

DAYANG RINDU
Si Dayang Rindu

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DAYANG RINDU

Centuries ago, on the banks of Musi River, there was a prosperous kingdom called Palembang. It was a lush, prosper, and peaceful land with quite dense population. Palembang was a sultanate, led by Prince Riyo. Prince Riyo was known to be handsome and strong. He was a master of martial arts. Prince Riyo was the firstborn of the Sultan of Palembang.

Unfortunately, Prince Riyo had not had a wife. Without a queen to further the bloodline, Prince Riyo would never be a sultan. He could rule the land, but the people would not give him the title of Sultan, even when his parents had passed away.

A lot of people had actually tried to introduce him to beautiful, smart, captivating girls, but none of those girls suited his taste. Prince Riyo wanted a queen who had not only pretty face but also good heart. He wanted his queen to add new color to the kingdom so that his people would grow to be better and respected by other kingdoms.

One day, on a fine afternoon, two *punakawan* (soldiers) came reporting to Prince Riyo.

“I beg your pardon, My Lord, we come with a report. We apologize beforehand should this report offend Your Highness,”

one of the *punakawan* spoke eloquently.

“Go ahead,” the Prince replied shortly.

“My Lord, we heard a news that in Tanjung Iran Kingdom, Tanggamus, Lampung, there is a very beautiful girl, like an angel falling from the heaven. Every time she smiles, no one can take their eyes off of her. She always speaks softly and politely. Her long, jet black hair flows like a river. She is perfect to be a queen,” the *punakawan* uttered with a serious expression in his face.

Hearing that, Prince Riyo took a deep breath. He knew that it was past time he got married. The kingdom would not shine without a queen by his side.

“Very well. Go and fetch my brother, Keriyo Niru. Tell him I want to talk,” the Prince commanded.

“We hear and obey, Your Highness,” the *punakawan* responded. Both of them put their palms together and brought them to their chest before bowing respectfully and left the room.

A few moments later, Keriyo Niru, the Prince’s younger brother, entered. He immediately bowed his head in respect.

“Your Highness, to what do I owe this pleasure? Your Highness called me and I am ready to do your bidding. Whatever Your Highness command, I will do it gladly,” Keriyo Niru said.

“Brother, I want to hear your thoughts about a girl in Tanjung Iran,” Prince Riyo said, straight to the point.

Keriyo Niru smiled. He understood perfectly what his brother wanted. He then said, “Her name is Dayang Rindu, Your Highness. I have heard of her. She is truly captivating. She is kind as she is gorgeous. Not one girl in our kingdom could compare to her beauty.”

“Then, don’t waste any time. Let’s hold a meeting to discuss how I will propose to her. I want Dayang Rindu to be my queen,” Prince Riyo concluded.

The Prince gave instructions to the servants to gather all important officials and commanders. He did not have to wait long. Adipati Anom, a war commander famous for his brilliant strategies, was the first to come. Then, Tumenggung Itam and Ki Bayi Metig entered the room, followed by Sipat Lenggawan, Karang Waringin, Kapitan Karang, Rulam Dalem, and Jejeng Irun. They were commanders with the highest positions in the kingdom. They all had extraordinary powers and each of them had a great weapon of their own choosing.

When everyone had gathered, Prince Riyo told them his desire. Tumenggung Itam was the first to respond. He was a little taken aback when he heard that the Prince wanted to marry a girl from Tanjung Iran. “I beg your pardon, Your Highness. Could Your

Highness please outline what has been discussed with Keriyo Niru?" He asked.

Prince Riyo explained, "I order you two, Tumenggung Itam and Ki Bayi Metig, to accompany my brother Keriyo Niru to go to Tanjung Iran. Tell whoever is ruling there that I ask for Dayang Rindu's hand in marriage. Take with you our best people, soldiers, and servants."

Tumenggung Itam fell silent. Then, voice shaking, he said, "I hear and obey, Your Highness. However, I would like to inform Your Highness that there are many powerful commanders in Tanjung Iran. They all possess great magical powers. With *ilmu jin*, they can call upon genies to grant their wishes. With *ilmu palimbun*, they can disguise themselves as anyone or anything. Some of them do not even eat rice, they eat the nectar of flowers."

Hearing that, Prince Riyo understood that Tumenggung Itam was a little afraid. He smiled and said, "Tumenggung Itam, there is no need to be worried. I send you there not to wage war, but to deliver my good intention. Go in peace and talk to them about my request. Bring many gifts with you."

"I have investigated that kingdom, Your Highness. There are a lot of strong and powerful soldiers. Their king is Keriyo Carang. His power is even greater than his people's. His chiefs in command are Wayang Sewu Petako Lama who fights like a lion,

Agung Karep who is a master of water, and Singa Ralang who has the strength of a hundred men. It is wise to be careful when dealing with them,” Tumenggung Itam explained.

Hearing that information, the Prince ordered his men to prepare all kinds of gift, including *keris melilo* (wavy double-edged dagger) with diamond-studded ivory handle, gold-covered rhino tusks, golden *keris melilo* that was so sharp it could slice a strand of hair, huge chests filled with gold coins, twenty five bronze chest decorated with carvings of red horses and shields, twenty tiger’s hides, *cindai samudra* cloth, which was the softest kind of silk, for older women, and silk with golden threads for younger people.

“Give it all to them,” Prince Riyo commanded.

“Excuse me, Your Highness. If Your Highness allow it, I would like to bring some weapons with us; *tako* rifle, forty cannons, fifty copper-headed spears, swords and shields, bows and arrows, our royal banners, and *keris suduk andam pitu*. I think it is also important to show them how great our kingdom is,” Tumenggung Itam said. He also requested for other equipment, including the enormous war ship called Kutting si Bandung Dua, *jung* and *pinis* boats, *tendang* and *pucalang* boats, *bidar* boats, forty *jepasi*, drums and flutes, *tettawa* and *kenong*, and *cucunurung* rifles.

While everyone in Palembang was busy preparing for the journey, Keriyo Niru began his own investigation far away from his brother's palace. He wanted to get a firsthand information about Dayang Rindu. So far, he only heard the rumors. It was fortunate that the kingdom he led was close to Tanjung Iran.

That afternoon, wearing local attire to disguise himself, Keriyo Niru visited Tanjung Iran. He walked quietly, trying not to attract attention to himself.

In a coffee shop, several people were chatting. Judging from their appearance, they were clearly young soldiers. They had probably just finished practicing. Every once in a while, they would laugh merrily. They acted just like anyone their age.

“Today is my lucky day. I had a chance to see Princess Dayang Rindu crocheting. The sun rays on her face made her look angelic. I am content. I can die a happy man,” one of the soldiers said.

Apparently, the soldier who sat next to him also witnessed the same thing. “I thought it was only me who saw her. You always imitate whatever I do,” he said to the first soldier. “Princess Dayang Rindu is truly beautiful. Whoever she chooses to marry is the luckiest man on earth,” he added.

“Hey, Badrun! Don't you know the Princess is betrothed? Her fiancé is Ki Bayi Radin, a commander in the palace. Didn't you

come to their engagement ceremony several weeks ago? I heard they have picked a date for the wedding ceremony,” another soldier chimed in.

Keriyo Niru, who had been sitting in the shop for a while, smiled. “It’s good that I stop here. Now I have important information about Dayang Rindu,” he thought.

Keriyo Niru did not realize that a soldier had been watching him. The soldier was suspicious because Keriyo Niru clearly acted like a stranger, even though he wore the clothes of local people. The way he sat, the way he ate and drink, all indicating that he was not a common man from around here. The soldier was even more suspicious when he saw Keriyo Niru’s footwear. His clothes was commonplace, but his slippers were made from the softest hides available, the kind of slippers only merchants and government officials wore.

The soldiers, who was called Pamenda, immediately went to Ki Bayi Radin’s house. Ki Bayi Radin was a commander of the kingdom and Princess Dayang Rindu’s fiancé. “Excuse me, Ki Bayi Radin. I just saw a suspicious stranger. I watched him listening in to our conversation about Princess Dayang Rindu. He listened to us so intently that he did not touch his meal at all,” Pamenda reported, slightly out of breath.

Hearing that information, Ki Bayi Radin immediately asked

Pamenda to take the stranger to a hut near that coffee shop. “Take him there and we’ll take care of him,” he instructed.

At first, Keriyo Niru refused to follow Pamenda. He said he did not have time. However, Pamenda kept pushing with a threatening tone. Keriyo Niru finally agreed to go with him, thinking “Someone knows I am here. I have to be careful.”

As soon as he entered the hut, Ki Bayi Radin, who had been waiting for him, said, “Oh, it’s you Keriyo Niru. I thought you were a spy from foreign kingdom. What brings you here, disguised like that?”

Keriyo Niru gave him some vague excuses. However, the suspicious Ki Bayi Radin kept interrogating him. Ki Bayi Radin could sense that Keriyo Niru had a secret mission that might endanger Tanjung Iran. The conversation quickly turned into an argument, ending in a fight between the two powerful men.

Both Ki Bayi Radin and Keriyo Niru had the same level of skills and power. Each of them could not take down the opponent. Since they were equal, the fight kept going until both of them agreed to stop. There was no point continuing the fight. None of them could overcome the other.

The news that Ki Bayi Radin had fought Keriyo Niru spread quickly. It reached Tumenggung Itam. He immediately told his servant to gather all religious leaders in the area. *Khatib, imam,*

penghulu, and hajj were all invited to discuss the matter.

When they had gathered, Tumenggung Itam said, “Mr. Penghulu, please determine a good day for me to go into a war.”

“Yes, My Lord,” *penghulu* replied, opening *Kitab Mastari* to consult with. He calculated *hari tenung ider naga*, i.e. the best day to start an attack.

He consulted the book and made several calculations, such as the best day for dogs to attack tigers, for frogs to attack snakes, and for hens to attack eagles, *penghulu* determined that the following Sunday would be the perfect day to attack Tanjung Iran.

Tumenggung Itam then went to Prince Riyo to report the best day to sail. Prince Riyo, who had not been able to get Dayang Rindu out of his mind, immediately gave his approval. “Only God knows how I feel. I have to marry her,” he said.

With the King’s approval, Tumenggung Itam made the preparation and headed to the dock.

Aboard Kutting si Bandung Dua, the royal warship, Tumenggung Itam told everyone to prepare the journey. They would sail to Tanjung Iran to execute Prince Riyo’s command. “Sound the *canang*, hoist the flag, sound the *gamelan sesikar gadung*, *tetawa* and *kenong*, *gendang* and *serunai*, and let our voices roar,” he

motivated his soldiers.

After sailing for four days and four nights, passing Kertas Muara Ogan Island, they arrived at the port in Keriyo Niru's country. As Prince Riyo had commanded, they would join forces with Keriyo Niru first before entering Tanjung Iran.

Keriyo Niru had been waiting for Kutting si Bandung Dua and its armada. He had prepared the common welcome in those days, such as betel leaves, areca nuts, gambier, tobacco, four cups of rice, and a goat. All these items were always available to welcome important guests.

"Tumenggung Itam, please forgive me. I am ready to vanquish any enemy from the sea for the King. But going to Tanjung Iran is just too much for me," Keriyo Niru said, opening the meeting.

Hearing that, Tumenggung Itam was furious. He yelled, "You cannot run away from this duty, Keriyo Niru. It is all your doing. You were the one who told Prince Riyo about Dayang Rindu."

He then added that everyone knew about Dayang Rindu, including himself. "But unlike you, I chose to keep quiet!" he said. Tumenggung Itam then gave an ultimatum. He was ready to fight Keriyo Niru if the latter kept avoiding this responsibility.

Keriyo Niru went pale when he heard that threat. His blood was boiling and his heart was pounding. He knew how powerful

Tumenggung Itam was. “Very well, I will not turn my back. But at least give me some time to prepare. I will bring my best soldiers and commanders,” he said.

Keriyo Niru went back to his palace and called for a meeting in *Balai Panjang*, the great hall. While waiting for his officers, Keriyo Niru talked with the Prime Minister about Tumenggung Itam and Ki Bayi Metig. He wanted to avoid going to Tanjung Iran.

“My Lord, if you felt reluctant, or if you are pushed to do this against your wish, perhaps it is better if we wage the war here, in this land. You have the right to kick Tumenggung Itam and Ki Bayi Metig from our land.” the Prime Minister suggested.

Putri Mas, Keriyo Niru’s wife, chimed in. She said that instead of fighting the two emissaries, they could try to offer them something. However, Keriyo Niru rejected both suggestions. He knew that no amount of wealth would sway Tumenggung Itam and Ki Bayi Metig.

“They both are Prince Riyo’s right hand men. They will never be tempted by money or wealth. Their loyalty is their pride. It is better to lose their lives than to betray my brother,” Keriyo Niru said. There was an edge of uneasiness in his voice.

Keriyo Niru’s uneasiness was clearly apparent from the way he sat. He frequently scratched his head, even though it was not

itchy. His stared blankly at the wall, imagining his life would end in Tanjung Iran.

Seeing her husband was like that, Putri Mas was sad. She began to cry. She was restless thinking that Keriyo Niru would go to Tanjung Iran. She had a bad feeling about this. Keriyo Niru had announced to the people that he would take all men to fight a war in Tanjung Iran. The women and children would be left home.

“Mothers, please take good care of our children. If we don’t return, be brave and be strong. Tell them that we fight to defend Palembang’s honor,” he said.

Keriyo Niru then prepared himself. He wore his battle trouser and put his *keris* on his hip, like Bugis people. Followed by his commanders, soldiers, and citizen, Keriyo Niru set out to the port.

Canang was sounded, banners were displayed, *gamelan* was hit, and Kutting si Bandung Dua set sail to Tanjung Iran. As they sailed, Keriyo Niru let out his worry. He sang a couple of *pantun* (limericks).

Kalau berbuah sikarang buwi

Tidak berbuah si asam jawa

Kalau bertuah balik ke sini

Tidak bertuah hilang di sana

Kalau berbuah dikarang Buwi

Makanan burung si barau-barau

Kalau bertuah balik kesini

Tidak bertuah hilang dirantau

(When *sikarang buwi* blooms

Asam jawa will not

If lucky, we shall return home

If not, we shall perish out

When *sikarang buwi* blooms

Barau-barau birds will eat them

If lucky, we shall return home

If not, we shall be lost in foreign land)

Three quarters of an hour later, they arrived in Tanjung Iran. Hundreds of ships docked in the port. Barge vessels floated near the coast. Palembang troops' war cries pierced the air.

Keriyo Carang, the King of Tanjung Iran, instructed his guards to check out what was going on in the port. The clamors were heard

up in the palace.

It was not wind, wave, nor thunder, yet it sounded like a storm.

Two soldiers immediately went to the port. Upon seeing the foreign vessels, they approached the largest and the most beautifully ornate one. “Greetings, Kind Sirs. Please do not be offended. We would like to ask some questions. Where do you come from, who is your leader, where are you heading, and what is your intention?” one of the soldiers asked.

“Don’t worry. We come from Palembang not to pillage your villages or to destroy your kingdom,” Tumenggung Itam replied.

“So, what is your business here? What do you want? If you come here to trade, our people have no money to buy your goods. If you come to gamble, our people don’t play dice. If you come to find beautiful girls, there is none here. And if you come to wage a war, we do not dare to fight you,” the soldier said with a strict tone.

Tumenggung Itam quickly replied, “We come here not to gamble or trade. We represent Prince Riyo, the King of Palembang, to see Keriyo Carang and Ki Wayang Sewu. Our king would like to join our kingdoms and marry Dayang Rindu.”

With that answer, the soldiers went back to the palace. They reported to Keriyo Carang that hundreds of fully equipped

warships and cargo ships had made berth in the port. They were led by Tumenggung Itam and Ki Bayi Metig, bringing gifts to the people of Tanjung Iran. They were sent by the King of Palembang to ask for Dayang Rindu's hand in marriage.

Keriyo Carang instructed his guards to call his two sons, Wayang Sewu and Agung Karep. He then told his sons to meet with Palembang emissaries.

“Bring betel leaves and areca nuts, gambier and tobacco, four cups of rice, and a black goat. Welcome them in the port,” Keriyo Carang commanded.

Wayang Sewu and Agung Karep went to the port.

“*Assalamualaikum*, My Lord Tumenggung Itam, welcome,” Wayang Sewu called out from the land with a smile on his face.

“*Wa'alaikumsalam*, Wayang Sewu. Come aboard and join us up here,” Tumenggung Itam said from aboard Kutting si Bandung Dua.

When they had sat down, Tumenggung Itam explained their mission coming to Tanjung Iran. “We bring many gifts for the King and his daughter; tiger statues made of pure gold, porcelain dolls, seventy red shields, an assortment of clothes made from tiger hides, betel leaves and areca nuts, gambier and tobacco. We present all these gifts with a proposal. Our king would like to ask

Dayang Rindu to marry him. Our king send his regards and good intention, to propose to the Princess with a million gold coins and a barrel of liquid gold,” he said. Tumenggung Itam then outlined the lineage of Prince Riyo, who had drops of Java blood running in his veins. He was a descendant of a King of Sriwijaya, and he was Moslem.

Tumenggung Itam also noted that they brought other gifts for Keriyo Carang’s family in Tanjung Iran. A powerful *keris* with jade green topaz on its golden handle, and its gold sheath would be presented to Agung Karep. *Keris melilo* with diamond-studded handle and gold sheath, so sharp that it could slice a strand of hair in two, would be given to Singa Ralang. Horse statues made of pure gold would be presented to Raden Mas Diwo Kemalo. A chest of invaluable cloth, a chest of silver coins, and twenty five chests of golden silk would be given to Wayang Sewu. Keriyo Carang would also receive another gift, a spear with tips and sheath made from pure gold.

Other relatives would also receive gifts. Tuan Penatih Agung were given *payung lumut* with ruby top, Nyai Mas Sri Ayu were presented with *payung agung* with diamond top, and Ki Bayi Radin would receive the tiger claw *keris* with ivory handle.

“It would be embarrassing if we did not bring many gifts. We bring along many golden silk for the women,” Tumenggung Itam concluded.

During the conversation, Ki Bayi Metig suddenly asked, “Tumenggung Itam, what would we do if they reject our proposal to bring Dayang Rindu to Palembang?”

Caught off guard, Tumenggung Itam naturally replied heatedly, “We will not have the face to see Prince Riyo empty handed. I guess we’ll stay and wage war on these people until Dayang Rindu is in our hand.”

That comment of course enraged Wayang Sewu. “We do not need your gold or your money. We have all that, and even more. We will not give you the satisfaction of bringing Dayang Rindu to your king. She will be the daughter in law of Keriyo Kalap Batin Paseg in Rambang, anyway,” he said furiously. His face was beet red with anger.

Wayang Sewu got up from his seat and said loudly for everyone to hear, “Dayang Rindu is betrothed to Ki Bayi Radin. If you want a war, you’ll have a war. Your presents will be my spoils, your weapons will be taken by the kingdom, and all your money will bring me satisfaction.” With that last comment, he jumped to the land and left. He quickly went to the palace and report this turn of event to Keriyo Carang.

In the palace, Wayang Sewu told the king everything in detail. He also reported everything he witnessed regarding the enemy’s strength.

“Those people from Palembang come here with bad intention. They will take Dayang Rindu by force and bring her to their king in Palembang. Who do they think they are? How dare they threaten us,” Wayang Sewu said furiously.

After hearing the report, Keriyo Carang said wisely, “My son, Wayang Sewu, I am old now. I no longer have the strength to go to a war. If I were any younger, I will kill them all. But considering our position now, I think it’s best if we hand Dayang Rindu to them.”

The King’s decision startled everyone. Wayang Sewu looked down in defeat, “Whatever you command, Father, I will follow,” he said softly. His face was clouded with sadness. Agung Karep, the king’s second son, was also devastated. “If that Javanese ever put his hands on Dayang Rindu, I will never stop crying until the day I die,” he said.

Gusti Penatih, Dayang Rindu’s grandmother, sobbed uncontrollably. “If I were a man, I will face them all. I would not care even if they brought a thousand ships. Oh, Dayang Rindu, I will not let you go far away,” she said.

Nyai Mas Putri Ayu, Dayang Rindu’s mother shared similar opinion. She did not want her daughter to be a queen in Palembang. Dayang Rindu was a princess, not a common girl that anyone could just snatch away. “My daughter should marry

the man of her own choice. Not even a prince deserves to marry her if she did not like him.” Nyai Mas Putri Ayu said emotionally.

Dark cloud hung over Tanjung Iran. The wind moved so slowly, and the birds stopped chirping. Children, who usually played outside in the afternoon, stayed home. Everyone and everything on the land grieved for Dayang Rindu.

Dayang Rindu locked herself in her room. She was thinking about the fate of Tanjung Iran. It was on the brink of either destruction or prosperity. Dayang Rindu did not want a war to happen. She wished Tanjung Iran to always be a peaceful place where the people could smile happily.

“I have to save Tanjung Iran. I am a princess, the daughter of the king. I have the responsibility to protect my land and my people, even if it means losing my life and my freedom,” she said to herself.

Secretly, Dayang Rindu asked a guard to find Ki Bayi Radin. She wanted to tell him face to face about her decision. She would accept the King of Palembang’s proposal.

Wearing flower patterned clothes and three colored *kopiah* (rimless cap), Ki Bayi Radin quickly went to see Dayang Rindu. Tears streamed down his face like pearls falling from a string. He had heard the rumor of the marriage proposal. He was certain that Dayang Rindu wanted to talk about this matter.

“My love, I am so sorry. I cannot reject the proposal. The whole kingdom is at stake. Please, find another girl to be with you,” Dayang Rindu said. Her voice was full of sadness. She looked away to the fields, not wanting to see Ki Bayi Radin in the eyes.

“No way. I’d rather die than let you go. I have chosen you, dear,” Ki Bayi Radin said.

“But I cannot possibly refuse to go to Palembang. That is the only way to save Tanjung Iran. The King of Palembang is too powerful to be denied. Rejecting him will only bring war and suffering to the people. I cannot let that happen,” Dayang Rindu explained, trying to convince Ki Bayi Radin.

“No, Dayang Rindu. Please stop. You break my heart. Months, years, even centuries will not heal my wound if you are taken away from me. I will regret it every day for the rest of my life,” Ki Bayi Radin replied. “I will not find anyone to replace you. You are irreplaceable,” he concluded.

After that conversation, Ki Bayi Radin went home. His feet touched the ground, but his mind flew far away, thinking about his misfortune. All the way home, tears did not stop flowing from his eyes. He ignored everyone who greeted him. He was heartbroken.

When Ki Bayi Radin had gone, Dayang Rindu asked her guard to call Ki Bayi Cili. Ki Bayi Cili was another commander in her

father force. He was also interested in Dayang Rindu.

Kalau tumbuh selasih dandi

Jangan dilinggang-linggang dulang

Kalau aku memang kalian kasih

Jangan biarkan diambil orang

(If *selasih dandi* grew

Do not crush it with a tray

If your love for me is true

Don't let people take me away)

That was the limerick Dayang Rindu recited when she welcomed
Ki Bayi Cili.

Ki Bayi Cili replied,

Bukanlah kaca sembarang kaca

Kaca yang halus diukir-ukir

Bukan kata sembarang kata

Kata yang tulus tak akan mungkir

(This glass is not common glass

It is carved with sophistication

These promises are not empty promises

These are sincere and will never be broken)

“What should we do, Ki Bayi Cili? Is there no other way to reject the proposal without causing a war?” Dayang Rindu asked.

Ki Bayi Cili replied, “You will never be taken away from us. Right now, I will do whatever Wayang Sewu commands. Even if I have to die, I will save you. In fact, if you die, I will ask people to bury me with you.”

Dayang Rindu asked Ki Bayi Cili to be strong and not be sad when she left to Palembang. She asked him to stay loyal to Tanjung Iran. “Ki Bayi Cili, please just let me go. Let me go to Palembang to avoid hell raining down to our land,” Dayang Rindu said.

“You have my word, Dayang Rindu,” Ki Bayi Cili said with certainty.

Then, Dayang Rindu uttered another limerick,

Apalah isinya piring pecah

Giring-giring dua setali

Alangkah sakitnya esok kita berpisah

Seperti digunting rasanya hati.

(What use is an empty plate

A string links two beads

What pain it will be when I left

It's like a knife cutting my heart to pieces)

Ki Bayi Cili replied,

Batang serai ada serumpun

Jangan ditanam di tepian

Walau berpisah cerai lagi tidak terhimpun

Jangan berubah dalam perhatian.

(There is a clump of lemongrass stalks

Don't plant in on the banks

Even being separated and cannot see each other

Don't ever change your affection)

When Ki Bayi Cili had left, Dayang Rindu gathered her courage to do what had to be done. She then changed her clothes and did her hair. Natural beauty radiantly glowed from her presence. Her face was bright as a full moon, her long black hair was let down,

and her smooth white skin was beautiful. However, behind her eyes, there was a hint of sadness.

“I don’t want to dress up. But I cannot go like a sick girl. I have to do this. Whatever I feel, I should just keep it inside,” she reminded herself.

Droplets of rain witnessed Dayang Rindu leaving the palace. Along the way to the port, every people in the kingdom stood in line, saying farewell to their beloved princess. They waved as she passed by. Some were crying. Some hugged each other. All women tried to be strong and not cry. Everyone felt it hard to let the princess go.

When Dayang Rindu reached the port, she turned back. She wanted to see Tanjung Iran for the last time. “Tanjung Iran, stay safe, stay in peace. May you bring prosperity to the people,” she muttered under her breath. Then, she slowly climbed up the steps of Kutting si Bandung Dua.

Soldiers and servants welcomed her aboard. Without saying anything, they took her to a room specially prepared for her. It was not big, but it was fully equipped with anything a girl might need. There was a beautiful dressing table near the far wall. Its drawers were full of jewelries; gold bracelets, combs with diamond studded handle, diamond necklaces, and many others. Dayang Rindu did not even look at them.

In the corner, there was a small window. Dayang Rindu walked towards its dirty glass. She smiled a little. “Tanjung Iran, my birthplace. I, Dayang Rindu, will always be a daughter you can be proud of,” she said. As the ship prepared to set sail, she stayed at the window, looking at the land until the sun went down.

Meanwhile in the palace, Keriyo Carang called all commanders, soldiers, and officers. He asked them to get ready. “Sound the royal *canang*, let the people know we are going to war,” Keriyo Canang cried loudly.

Six commanders and the best soldiers walked in line towards the port. Behind them were all troops of Tanjung Iran. The commanders were Wayang Sewu, Agung Karep, Singa Ginta, Singa Ralang, Ki Bayi Radin, and Ki Bayi Cili.

On each of their faces, anger was etched deeply. Their teeth gnashed in their mouth. They were furious. They were prepared to die. They will win this war and take back Dayang Rindu, for the sake of Tanjung Iran.

Wayang Sewu was the first to jumped aboard Kutting si Bandung Dua. As soon as he stepped on the ship, he faced Ki Bayi Metig. They immediately fought each other. They were equal. Punches, kicks, and various moves were used, but none ever wounded the enemy. “Now you know, Ki Bayi Metig, I am one of the best

fighter in Tanjung Iran,” Wayang Sewu cried while attacking his opponent.

Ki Bayi Metig blocked the attack. “Take this,” he retaliated, stabbing Wayan Sewu on the chest. As fate would have it, Wayang Sewu died right then and there.

Meanwhile, Ki Bayi Radin had killed a lot of Palembang soldiers. He had defeated more than two hundred soldiers. Seeing that, Keriyo Niru could not just stay put. He jumped down from the ship.

“Face me if you dare,” Keriyo Niru cried and attacked Ki Bayi Radin with his *badik* (a poisonous blade). They fought each other violently for a while, until Ki Bayi Radin made a wrong move. Ki Bayi Radin fell on the Keriyo Niru’s hand. Seeing that, Dayang Rindu cried wildly. She ran and hugged Ki Bayi Radin. He struggled to breath, clutching his chest.

“Dayang Rindu, don’t cry! This pain is nothing. You will be free and we will always be together,” Ki Bayi Radin said softly, struggling with each word. Those were his last words. Dayang Rindu wailed. She ripped her shawl and used it to cover Ki Bayi Radin. She then threw her earrings to the sea as a symbol of grief. “Wait for me at the gate to heaven. I will not stay long in Palembang,” she said.

Agung Karep witnessed all that from quite a distance. He cried

menacingly, “I will kill you all!”

Meanwhile, the fight between Sipat Lenggawa and Singa Gita went on the other side of the ship. Karang Waringin tried to stab Singa Gita from behind. Singa Gita caught a movement from the corner of his eyes and avoid the attack in the last moment. He retaliated and Karang Waringin lost his life.

Tumenggung Itam and Ki Bayi Metig moved together to attack Singa Gita. Behind them, Sipat Lenggawa joined the fight. Even though he was attacked by three great fighters, Singa Gita was unbeatable. With one stroke of a hand, he killed Sipat Lenggawa. Tumenggung Itam was furious seeing his friend letting out his last breath. His attack became even more dangerous. He signaled Ki Bayi Metig to attack from behind. While Singa Gita was busy fending Tumenggung Itam’s attack, Ki Bayi Metig stabbed Singa Gita on the back. His poisonous blade killed Singa Gita instantly.

Not wanting to waste time, Tumenggung Itam and Ki Bayi Metig turned to fight Ki Bayi Cili. A moment later, Ki Bayi Cili fell down to the ground. They left him because they thought he was dead. In fact he just lost consciousness. Singa Ralang saw Ki Bayi Cili fell and he jumped towards the two enemy. Swiftly, he charged towards Tumenggung Itam and Ki Bayi Metig. His assault was very quick and lethal that the two opponent had no chance to retaliate. Soon, Ki Bayi Metig and Tumenggung Itam were pushed to a corner.

Sensing that Singa Ralang would end their lives, Tumenggung Itam quickly fell to his knees and begged for mercy. He'd rather come home with shame than lost his life. Ki Bayi Metig followed suit.

“You are afraid to die? Very well! I will spare your worthless lives. In return, I will take something from you,” Singa Ralang said. With a quick slash, he cut Tumenggung Itam's left ear and Ki Bayi Metig's nose.

The port became a field of disaster. Hundreds of soldiers lied dead on the ground. Hundreds of ships and boats sunk. All properties and money that they brought from Palembang were buried deep under the sea.

“Please stop it, uncle. Go home to Tanjung Iran. All commanders had died. There is no use to continue this foolish war,” Dayang Rindu begged Singa Ralang. Her face was white with fear and sadness.

“Let me go to Palembang. Don't worry, I will not stay there long,” she continued. With weak steps, Singa Ralang returned to the palace. Everyone welcomed him with pitiful cries. They have lost so many people in the short war.

“Your Highness, too many commanders and soldiers died down there,” he reported to the King.

Keriyo Carang replied, “Brother, it is best not to dwell in grief. You are our only hope now. You are the future of Tanjung Iran.”

After four days of sailing, Kutting si Bandung Dua docked in Palembang port.

“Ki Bayi Metig, go and report what has happened to Prince Riyo. I will wait here, keeping eyes on the Princess,” Tumenggung Itam said.

Ki Bayi Metig nodded then slumped away towards the palace. He was not as arrogant as when he left to Tanjung Iran.

Prince Riyo had been waiting for Ki Bayi Metig. He could not wait to hear the news.

Ki Bayi Metig said, “Greetings, My Prince. I beg your pardon. A lot of our people died fighting. Keriyo Niru, Sipat Lenggawa, Jejenung Irun, Karang Waringin, and many others were gone. All the wealth and gifts we brought were taken as spoils of war. Only I and Tumenggung Itam that remained, with our ship Kutting si Bandung Dua. The good news is, we managed to bring Dayang Rindu,” he said. All the time, he looked down, did not dare to show his face to the prince.

Prince Riyo tried to console him, “Don’t be sad. Wealth can be restored. The people we lost are heroes of this Kingdom. This is war. What is important is that Dayang Rindu is here and you are

alive.”

Prince Riyo then instructed his guard to prepare for Dayang Rindu. Green Jade Flag should be put, *Balai Kencano Emas* (the royal hall) should be ready to welcome the Princess. The royal umbrella, huge yellow umbrella with diamonds and pearl hanging from its sides were taken out of the storage. Red carpet was laid down on the street.

Then, Prince Riyo and his royal family walked towards the port. He wore his best clothes, equipped with golden shawl on his shoulder, golden belt, and silk headband.

As soon as they arrived, the Prince asked Tumenggung Itam to bring Dayang Rindu down.

Dayang Rindu walked down the steps slowly, did not even glance at the prince. She stopped walking in the middle step and took a deep breath. Her burden was so great that it was almost visible on her face.

All people in Palembang were amazed seeing how beautiful Dayang Rindu was. She looked like a painting. The rumors were true, Dayang Rindu did look like an angel.

As they walked together to the palace, Prince Riyo tried to console Dayang Rindu. He said, “Dayang Rindu, don’t let your heart be burdened. The past is in the past. Just forget it. I will

help you to build a better life here.”

“Don’t mind me, Prince. I will not stay here long. I am going to meet my fiancé and my brothers in heaven,” Dayang Rindu replied calmly.

When they arrived at the palace, a special welcome ceremony was held. Artists played their instruments, *gendang*, *kecapi*, *rebab*, and *kenong*, to perform beautiful pieces of music. Dancers performed their best dances.

Dayang Rindu moved her hand away when Prince Riyo tried to hold it. She then said, “I will not stay here for long.”

In a blink of the eye, Dayang Rindu jumped and flew away. She landed at the top of a palm tree. Soon after that, she flew up to the heaven.

Prince Riyo watched what happened with mouth wide open. He was shocked. Sadness, disappointment, and regret filled his heart. “Poor me. Dayang Rindu had gone from under my nose right when I finally have her,” he muttered.

This strange event also made the people of Palembang sad. They were sad mainly because their future queen suddenly disappeared. Many people cried. The party ended.

Soon after, Prince Riyo told a guard to call Adipati Anom, Ki Bayi Metig, and Tumenggung Itam. Prince Riyo had a new plan

to release his anger.

“You three, summon all the troops we still have. We have to retaliate. Let’s attack Tanjung Iran. They have to pay for this. Just because of one girl, our Palembang is in ruin,” he said furiously.

After sailing for four days and three night, they arrived at Tanjung Iran port. This time, Keriyo Carang had been ready for them. All soldiers had been ready to kill these people.

Although Singa Ralang suggested that he stayed in the palace, Keriyo Carang would not listen. He would be down there, right in the middle of the fight. He was not a coward. Palembang troops did not scare him at all. In fact, he even ordered Singa Ralang to stay in the palace.

“You are the only heir to the throne of Tanjung Iran. Stay here and let us fight them,” Keriyo Carang said.

With a burning spirit, Keriyo Carang and his remaining soldiers faced the enemy. This time, Tumenggung Itam fought with Keriyo Carang. Both tried their best to take down the enemy. However, Keriyo Carang’s old body could not keep up. He lost his life that day.

Seeing his king fell, Singa Ralang could not stay put. With such a fury no one ever saw, he caused riots in the port. Hundreds of

Palembang soldiers died at the tip of his blade. Singa Ralang rampaged through the soldiers when he saw Ki Bayi Metig and Tumenggung Itam were also there.

With the help from Keriyo Ralap Lembang Paseg from Rambang, they fought the enemy back. Palembang troops kept being pushed back until they reached the port in Keriyo Niru's kingdom. There was another group of Tanjung Iran soldiers there. They had been fighting against Keriyo Niru's soldiers.

"Why are you alone Ki Bayi Cili? Where are the others?" Singa Ralang asked.

"Tumenggung Itam and Ki Bayi Metig killed all my soldiers," Ki Bayi Cili replied.

"Very well. I will not spare their lives," Singa Ralang vowed and ran towards the enemy.

The war lasted for three months. Palembang troops were pushed back. Singa Ralang fought with all his might to destroy the enemy. He became even more dangerous when Ki Bayi Cili died at the hand of Kangiran Jaya.

Prince Riyo saw that his troops were forced to move back. He ordered forty soldiers to attack Singa Ralang.

“Palembang is ruined because of one man!” the Prince cried.

Seeing forty soldiers standing in front of him, Singa Ralang smiled widely. “Here I am, Singa Ralang, the best commander in Tanjung Iran. Move away! Where is Prince Riyo? I want to fight him,” he cried with a booming voice.

In mere minutes, all forty soldiers were on the ground, mostly dead. Prince Riyo realized that his life was truly at stake. With the remaining soldiers, he retreated and ran away. They ran as fast as they could, but Singa Ralang kept following them, refusing to let them go. Finally, Prince Riyo hid himself in a cave. He blocked the entrance with a huge boulder so that Singa Ralang could not follow him in.

Singa Ralang returned to Tanjung Iran. He was devastated seeing the aftermath of the war. Tanjung Iran was destroyed, all because a man from Palembang wanted to take Dayang Rindu by force.

Along the way, Singa Ralang vowed to never let war happen ever again in this land. It only brought suffering to both sides. Leaving nothing but sadness and deep wound. Discussion was the best policy to mitigate any differences.