, a middle-aged man who lived at the farthest corner of the village, near the border, also disappeared. The man lived alone and according to his neighbors, he had been missing for some time. Some of his neighbors had attempted to search for him, with no luck. Several villagers reported that they last saw him heading towards the forest. Since then, nobody ever saw him again.

Local people called it Seminung Forest because it was at the foot of Seminung Mountain. From afar, the forest seemed so calm, the dense foliage created shades against the sun. Huge trees grew in long rows, their tips were visible from afar, reaching for the sky.

Obviously, there were plenty of natural resources in the forest. Local people usually took firewood, wild fruits, and animals from the forest. It was like a magnet, pulling the people to enter it.

The wood gatherer, whose friend was missing, reported that they had been gathering firewood in the southern part of the forest three days ago. On a crossroad, they accidentally were separated

from each other. He looked for his friend in all directions, but there was no sign of him. Then the wood gatherer decided to come home and report the incident to the village chief.

The village chief was surprised when he heard that report. It was because since the middle age man went missing a few months before, he had received other similar reports of people went missing. Some villagers also claimed that they lost their cattle which they shepherded around Seminung Forest.

The village chief immediately formulates a plan to find the missing people and cattle. He increased the security in and around the village. The villagers took turn to patrol the border of the forests fully equipped with weapons.

Not only that, the village chief also created a team consisted of strong, brave men to scour the forest, trying to search for the missing people. There were eight men on the team. He grouped them into four two men teams, and sent each team to the east, west, north, and south.

The next morning, as soon as the roosters crowed, the team set out to the forest. The four small teams separated in a crossroad, taking the direction they were instructed to. The two men who were sent to the north reported back that they did not find anything along the way. On the third day of their search, they arrived at a quite densely populated village. They stopped there

and asked the locals whether they had seen the missing Sukau people. They hoped that the villagers on the north side of the forest knew something. However, they had no such luck. After that, the two men decided to head back to Sukau Village. They arrived home on the sixth night and immediately gave their report to the village chief.

Soon after that, the two men who had gone to the east came back with nothing. They reported that at the end of their search they only found a vast savanna on the east of the forest. Once they reached the savanna, they decided to return home because they were certain that the missing people were not there.

The team that went to the west also returned with similar news. They did not find what they were looking for. On the west side of Seminung Forest, there was a small village, populated by only several families.

It was a peaceful village. The two men had interviewed the local villagers about the missing people, but they knew nothing about it. There had been no outsiders coming to the village before the two men arrived.

Everyone's hopes now depended on the team that went to the south. The two men in the team were Bilu and Mopang. On the seventh day of their search, they returned to the village, running quickly towards the village hall where everyone was gathering.

Their faces were white as paper. Stammering, they recounted what they had just experienced in the forest.

“*Datuk*, we can no longer continue the search,” Bilu said to the village chief, whom they called ‘*Datuk*’. *Datuk* meant an elder, someone that everyone respected.

“That’s right, *Datuk*. We barely escaped the clutch of death doing this dangerous task,” Mopang added.

“Very well, just calm yourself and tell us what made you so pale?” The village chief replied. Bilu and Mopang took a deep breath, then sipped the warm tea that the village chief’s wife had just put in front of them.

Bilu began recounting their experience, “*Datuk*, we have just seen a gigantic tree. It was so high that we could not see its top. It was a sturdy tree. Its leaves were so dense that the sun could not penetrate it. The branches snaked here and there, extending so long. It was so huge that a single branch could fit this whole village hall and all its content.”

Everyone hearing the story was in awe. They imagined how big and strong the tree that Bilu and Mopang had seen.

After taking another gulp of breath, Bilu continued, “From afar, we saw it as a very beautiful tree. Sweet, enticing smell emanated from it, attracting everyone to come closer. We could not resist

the urge and we approached it with curiosity. The closer we got, the more overwhelmed we were. The sweet smell, the beauty of the tree, and the whispers in the wind encouraged us to get closer. However, the same things that urged us also made the whole situation felt so menacing. Our mind refused to go near the tree, knowing that it would be bad, but our feet kept moving forward.”

Bilu stopped for a moment, trying to compose himself. He looked at the direction of Seminung Forest, which looked so beautiful even from afar. The villagers could not wait to hear what happened next.

However, they realized that Bilu and Mopang had just experienced something truly shocking. It was proper to just wait and let them tell the story on their own pace.

Bilu looked down at his feet and continued the story, “We felt very sad as we walked closer to the tree. It was as if there was someone whispering in our ears and urging us to keep moving forward. I and Mopang kept walking until we arrived at the bottom of the tree. The voice in our ears urged us to climb it. We did not even question it at the time. Now that I think about it, it seems impossible that anyone could climb the tree without using any tools. Anyway, we easily climbed the huge tree. It was as if we were walking on the ground.”

Bilu sighed. He took another sip of the warm tea before

continuing.

“Thank God we were snapped awake from the trance when a thunder struck down. We suddenly stopped climbing and fell down three meters to the ground. We quickly tried to run away from the tree, but suddenly we could not move. Our feet felt glued to the ground. Our body turned heavy like a statue. We could not move. The more we tried, the heavier our feet felt. We screamed and screamed as hard as we could. We felt our body becoming weaker and weaker. We were ready to submit to whatever fate was before us. Mopang quietly whispered to me that his father had once told him to never fight strength with strength. We stopped struggling and put ourselves in God’s hands. Amazingly, we were able to free ourselves from the spell after that. Once we were able to move, we ran home as fast as we could. We heard something was pursuing us from behind, but we never looked back to see what it was. Thank God we managed to enter the village safely. I don’t know what would happen if the thunder had not woken us up.”

Bilu then stopped talking. Fatigue and fear were clearly shown in his face. Mopang, who was sitting beside him, decided to add to the story.

“*Datuk*, we were scared to death. When the spell was broken, we saw that the beautiful tree was actually so terrifying. We saw tattered clothes hanging from the branches. Among the leaves, we

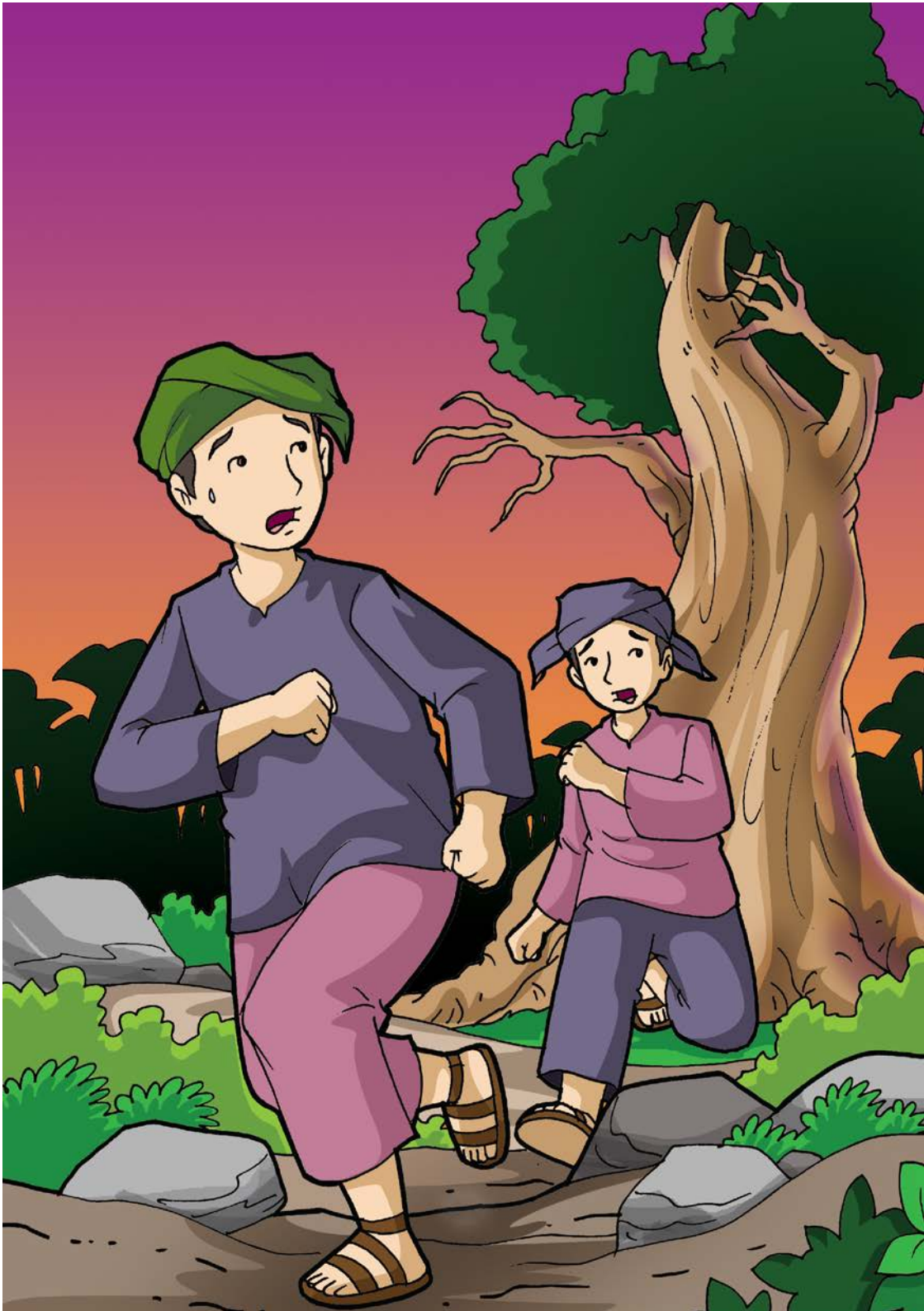
saw thousands of snakes curling and warping themselves on the twigs. A putrid smell wafted from between the barks. The barks themselves were like blades of knives.

That giant tree is the most terrifying place we have ever had the misfortune to find.”

The village chief was stunned in disbelief. He could not imagine what had happened to the missing villagers and cattle.

“Could it be that they were trapped inside the giant tree?” he thought.

From that moment on, the village chief passed another rule. All villagers were forbidden from entering Seminung Forest.



2. Rakian Sukat

Decades had passed since the incident of villagers going missing in Seminung Forest. The life in Sukau Village had long since returned to its peaceful state. Not one villager dared to break the rule concerning the forest.

They had stopped going to the forest for gathering firewood, picking fruits, or hunting. The elders told stories to their children and reminded them to never get closer to Seminung Forest.

One day, a young man arrived in Sukau Village. He was a muscular man and taller than the average people of Sukau Village. He had dark brown skin, pointed nose, and thick brows. His hair was long, almost touching his shoulders. When he smiled, two dimples appeared on his cheeks. He was so handsome that everyone who ever met him on the street called him 'Handsome'.

The man was looking for a place for meditating. He was on a spiritual retreat. On his way to find the perfect place, he decided to stop at Sukau Village to rest and make friends with the locals.

"My name is Rakian Sukat!" That was how he introduced himself.

Rakian Sukat was sitting under a tree on a crossroad to Seminung Forest. He smiled, nodded, and greeted everyone who passed the

road. Rakian Sukat decided to rest there because he was tired after a long journey.

When he had enough rest, Rakian Sukat decided to continue his search. His instinct told him to take the road on the right, which led to Seminung Forest. He stood up and began to walk. However, he had just taken a few steps when an old man with long white beard walked quickly towards him.

Rakian Sukat smiled at the old man. They greeted each other.

“The people here call me ‘Buya Ratun,’” the old man introduced himself.

“If you don’t mind me prying, where are you going, young man?” he continued.

“I am on a spiritual retreat to get closer to God Almighty, Buya. My instinct urged me to find a place to meditate on the hill up there,” Rakian answered politely.

Buya Ratun was stunned.

“Have you ever been in the forest or heard anything about it?” Buya Ratun asked. His face wore a serious expression. He was genuinely concerned.

“No, Buya. I don’t know anything about the forest. I just follow my heart. My teacher taught me that all places on the face of the

earth are good place, as long as we are good. Thus, I just follow where my feet take me,” Rakian Sukat replied.

Buya Ratun took a long good look at Rakian Sukat. He was not sure why, but he felt there was a hidden strength behind the young man’s handsome face. Even so, he could not let Rakian Sukat continue his journey to Seminung Forest.



He still remembered that people had been missing in the forest decades ago. He remembered the taboo implemented in the village, no one was allowed to enter Seminung Forest. He could not let Rakian Sukat go the forbidden forest.

“Rakian Sukat, I respect your wish to meditate in Seminung Forest. But do you know? The forest has taken so many victims,” Buya Ratun said softly.

Buya Ratun was the wood gatherer who survived the forest decades ago. He then told the story of the missing villagers, including his best friend, to Rakian Sukat. He also told him about the rule of the village that everyone was prohibited from entering Seminung Forest.

“To this day, none of the missing people were found,” he concluded the story.

“Does anybody know where they went, Buya? Rakian Sukat asked, brows furrowing with curiosity.

“They were taken by the giant tree in the forest. It was said that the tree had the power to entice anyone to climb it. Up on its branches, live thousands of snakes. Its barks are as sharp as blades of swords. Since that incident, no one from our village is allowed to hunt or gather wood in Seminung Forest.”

Buya Ratun’s face showed a shadow of sadness and fear. He told

Rakian Sukat to forget his plan to meditate in Seminung Forest.

“Rakian, if I may say my mind, I think it is best if you do not meditate in the forest. I’m worried for your safety,” Buya Ratun said.

“Thank you for your concern, Buya. I am truly sorry for those missing people. However, as a responsible man, I think I should continue with my plan. I have to try to cut the despicable tree down.

I am prepared to face any risk. I believe that with God’s blessing I will be able to take down the creatures living in the tree. I will try to cut it down so that it will not take another victim. The people should be able to enter the forest freely and safely,” Rakian Sukat made his decision.

“Very well, Young Man, if it is what you decide, prepare yourself. I pray that your strong will and faith give you the power to do what has to be done,” Buya Ratun said.

Since he could not change Rakian Sukat’s mind, Buya Ratun let him go with a sincere prayer. He hoped Rakian Sukat succeeded in his quest to cut down the giant tree.

3. The Battle

It was almost dark, but Rakian Sukat did not want to waste time. His desire to free the people from the danger of Seminung Forest was so strong. He said farewell to Buya Ratun and continued his journey towards the forest. Rakian believed that with God's blessing, he would be able to defeat the spirits in the giant tree.

Following the direction from Buya Ratun, Rakian Sukat quickly entered the forest. He hoped to reach the tree before sunrise. Rakian Sukat knew for a fact that the snakes on the tree would be blind under the sun. It would give him the advantage to destroy the snakes before cutting down the tree.

Just before sunrise, Rakian Sukat could see the giant tree from a distance. He was stunned with what he saw. It was truly a sight to behold. Rakian Sukat was taken hold by the hypnotizing aroma wafting from the tree. His mind wandered. He felt a strong desire to approach and climb the tree. Suddenly, Rakian Sukat felt a pang of sadness in his heart. Somehow, he felt that the sadness would go away if he could only climb the giant tree up there.

Rakian Sukat quickly snapped out of the spell. He realized that what he felt was not more than an illusion laid out by the spirits living in the tree.

Rakian Sukat calmed his mind and prepared himself. Anything might happen here. Cautiously, he looked around, ready for

anything. He paid close attention to any sound and movement around him.

Rakian Sukat then took out a powerful sword he inherited from this teacher. With confidence, he slashed the giant tree. Suddenly, a pair of golden-scaled dragons appeared from behind the tree. They slithered and formed a fighting stance, ready to attack. With a loud hiss, the two dragons began to attack Rakian Sukat voraciously.

Even though he had expected that there would be some sort of barrier to his effort, Rakian Sukat had never anticipated that it would be dragons. For a moment, he stared at them in disbelief. Their scales glinted under the morning sun.

Rakian Sukat quickly checked himself. He did not want to fall into another spell. With a swift flick of his wrist, he blocked the male dragon's attack with his sword. The dragons were furious that Rakian Sukat was able to avoid and block each of their attacks. Rakian Sukat tried to keep calm. He did not return the attacks. He just let the dragons attack him to get them tired. He tried to avoid the attacks without exerting too much energy. Finally, his plan began to show result. The dragons' ferocious attacks began to slow. They were getting tired.

The sun was setting now. Rakian Sukat still managed to block every slash, bite, and thrashing the dragons aimed at him. The dragons' sharp scales cut him everywhere, blood trickled from the wounds. At one time, Rakian Sukat saw that the female dragon was tired. Her attack was not as strong and as swift as before. She was almost down with fatigue. Rakian Sukat did not waste the opportunity and slashed at the female dragon's throat.



The dragon dodged and the sword hit its crown. The golden crown fell to the ground. As it flew from the female dragon's head, the dragon stumbled to the ground. The crown was its Achilles' heel. Once it touched the ground, the female dragon turned into a long sword. Rakian Sukat quickly snatched it from the ground. He could feel that the sword had the power he could use to destroy the giant tree.

Seeing that its partner had been down, the male dragon roared furiously. However, it knew that it would never be able to defeat Rakian Sukat who had mastered the dragon sword, the incarnation of the female dragon.

“Young Man, today you have defeated us. You have destroyed my queen. You will pay for this. The villagers will receive the consequences of what you have done. I curse them all. I curse them to suffer from a plague.

I swear you will pay for today. It might be tomorrow or ten years later, but you will pay.”

Rakian Sukat said nothing. He felt pity because he had separated the male dragon from his companion. He was truly a noble man. Even though he had the upper hand and could just kill the male dragon right then and there, he restrained himself. He did not want to attack an opponent who had submitted and admitted their defeat.

Rakian Sukat only watched the male dragon escaping into the ground. Its huge long body disappeared into the ground, leaving a huge hole in its wake. Suddenly, water poured out from the hole. Rakian Sukat shook his head in wonder.

4. The Destruction of the Giant Tree

Now that the dragon couple guarding the giant tree had been defeated and gone, there was no more obstruction on Rakian Sukat's path to destroy the giant tree. He held the dragon sword and hacked at the tree. Since it was such a humongous tree, it took him forever to hack his way and bring it down. He used all his remaining strength to cut the tree. Every time his sword hit the tree, splinters of the bark and wood flew the air and fell to the ground around his feet.

Meanwhile, the hole made by the male dragon kept excreting water, forming a new water source that gradually filled in and turned into a lake. The splinters from the tree magically turned into fish when they touched the water.

Rakian Sukat had been hacking the tree for some time and the water was getting higher and higher. Even though there had been so many fish in the water, the tree had not been wholly cut. Rakian Sukat thought that if the tree did not fall down soon, he would surely drown in the lake, along with the giant tree.

Rakian Sukat almost gave up. He was exhausted, barely able to continue cutting the tree. Rakian Sukat then submit himself to God's grace and prayed for help.

“Oh, Gracious God, I came here with good intention. I wish to help the people in this area. This tree has caused so much trouble

for them, making them afraid to gather your blessings from the forest. Please do not let my effort be in vain. Please send a wind to help me bringing this tree down.”

His prayer was granted and God sent a huge wind, blowing on the tree. The giant tree squeaked and cracked, parts of it had begun to break. Soon, it fell down with a huge crash.

Its long branches hit the ground and cracked it, creating long trenches. Water quickly filled the trenches and formed small rivers.

They all were connected to the lake.

Water kept flowing out of the huge hole. The whole area was full of water. Rakian Sukat quickly got away from the area and tried to find dry higher ground.

He walked away from the lake to the direction of Sukau Village. When the water stopped flowing and the lake was fully formed, Rakian Sukat stopped and rested. He was so tired that he immediately fell asleep under a tree. All his life, Rakian Sukat had never slept so soundly. His success in eradicating the source of misery in Seminung Forest had taken up all his energy, but he felt satisfied.

Rakian Sukat woke up when the sun rays, coming through the

leaves, hit his face. He got up and walked to Sukau Village. He wanted to tell the people that they were safe.

Rakian Sukat uttered a prayer, showing his gratitude. He knew very well that without help from God Almighty, he would never be able to defeat the dragon couple and cut down the tree. All that he had just experienced had strengthened his faith.



5. The King

Rakian Sukat had finished his job. It was time for him to continue his journey. However, he planned to visit Sukau Village first, to tell the village chief and his people that he had beaten the golden-scaled dragons of the giant tree and that the tree had fallen. In fact, the villagers would be able to catch and eat the fish in the newly created lake.

Rakian Sukat walked quickly towards the village hall, where the villagers often gathered.

“Rakian Sukat is here . . . Rakian Sukat is here!” some villagers announced his coming. Rakian Sukat heard their loud voice from the gate of the village.

The villagers quickly gathered in the village hall. In fact, it was not just the villagers from Sukau Village. People from other villages had also come there. Apparently, the news that Rakian Sukat had cut down the giant tree had spread around.

Buya Ratun, the elder of the village, had told as many people as he could about Rakian Sukat’s plan. Most of the people who gathered there were curious to hear the news directly from the horse’s mouth.

They wanted to know what Rakian Sukat had done in Seminung Forest and how he managed to get out alive.

The chiefs of Sukau Village and surrounding villages had been waiting for Rakian Sukat.

Rakian Sukat arrived with a broad smile on his face. Seeing that he was happy, everyone was excited. They gave him drinks and asked him to sit in front of everyone. Then, Buya Ratun asked the question that everyone was curious about.

“Young Man, please tell us whether you have succeeded in your quest to defeat the evil spirits of the giant tree.”

“I have defeated them, Buya.”

“It could not have been easy. Are you alright?” Buya Ratun continued.

Rakian Sukat sighed and shifted on his seat.

“Buya Ratun, ladies and gentlemen, I assure you that you have nothing to be afraid of from this moment henceforth. You can safely enter Seminung Forest.”

Everyone listened intently. They wanted to hear the whole story.

“Brothers and sisters, the story of the giant tree is true. It was controlled by a pair of dragons. They had golden scales and they were the masters of all snakes on the tree. The people who were missing decades ago had indeed been the victim of the tree. I believed that they were consumed by the snakes.”

Several people shivered with fear imagining how terrifying the tree was.

“Rakian Sukat, how could you manage to come out of the forest unscathed?” a villager asked.

“I’m not unscathed. I struggled so hard to fight the dragons and snakes. God Almighty had granted me strength to do so. When I came face to face with the spirits of the tree, I felt no fear at all. It is because I believe that God will help anyone who wants to do good deeds.

I have cut down the giant tree and defeated the dragons that inhabited it.”

Everyone cheered loudly, “Long live Rakian Sukat! Long live Rakian Sukat!”

The village hall erupted with joyful cheers. Rakian Sukat’s success in defeating the evil spirits meant that the forbidden forest was now safe to enter. The people would be able to make the good use of its natural resources.

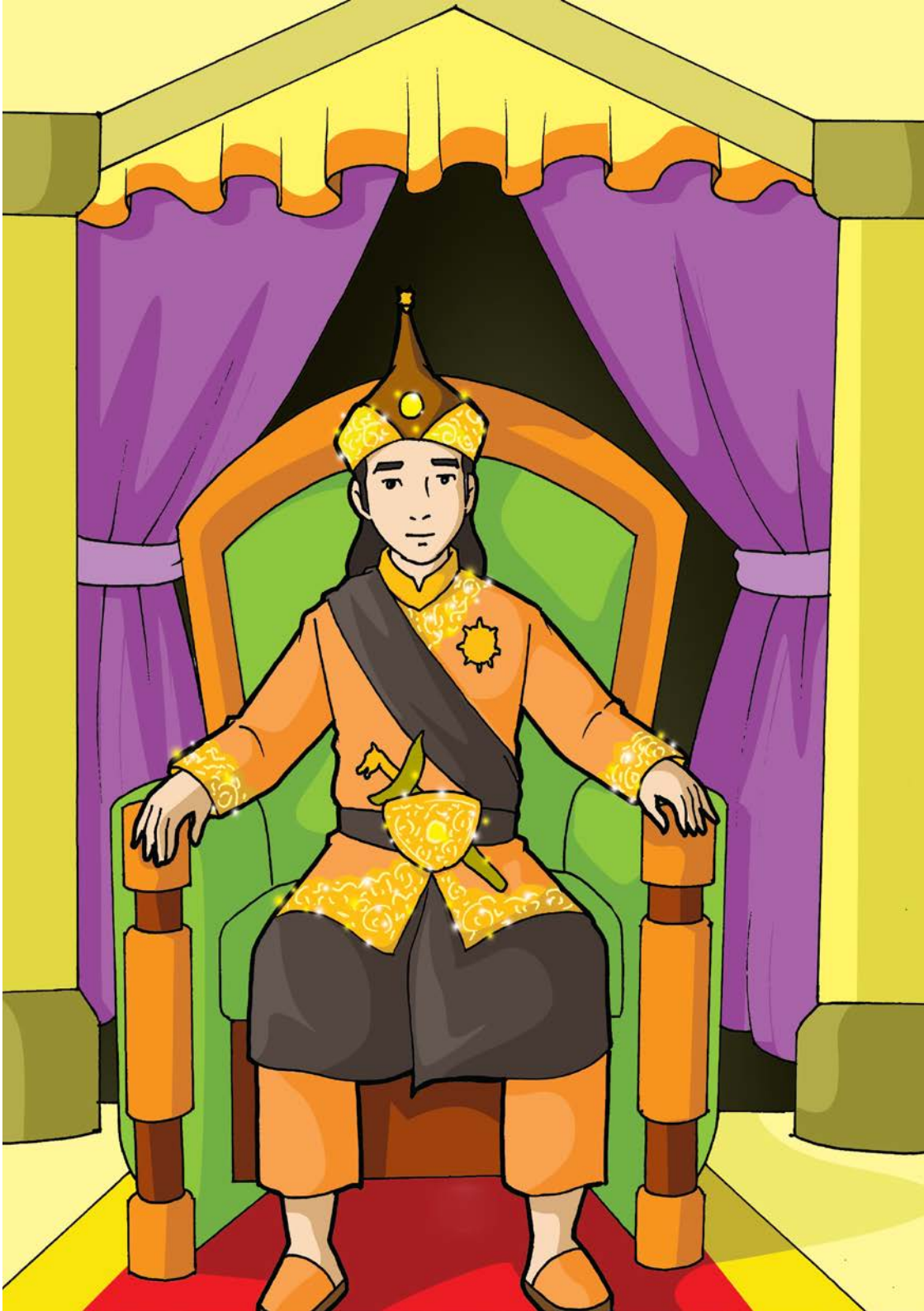
Immediately, everyone agreed to ask Rakian Sukat to be their king. No one doubted that decision and everyone chanted Rakian Sukat’s name.

Rakian Sukat could not refuse their request. He accepted the proposal and be the king of Seminung Mountain. As a king, he

always had the dragon sword on his hip. He called it The Queen Sword, because it had been the dragon queen.

Time passed and Rakian Sukat led the area with wisdom and fairness. Rakian Sukat made Sukau Village the center of his kingdom. Sukau Village became the capital city and all surrounding villages were under its command.

The place where the giant tree was now a lake. It provided many advantages for the people led by Rakian Sukat. They caught the fish and ate them, they used the water for irrigation, and they often went to the lake for recreation. The people in the area lived in peace and prosperity.



6. The Curse

Since Rakian Sukat defeated the dragons and cut down the giant tree, no villager was afraid to enter Seminung Forest. Consequently, their economic life improved significantly. Every day, the people of Sukau Village went to the forest and brought back various natural resources such as woods and fruits. Some of them also went to the lake and caught fish.

Sukau Village was then known as a prosperous village, rich with natural resources. Other villages also enjoyed what Seminung Forest could offer them. Some people even built houses near the lake in Seminung Forest.

Since Sukau Village and its surrounding areas prospered, the region became crowded. People came from all over the land to stay in the area. The village always bustled with activities.

From dawn to dusk, even way into the night, the people were busy. Every once in a while, the people held parties and ceremonies to celebrate good harvest.

One day, the peace in land was once again disrupted. One evening, several villagers caught a glimpse of a golden-scaled dragon around the lake. Soon after, those villagers fell ill. They suffered from a strange illness in which their skin turned red and blistering as if it was burnt. They found it difficult to move their arms and legs. Their sight also became blurry.

Every day, more and more people suffered from the strange disease. Healers from various regions were called to stop it.

However, none of them were able to find a cure or to stop the epidemic spread. All their medicine, both the ointments and the drugs, were inefficacious. In fact, the people suffering from the disease got even worse. Over time, several people died due to the illness.

The news quickly reached Rakian Sukat. He felt the suffering of his people. He intended to do all he could to relieve them from the pain. With his medicinal knowledge, Rakian Sukat attempted to heal the people. However, he also failed.

He felt hopeless since every day another villager died from the disease.

“I have to do something. Or else, there will be no one left in this village,” he muttered to himself.

He thought hard, trying to find a solution. One day, he remembered the day he vanquished the dragon. He remembered what the male dragon had said before it went underground. The dragon had promised that one day its curse would fall upon the villagers. Rakian Sukat was convinced that it was the curse that put his people in such misery. Lately, Rakian Sukat received many reports that crime was growing in the area. The economic growth of the people was not accompanied with good moral

values. Parents did not teach their children all important moral values since they were so busy working. The youth was often seen drinking alcohol. People often fought over lands or crops. One of the report said that an old man had died because he fell into a hole that the kids had dug near the lake.

As a king, Rakian Sukat had not had the time to handle the criminal aspect of society. For the moment, he would focus all his power to heal the people. However, he vowed to handle the matter as soon as he could. He wanted to make his kingdom a prosperous, peaceful, and safe nation for the people. Rakian Sukat finally decided to meditate in Seminung Mountain, hoping that God would give him directions to solve this problem.

“My God . . . I sincerely apologized because I, the king, had failed to protect and guide my people to always be grateful for Your blessings. I failed to always remind them to be good to nature and other people. I believe this is why the dragon’s curse finally falls upon us. I know that only You can take it away from my people. I beg You, God, please give me a guidance to heal my people,” Rakian Sukat prayed.

After meditating for six days, Rakian Sukat had not had any clue as to how he could cure his people. In the afternoon of the seventh day, just before the sun set, an old woman with a calm face approached Rakian Sukat.

“Young Man, it is time for you to wake up and save your people. Go to the lake where you defeated the dragons. Part of the giant tree is still there. You can find one of its roots inside a cave near the lake. Only the root can cure your people from the dragon’s curse,” the old woman whispered to Rakian Sukat.

The old woman then disappeared. Rakian Sukat immediately got up and ended his meditation. He did not want to waste any more time and quickly headed towards the lake in Seminung Forest.



Taking the root of the giant tree, which had been drowned under the lake, was not an easy thing to do; even for Rakian Sukat. He then received some guidance and knew that one of the roots was inside an invisible cave. He could only turn the cave visible if he gave an offering of a pair of white buffaloes. Those buffaloes should be slaughtered during the full moon and they should be presented before the sun rose. Should he fail meeting these requirements, he would face the punishment and the earth would shake.

Rakian Sukat then returned to the village and gathered his people. He made an announcement.

“My good people, the illness that our brothers and sisters suffer is a curse from the male dragon. I beg your forgiveness because I have been negligent in reminding you to always be good. I have failed in keeping this kingdom safe and peaceful. The curse can only be lifted if I can get the root of the giant tree, which is currently inside an invisible cave by the lake. I need a black horse with white spot on its back to enter the cave. If any of you possess such a horse, please bring it to me and I will compensate you with fifty gold coins.”

“We also have to make a sacrifice in the form of a pair of white buffaloes. We have to slaughter them during the full moon and present the offering before the sun rises. The consequence is too big if we fail. The earth will shake and destroy us all. Thus, I

sincerely beg you to help me,” Rakian Sukat added.

The people exchanged look with each other, trying to see if anyone had what the king needed. Suddenly, a young boy yelled from behind.

“My Lord Rakian Sukat, there is a horse at my house. It is just like what you have described. I also owned a pair of white buffaloes. I will be glad to give them to you,” he said.

The boy then turned and left the gathering place.

“Young man, wait up! What’s your name? Come here and take your money as compensation for your trouble.”

“My name is Samin, My Lord. I beg your pardon, but I cannot take the money. With all due respect, My Lord, I sincerely give you the horse and the buffaloes. I just want this curse to be lifted as soon as possible. I will get the horse and buffaloes and bring them here.”

“Very well, Samin. I thank you. Please bring them quickly. We only have until dawn to find the root of the giant tree.”

Rakian Sukat, Samin, and several villagers then took the white buffaloes to the lake and slaughtered them. As soon as they did that, everyone looked around the lake, to see where the invisible cave might appear. Soon, an old man cried and pointed towards the eastern bank.

“My Lord, look! There’s the entrance to the cave.”

Rakian Sukat quickly jumped on the black horse and urged it to run swiftly towards the cave. At the entrance of the cave, Rakian Sukat found that the male dragon had been waiting for him.

He pulled the reins and jumped down from the horse. Rakian Sukat was stunned with disbelief. He never expected that he would see the male dragon again. Immediately, they were engaged in a very heated battle. Rakian Sukat was quickly overwhelmed by the dragon’s attack. He then pulled out the Dragon Queen sword and defended himself. The male dragon could not parry Rakian Sukat’s attack when he used the sword. After a while, the dragon surrendered.

Rakian Sukat deliberately let the dragon live. He wanted the dragon to be the guardian of the cave and the lake.

“My Lord Rakian Sukat, from this moment henceforth, I shall follow all your orders. Thank you for sparing my live, My Lord,” the dragon said.

“You are welcome, Dragon. I never wanted to kill you. You have the same right as anyone else to live in this place.

However, if you don’t mind, I would like you to be the guardian of this cave and this lake,” Rakian Sukat asked politely.

“Very well, My Lord. Your wish is my command,” the dragon

replied.

“Thank you, Dragon. If you see that the kingdom is out of balance, if evil has begun to overcome goodness, please show yourself to remind the people. However, don’t you ever dare disturbing those who do not do evil,” Rakian Sukat instructed.

“I will, My Lord!”

Since then, the people knew and believed that whenever the dragon appeared, it meant that the disease would break out again in the land.

“My Lord Rakian Sukat, if one day the outbreak of such illness occurs again in this land, know that I shall not hand the root of the giant tree over, except to your descendants,” the dragon said.

“Very well, Dragon. I will remember that.”

After that, the dragon handed over the root of the giant tree to Rakian Sukat, who quickly left the cave. Amazingly, the people who suffered the illness were immediately cured after they drank the medicine that Rakian Sukat made using the root of the giant tree.

Since then, every time evil spread out in the area near the lake, the golden-scaled dragon would appear and an outbreak of strange illness would hit the villages.

When the dragon appeared, some people tried to catch him. However, they never could do it because the dragon had made a promise to Rakian Sukat. The fights with those people sometime caused the dragon's scales to fall off and drown in the lake. Those scales would reflect the sun rays and make the lake glow with beautiful glints. The lake was then called Ranau, which meant 'beautiful and comfortable'.

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3. Dimensi dan Komponen Makna Medan Leksikal Verba Bahasa Minang yang Berciri (+Proses+Jatuh+Manusia) (2015)

Informasi Lain

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Aktivitas penyuntingan yang pernah diikuti selama sepuluh tahun terakhir, antara lain penyuntingan naskah pedoman, peraturan kerja, dan notula sidang pilkada.