

THE MOOING REEF
Karang Melenguh

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THE MOOING REEF

Buyuang, the Unfortunate Kid

Upiak and Buyuang were common nicknames for daughters and sons in Minangkabau culture. The nicknames could also be used to address and call children whose names were still unknown to someone. In the State of Bayang, there was a child named Buyuang Kacinduan. The name basically means a son who was always be missed. The name was given to him because Buyuang was born after his father and mother longed to have a child for a long time. Buyuang Kacinduan became the apple of his parents' eyes. Even though his parents always doted on him, Buyuang did not grow up to be a spoiled child. Both of his parents prepared for his future very well. Every day, his parents taught him about many good things that he had to do for example he always had to be grateful to God, he always had to do good deeds to people, he had to love plants and animals, and he had to help his parents diligently. Everyone in the village where they lived loved Buyuang because he was a good natured child. He always greeted his elders respectfully, he was polite to his same-aged friends, and he cared for all children younger than him when they were playing together. Everybody in the State of Bayang loved Buyuang.

Buyuang's parents were diligent and hard-working farmers. His father and mother always help each other when they worked their field and garden. When Buyuang's father went to the rice field, Buyuang's mother would prepare food for the three of them at home. After finished cooking, Buyuang's mother would go to the rice field to deliver food, usually rice, for Buyuang's father. Buyuang also worked together with his parents. He would help to weed the grass on the rice field bank or to cook with his mother at home. During the midday, they would have finished having lunch together in the rice field or in the garden. Only then would Buyuang go play together with his friends. There were many children games in the State of Bayang that were also played by Buyuang and his friends. Some of the games were spinning top, *galah*¹, bamboo cannon, and other children games. The children were also often go fishing in Batang Bayang River that had cool and clear water.

Sometimes they join their parents to herd their buffalos or cows, or sometimes they made traps for birds with tree saps. However, even though Buyuang had fun playing with his friends, he never forgot what his mother always taught him about going home

¹*Galaha* is an Indonesian traditional folk game that is played in a field. The players of the game were divided into two groups who will face each other. The goal of the game is for one team to let its entire members pass through the playing arena, a rectangular field that is patterned like a 2x3 table, guarded by the opponent team.

when it was already dusk. He never came home late, even though he really enjoyed playing with his friends.

“Friends, let’s go home. It is already late. Our mothers must be waiting at home,” said Buyuang to his friends to immediately stop playing. Buyuang’s friends usually agreed with his suggestion. Buyuang’s good behavior made his friends trust him and follow his lead.

“Come and take a bath, Buyuang, my son, my love.” That was how Buyuang’s mother always called him, gently and full of love.

“Yes, Mother. I will take a bath in a moment,” replied Buyuang to his mother politely. After Buyuang came back from the river to take a bath, Buyuang never forgot to help his mother taking the dried laundry from the clothesline beside the house. Some of his friends often made fun of him because they thought that house chores belonged to their mothers and sisters.

However, every time he heard his friends tease and mock, Buyuang would always look at his mother’s face. He was sad to see his mother’s exhausted face after working all day long at home, in the rice field, or in the garden. Therefore, Buyuang never listened to his friends’ tease. Buyuang believed that helping his mother is a must. He wanted to reduce his mother’s burden by helping her according to his power.

“How wonderful it is to have a child like Buyuang Kacinduan. He is truly a child that is really longed for. He had a very good personality.” People often said things like that when they saw Buyuang’s daily life. Every time there were neighbors who just harvested their gardens and fields, Buyuang would get them as gifts, such as cassavas, bananas, guavas, mangos, and many other fruits. The neighbors were very generous to Buyuang because they loved him just like Buyuang’s father and mother loved him. That was how Buyuang lived; every day he was blessed with the love from his parents and the people around him because he was a good kid. However, the life on earth was not going on based on the plan of the human. It was the God almighty who had power to control all of His creations. Luckiness could not be attained and unluckiness could not be rejected; that was how the wisdom about God’s almighty power over human’s life.

One day, Buyuang Kacinduan’s father suddenly felt a headache when he was going to go to the rice field. The paddy in the rice field turned to golden grains, a sign that it was ready to be harvested.

“Ouch! My head..., why does it suddenly hurt?” Buyuang’s father complained while he was hanging on the door where he stood. Buyuang’s mother swiftly moved and helped Buyuang’s father to lie down. Buyuang took a pillow and got it ready under his father’s head. Buyuang’s father lied down and straightened his

body. He looked at Buyuang and his mother. Suddenly, Buyuang's father's frowning face changed to a smile. It was as if he gave his final smile and then he closed his eyes. Buyuang's mother who held Buyuang's father's hands was so shocked because she felt that his body was getting colder and colder.

"Father...Father...What is going on?" asked Buyuang's mother while she was whispering to the father. Buyuang's Father did not answer. His cold body was getting stiffer.

Buyuang's mother sobbed. Buyuang, who was nine years old at that time, stared at his mother. He did not understand what happened to his father. Buyuang finally asked why his father stayed silent and why his mother cried.

"Mother, why didn't father move? Why mother?" asked Buyuang. He cried without knowing the reason why. He was just so sad to see his mother who was in tears.

"My son... your father passed away, Buyuang. He is no longer in this world," Buyuang Kacinduan's mother answered his question while she was crying unstopably.

"Buyuang, tell your grandmother, your aunt, and your cousin. Tell them that your father passed away," asked Buyuang's mother to Buyuang. Not wasting time, Buyuang immediately ran to the house of the relatives that his mother mentioned. He delivered the sad news. Then, Buyuang came back to his house as soon as

possible to accompany beside his father's body. All the people of Bayang came to the funeral home. They came together to share the sadness of the small and nice family. The people came and cooperated to lighten the sadness of the family. Some people came with winding sheets, some people came with soap, some people came with fragrances and flowers, some people came with rice and side dishes, and some others came with money. They worked together to hold the funeral procession of Buyuang Kacinduan's father. The women prepared the toiletries needed to wash Buyuang's father body. The men washed and wrapped the body with the winding sheet.

All people who came prayed together for the deceased until finally the body was buried. The women finished their job to prepare the food so that the people who came from the cemetery could eat after they worked hard to take care of the funeral. Buyuang and his mother could only cry because they lost the person that they loved so much and they were also touched by the kindness of the people from State of Bayang. Buyuang's mother kept praying for his husband peace and she was also grateful because many people had helped her. She thanked everybody who came to help her. The people shook the mother's hand to express their deep condolence. Buyuang held his mother's hand tightly, as if he could not be separated from her. Buyuang's mother also felt the same. The day passed. The morning had

changed to afternoon, night, and the next morning had come again.

Finally, Buyuang and his mother could accept the passing of Buyuang's father, even though they always held the memories with the father. Buyuang came to pray in *surau*² again. He played with his friends and helped his mother to work like usual. The people in the village loved him even more because of his respect toward his mother. Buyuang never defied his mother. He was never rude to her and he could not stand to see his mother's exhausted face. The most important thing for Buyuang was not to make his mother disappointed in him. Buyuang's soft-hearted mother was always smiling to welcome Buyuang, every time the child came to her. They were always grateful for the simple happiness and the people in the village could also see that happiness every day. The fatherless child and the widow moved on to live their peaceful and calm life in their village, in the State of Bayang in the Coast of Minangkabau. One day, Buyuang's mother took Buyuang to visit his father's sister, Rosdiana. Buyuang called his aunt Mak Tuo Ros. The old lady welcomed the visit of his nephew happily. She prepared so much food such as sponge cake, appam, jelly, sugar-apple sticky rice, and

²*Surau* is an Islamic assembly building in some regions of Sumatera used for worship and religious activities. It was similar to a mosque, only smaller.

*rendang*³. She served the food for Buyuang Kacinduan and his mother. When it was time to come back home, Buyuang took a lot of things with him; a chicken, a freshly-pounded rice, various other food, and pocket money. Buyuang came home leaving a great respect and love to his father's older sister, Mak Tuo Ros. After they arrived at home, Buyuang's mother felt that her whole body was in pain and she got a fever. It was unclear whether the mother was too tired after a journey or there was another thing that caused the fever. Buyuang's mother was lying weakly. Buyuang stayed by his mother's side patiently. He fed his mother with food and medicine so that his mother could get better soon. However, after some days passed, Buyuang's mother's health was getting worse instead of getting better. Buyuang and his relatives worried so much to see his mother's condition. Buyuang never stopped praying to ask for his mother's recovery. Sometimes he could not help to shed his tears.

Buyuang and the other people's worries were proven to be right. One morning, at the same time when Buyuang's father passed away, Buyuang's mother left the world forever. She only left one last sentence given to Buyuang Kacinduan.

"Take care of yourself, my son," said Buyuang's mother quietly. Then, Buyuang's mother closed her eyes and folded her hands on

³*Rendang* is spicy meat dish originated from Minangkabau. The meat is cooked slowly with coconut milk and various special herbs.

her chest. Buyuang's mother passed away. She left Buyuang Kacinduan forever, alone. Finally, the child lost his father and mother. Buyuang Kacinduan became an orphan. Buyuang cried loudly when he said goodbye to the woman who had given birth to him.

The Foster Father

In the State of Bayang, there was a philanthropist rich man. The less fortunate people in the state often asked for a help from the man. He was a merchant who had a lot of buffalos and cows. With his wealth, he was always ready to help people who needed his aid. The man liked to give charity to the poor who needed money for their daily life. He opened his granary for the people in his village. He opened his cattle pen to lend the cattle to people who need the animals for their work in the rice field. Just like his nature, the man was called by the name Mr. *Tolong*⁴.

Mr. Tolong lived in his big and beautiful house with his son, Bujang Ketinggian. After Bujang's mother passed away during her labor, Mr. Tolong did not marry another woman. He was busy with his business and his tens of cattle. Bujang stayed at home with the house assistants and his father's workers. They were Mr. Pirin and Aunt Kiah. When Mr. Tolong heard that Buyuang Kacinduan had become an orphan, he was moved to take

⁴*Tolong* in Indonesian means 'help'.

Buyuang to his home and took him as a foster child. He pitied Buyuang's fate and he also reminded that his son was also an only child who was left alone at home when he worked. Mr. Tolong wanted to make the two children brothers, adoptive brothers.

Then, Mr. Tolong came to Buyuang's grandmother to deliver his good intention. With a heavy heart, Buyuang's grandmother allowed Mr. Tolong to take Buyuang because she loved her unfortunate grandson very much. She was willing to let Buyuang become Mr. Tolong's foster son because she was already old and sick. She worried that if she died, Buyuang would be alone again. Besides, Buyuang's grandmother knew that Mr. Tolong was known to all of the people in the state as a kind and loving person. Therefore, Buyuang moved from his grandmother's humble house to Mr. Tolong's beautiful house. On his first day at Mr. Tolong's house, Buyuang Kacinduan was introduced to Bujang Katinggian, Mr. Tolong's only son.

"Bujang, from today, Buyuang is your little brother. He will accompany you staying in our house. I hope both of you can be good brothers. Both of you are my sons, Mr. Tolong's son," said the wise father gently, but firmly.

"Buyuang, if you need something, do not hesitate to tell your big brother, Bujang. You do not need to be shy because both of you are brothers now. And all of you too, my dear workers. Take care

of Buyuang just like how you all take care, look after, and help Bujang all this time. Buyuang is also my son, just like Bujang,” said Mr. Tolong with teary eyes because he pitied the unfortunate Buyuang. Buyuang could not hold his tears when he heard his father’s words. In his heart, he promised that he would respect and loved Mr. Tolong as the replacement of his parents and old grandmother. He promised to adapt himself to Bujang, who became his brother. All of the workers in Mr. Tolong’s house also cried when they welcomed Buyuang. They praised Mr. Tolong’s kindness and prayed that the God would always give His blessings to the old man who had so much love for other people. All roads were never always smooth and straight. There was always a hole and an inclined path that people needed to go through. That also happened to Buyuang and his new life in Mr. Tolong’s family. He had to be patient to face Bujang Katinggian’s characters that were very different from his own nature. Bujang did not understand the difficulties that were faced by the other people because he always lived in a rich environment since he was born. Bujang was not used to share his things with other people because he was the only son who had everything for himself. Bujang could not express things in a polite way to other people because he only lived with his father’s workers in his own house. He also did not understand about friendliness to other people because he did not have a mother who could teach him about it, while his father was so busy working every day.

At the beginning, Buyuang Kacinduan was so surprised to see Bujang Katinggian's characteristics. He was not used to see such a terrible personality as shown in Bujang Katinggian, his adoptive brother. Sometimes Buyuang cried when he received an unpleasant treatment from Bujang.

"Hey, Buyuang! Take my spinning top! We can play it in the yard!" commanded Bujang with a loud voice at one time. Buyuang was startled by the command. Along his life, he was never commanded or even heard someone snapped at him harshly. However, Buyuang was quickly realized that the one who treated him that way was someone who had been determined to be his brother by Mr. Tolong, a man who was full of kindness. The workers who lived in the house also comforted him with consoling words so that Buyuang should not feel sad. The workers were very impressed with Buyuang's good attitude towards all the workers.

"Go play happily, Buyuang. When you are tired, you can just come home. Aunt Kiah will serve refreshing drinks for you and your brother," said a young woman as she was smiling to Buyuang. It seemed that she was the worker who was responsible to be the cook in the house.

"This Mr. Pirin will climb the coconut tree and take a young coconut fruit. We will enjoy it together, Buyuang," said an old

man who worked as the cart coachman. He stroked Buyuang's shoulders lovingly.

That was how Buyuang's days were going every day. With the attention and gentle treatment given by the workers, Buyuang could suppress his disappointment with Bujang's treatment to him. Buyuang returned the workers' kindness with good attitudes. He often helped Aunt Kiah carrying firewood from the yard to be arranged in the kitchen. He also helped Mr. Pirin gathering grass as the feed for the buffalos that pulled the cart. He also liked to help the other workers doing light work that he could do. That made the workers loved Buyuang even more. One day, Mr. Tolong took Buyuang and Bujang to go out. The people at home always waited for Buyuang to come home. They missed Buyuang's friendly greetings and they missed his peaceful smile. They felt like they lost Buyuang, even if he did not go for a long time. The workers would prepare many of Buyuang's favorite things at home. Aunt Kiah would bake his favorite cake and she would also cook delicious side dishes for him.

It was exactly like his name, Buyuang Kacinduan in local Minangkabau language had the meaning of a son who was deeply missed. Buyuang's existence had made the people around happy and his absence made the people miss him. Every time Mr. Tolong stayed at home, he was very pleased to see Buyuang in the house.

When he saw that Bujang did an inappropriate thing, Mr. Tolong would directly tell him to fix it. It also happened in one afternoon. At that time, Mr. Tolong saw Bujang pointed his fingers at Buyuang's face with unfriendly look. Mr. Tolong came closer to them and he heard what Bujang said to Buyuang.

“Hey, Buyuang! You should've known that you may not touch everything that belongs to me in this house. I am the owner of this house, while you are just a freeloader. If it wasn't for my father's kindness, you wouldn't be able to enjoy all the good things in this house,” said Bujang arrogantly. After listening to what Bujang said, Mr. Tolong directly answered, ”Bujang, what you said is inappropriate. Buyuang is now your younger brother, he is also my son. You should share your things. You should enjoy all the things in this house together. Apologize to your brother now.”

Following his father's command, Bujang apologized with a heavy heart. He reached out his hand reluctantly and Buyuang accepted the hand with lowered head. Buyuang said to himself that he had to be strong and he would accept any kind of treatment from Bujang patiently because to him Mr. Tolong was a second parent that he had to respect after his real parents passed away. He would do his best to make Mr. Tolong, his foster parent, happy. He would try to be part of Mr. Tolong's family, just like what Mr. Tolong wanted. Mr. Tolong was very happy to have a good son like Buyuang. Every time he talked with the people of Bayang,

the people would always praise Buyuang for his good attitude. For those people, Mr. Tolong and Buyuang Kacinduan were not just foster father and son. They were just like biological father and son. All of Mr. Tolong's kindness also belonged to Buyuang Kacinduan. They were just like a person and his shadow. Buyuang Kacinduan was also very proud of Mr. Tolong. He took Mr. Tolong's good attitudes as examples. If there was someone coming to his house to ask for a help, whether it was money or something else, Buyuang could see Mr. Tolong's sincere smile and his readiness to help the person. If the workers were busy working, Buyuang Kacinduan also saw that Mr. Tolong would not hesitate to help the workers.

When he asked something to the workers in the house, Mr. Tolong would ask them nicely with gentle voice and he never forgot to add "please" in his sentence.

"Kiah, could you please make a cup of coffee for me? I really want to enjoy coffee this evening." That was how Mr. Tolong usually asked his worker to do something for him. That was why his name was Mr. Tolong; he was always ready to help people who were in need.

"If everyone in this state has good morals like Mr. Tolong and Buyuang Kacinduan, our model citizen, the State of Bayang will be a state of prosper, grace, and blessing granted by God the Merciful," said a religious leader in his sermon. That was how

Mr. Tolong and Buyuang Kacinduan became the pride of everyone in the State of Bayang.

The Lost of the Lifeline

Someone could stay in the seventh heaven for a day and he could suddenly fall into the deepest hell just in a blink of eye. That was how God created human's destiny. Another unfortunate event came to Buyuang Kacinduan's life. Mr. Tolong, Buyuang's foster father got into a trouble. The cart that supposed to carry him from the State of Bayang to Padang got into an accident. In a hilly road called Jariang Curve or Jengkol Hill, Mr. Tolong's cart was snapped from the buffalo that was drawing it. In the hilly road that was full of jengkol trees, Mr. Tolong's buffalo was overthrown to the canyon and the cart got stuck at the edge of a cliff. Fortunately, Mr. Tolong and the coachman were safe, but he was into a deep shock. When people passed through the accident scene, they immediately helped the victims. They were more eager to help because the one who was in the accident was Mr. Tolong. When he was taken back to the State of Bayang, Mr. Tolong was unable to speak. His lips were stiffened, he stared into nothing, and his body was limp. Mr. Tolong fell really sick after the accident. All people pitied him. His body that used to be gallant went limp on the bed. Buyuang was always there for his sick father. If he did not have any urgent matter, Buyuang would not leave Mr. Tolong's bedside. He was always feeding food and

medicine to Mr. Tolong. He also helped tilt his beloved parent's body to the left and right when he saw that Mr. Tolong was tired of lying down on his back. Mr. Tolong's gaze to Buyuang showed that he was grateful for all of the attentions given to him by his foster son. The people of Bayang never stopped visiting Mr. Tolong. They brought everything they could for Mr. Tolong and both of his sons.

They did not only visit and give them gifts, but also prayed for Mr. Tolong's health. Looking at how the people cared for him so much, Mr. Tolong could only cry. One day, Mr. Tolong who had been unable to speak for three months was suddenly healed. He was not muted anymore, even though he was still lying weak on the bed. All people who were at the house expressed their gratefulness to God for His grace. "Buyuang... Buyuang... Buyuang..." those were the first words of Mr. Tolong that he said with a weak voice. When he heard that his foster father called for him, Buyuang came closer.

"Listen carefully. If I died, my inheritance shall be shared. Bujang shall get $\frac{3}{4}$ of the fortune, while Buyuang shall get $\frac{1}{4}$ of the fortune. You have to hold the inheritance division in front of the Mayor of the State, the Elders, and all of Bayang people," Mr. Tolong stammered. After he finished his words, Mr. Tolong's life in the world also ended. He passed away. The kind person passed away and left deep sadness for all people who knew him.

Buyuang sobbed and Bujang cried over their father's death. People in the village lost someone who would listen to their problems in life. The body of the kind old man was buried in the middle of the village. The funeral procession was solemn. The women of the village planted garden croton around the grave so that the place was always shadowed. They also planted roses and jasmines that circle the top of the grave. The flowers were the witness to how the good people of Bayang would always remember Mr. Tolong in their heart. Buyuang Kacinduan held his mixed sadness in his heart. He was sad because he was left by someone that he really respected and someone that really loved him. He was also sad that he had to stay together with his older brother who always treated him harshly. Buyuang's deep sadness because he had lost his foster father made him listless. He could not think of anything other than Mr. Tolong's death. However, the people from the village gave their sympathy to the unfortunate orphan. They comforted him with good words and motivation so that Buyuang would not be drowned in despair.

“Buyuang, we feel your sadness. It must be as if you were climbing a hill, but you lost your lifeline. As if you were trying to take a shelter from the storm, but the tree that protected you was blown away. Nevertheless, you have to remember that God the Merciful will always protected His people with eternal love.

We will always protect you with what we have, as your parents,” said the mayor of the state. The leader of the state encouraged Buyuang so that he would not be drown in the sadness for a long time.

Aunt Kiah, Mr. Pirin, Uncle Maran, and the other people also encouraged Buyuang Kacinduan so that he could stand on his feet again. They cleaned and decorated the big and beautiful house so that both of Mr. Tolong’s sons could forget their sadness, especially for Buyuang Kacinduan who was afraid to continue his life together with his foster brother in that house. He tried hard to listen to the advices and consolation from the village people for him. He also did not want to disappoint Mr. Tolong, even though he already passed away. Slowly, he could smile again. Every time he was reminded of Mr. Tolong, he prayed to God so that all of the good deeds he did during his previous life accompanied him in the afterlife.

There were already three faces that haunted Buyuang Kacinduan’s mind: his father’s, his mother’s, and his foster father’s. The child who started his adolescence lived his life even more wisely. He became calmer to face the challenges in his life. His faith in God’s help and the attention from the people around him made him willingly accept the trials in his life. Buyuang grew up to be a mature teenager, earlier than he should be. He became mature because of his life experiences. He also became

mature because he got all the attention from the people who always cared for him. Buyuang Kacinduan decided to stay together with Bujang Katinggian. He never thought and said anything about the portion of inheritance. The most important thing for him was to live his life calmly and peacefully while being useful for other people. When he felt uncomfortable around Bujang Katinggian, Buyuang gave in and chose to avoid Bujang so that there would be no dispute and conflict.

He did all the things that his bossy brother asked without complaining. When he was tired with all of the commands, he would go out and gather with his same-aged friends. His favorite place was *surau* because he could learn a lot of things about life in that place. In *surau*, he could learn martial arts, read poem, and learn other arts so that he could get entertainment and learn something. There, he could also learn many things about social life and religion, so that he could be even more devoted to God.

Buyuang Kacinduan never complained about his problems to anyone, even though everybody knew all of his difficulties when he lived with Bujang Katinggian. He kept his trouble to himself and he always smiled. That was one of many good things about Buyuang Kacinduan. He always remembered his mother's advices.

“It is better to bite your tongue rather than let your heart out, my son,” said his deceased mother. The wise word was about keeping

someone's feeling a secret. It is better to keep someone's own feeling to himself than to say it out loud to other people. Telling the other people about everything openly was not a good habit because their reaction was not always an expected reaction. Therefore, Buyuang Kacinduan always tried to keep his problem with Bujang Katinggian a secret and never told anyone about it.

The Foster Brother's Wicked Plan

After their father passed away, Buyuang and Bujang lived together with their father's workers in their house. Bujang was still a hard and bossy, and Buyuang was always friendly and obedient. The differences of their characters were maybe because they were brought up in different environment. Bujang Ketinggian was born, grew up, and became an adult without his mother. He only knew his father, the house assistances, and his father's other workers. His father's wealth but the lack of lesson from his father made Bujang acted in a bad way. It was very different from Buyuang. After their father passed away, both of the sons kept doing their previous responsibility, which was taking care of their cows that was really a lot. When their father was alive, they did not go to the field and do it directly. But, at that moment, Bujang decided to take care of the cows by himself together with Buyuang. Every day from their house, they always went together to the field where the cows were herded. The field was not too far away from their house. But once they reached the

field, the big brother would leave his little brother to work alone, taking care of their cattle. Bujang, the big brother, would go to the other places and play around by himself. Sometimes he flied the kites, took a bath in the river, or climbed the trees together with his friends. Buyuang, the little brother, herded the cows and took them to eat the grass. When the heat struck them, Buyuang would take the cows to a shaded place. When he saw that the cows were thirsty, they took the cows to the river to let them drink until they were satisfied.

That was how the days went by. The two brothers went to the field but they did different things. The big brother enjoyed his long playtime, while the little brother was burdened with a big responsibility to herd the cows alone. Even though his brother did an unfair thing to him, Buyuang never complained and always followed what his brother wanted. The people of State of Bayang saw everything that happened and they scolded Bujang.

Bujang said that what happened was rightly because Bujang and Buyuang had different status. He was the biological son of Mr. Tolong, while Buyuang was only a foster son. It was right for the foster son to work harder than the biological son, that was what Bujang Katinggian believed. The elders of the village scolded him because what he believed was different from his father's message before he passed away. Bujang katinggian was cornered by the elders. He did not like to be scolded. For him, what he did

was only his business. The other people might not intervene or even scold him. However, in the State of Bayang, amicable discussion was the highest forum. The decision from the discussion should be obeyed and carried out together. Bujang should not do only what he liked. It was agreed together that Mr. Tolong's last-will should be carried out when they grew up in the future. Before that time, both of the children would be under the supervision of the customary council and the state council. Even though he knew that he could not go against the council, Bujang Katinggian did not want to obey the decision. Therefore, he made a wicked plan to get the entire inheritance from his father so that he did not have to share it with Buyuang Kacinduan. He also wanted to be free from the supervision of the elders of State of Bayang.

“Buyuang, tomorrow, let me herd the cows by myself. You can stay at home,” said Bujang, the older brother, to his younger brother.

The obedient younger brother obeyed him and he said yes to his older brother's command, “All right, big brother,” said him. It turned out that the Bujang, the older brother, had prepared a wicked trick for his foster brother, Buyuang. He herded their cows to a very far place, an unusual place. In the evening when he came back home, Bujang asked his younger brother to go to the

shepherd's field. He said that there was a cow that was left in the field.

"I am tired, go fetch the cow that is left in the field," said Bujang firmly. He told his younger brother to find the cow because the field was very far from their house and the village. He hoped that his younger brother would die from a tiger's attack. If Buyuang Kacinduan died, Bujang would be free from the control of the elders of state and the entire inheritance from Mr. Tolong would be his. His common sense had been outdone by his greed and anger.

You Reap What You Sow

Bujang Katinggian was so happy. His wicked plan worked really well. The next day after he told him to fetch the cow in the field, his younger brother did not come back to their house. Then, he made sure that all the cows will all belong to him. He would no longer meet his younger brother who, according to him, was a disadvantage for him.

"That kid must have died attacked by a tiger," said Bujang Katinggian to himself happily. Meanwhile, Buyuang Kacinduan walked alone from the village to the coastal edge the day before fell asleep in a hut. He did not realize that the sun would rise soon. He was terrified because he had to look for the lost cow alone in the middle of the night. When it was raining so hard, in

thick bushes by the beach, the kind-hearted boy found a hut for a shelter. He also found a pile of old fishing net. He used the net to protect himself from the cold weather by the sea wind. It was like a miracle from God, the boy fell asleep until morning. The pile of net felt like a silk blanket that made him warm along the night. The flash glitzed in the sky as if it gave him light in the hut. The lightning, thunder, and the sound of the waves turned into a melody of the coast. The melody became a lullaby that made the orphan boy sleep peacefully. When the sun rose, a sign that a new morning had come, Bujang Katinggian herded his cows happily to the field where he left a cow the day before. He wanted to take the cow that he left. Bujang Katinggian walked while singing happily, sometimes he threw a smile to people who passed him on the way. People stared at him because he did not act like his usual self. Usually he was coldly indifferent and never smiled to other people.

“What makes him the mighty Bujang Katinggian so happy?” asked someone to his friend, who was also staring at Bujang, wondering.

“I don’t know. It is very unusual for the arrogant boy to smile. Maybe he found a fall-down durian tree so that he could enjoy it to his heart content⁵,” replied the friend jokingly. Bujang Katinggian did not care that people were surprised at him. Indeed,

⁵Finding a fall-down durian tree is considered as a great luck.

he usually did not care about how people saw him. Moreover, his mind was full of happiness because he thought that Buyuang Kacinduan had died and met his God. He walked quickly and herded his cattle impatiently to get the cow that he had left behind. After he arrived at the faraway shepherd's field, he saw that his cow was still there and it started to walk towards his position. Bujang was happy.

Buyuang was no longer in his mind. He would herd all of the cows to place where he usually herded the cows. Near the edge of the village, many other shepherds joined him. However, Bujang Katinggian was so surprised. Suddenly the cow started to talk to him when they met their eyes, face to face.

“Hey...why did you leave me yesterday? You should have been here to accompany me. You are an evil animal,” said the cow to him. The boy was so surprised because he could understand what the cow said to him. Bujang Katinggian was terrified. On the other side, he did not believe what he heard. He cleaned his ears many times and slapped his own cheek many times to convince himself that he was not dreaming. But it was useless; the cow really looked at his eyes and talked to him.

“Yes, you, the evil hateful creature! Don't be surprised, you evil cow!” roared the cow to Bujang Katinggian. Bujang became more confused because the cow called him an animal, even a cow.

“What is happening?” he shouted confusedly. He swayed his body, but he felt that it was so heavy. He tried to shake his head, but he felt that it was so difficult. He stared at the cow, but the cow glared back at him. He tried to shout as loud as possible, but his voice was caught in his throat. In fear and disbelief, Bujang the oldest son looked at his body. He was so shocked because his body turned to be a cow. It was no wonder that he could understand the language of the cow. It was no wonder that he could not move his body easily. It was no wonder that his screams turned into moos. He was very ashamed of himself, especially when he saw that his foster brother stood up not far from that place. His brother was awakened by the two buffalos that noisily mooed to each other. Buyuang stared at Bujang.

He was shocked and disbelieved of what happened. Even if Bujang was in the body of a cow, Buyuang still recognized the face of the foster brother.

“Brother... big brother... What happened, Brother? Why did you change? Tell me, Brother. Tell me!” Buyuang cried while he was running closer to the cow. He pitied Bujang Katinggian because he turned into a cow. He did not want that to happen, even though his foster brother often treated him badly. Buyuang Kacinduan did not want Bujang Katinggian receiving a punishment because of his evilness.

For Buyuang, no matter how evil someone might be, he had to get a chance to change for the better. Therefore, he cried and cried over Bujang Katinggian's condition. Many people who were going to go fishing started to come to that place. They were surprised to hear Buyuang's cry. They could not ask him for what happened because Buyuang was crying so hard. When they saw the cow that was standing not far from Buyuang, they became even more surprised. They saw that the cow had Bujang Katinggian's face. They thought that God had turned the evil boy into a cow. They understood that it happened because he had committed an evil deed.

The Mooing Reef

The news that Bujang Katinggian had turned into a cow had spread from the coastal area to the village of State of Bayang. More people were coming to the scene. Finally, Bujang Katinggian's transfigured cow ran off. He left the bush and ran to the shore. He was ashamed. He felt sorry. He ran until he reached a tip of a coral. There was an opening in the coral, like a cave. He got into the coral cave. Buyuang Kacinduan went to follow the cow, which was none other than his brother's incarnation, to the coral cave. He did not have the heart to let Bujang Katinggian receive the hardship alone. He wanted to accompany Bujang and shared Bujang's burden. However, Buyuang's steps were hindered by people's hands that stopped him. The people tried to

console Buyuang so that he did not follow his heart to find his brother.

“Listen to me carefully, Buyuang. We understand your sadness. We understand that you have a graceful heart. However, there is no use crying over spilled milk, it was too late to stop this. We do not have a power to turn back the situation. What we can do now is to ask mercy from God, so that he will be forgiven,” said a religious leader to Buyuang, sincerely and within a deep sadness.

Buyuang cried even louder after he heard the advice. He was reminded of the kind Mr. Tolong. He felt guilty because he could not save his older brother. He could not bear to think about Bujang Katinggian’s condition. He buried his face in Mother Rakena’s hug, a woman that he considered as his own mother. The loving old woman caressed Buyuang lovingly and sincerely. The people of State of Bayang stood around Buyuang. They wanted to share Buyuang’s pain. Buyuang stood up and stared at the coral cave. His heart was broken. He cried again. The people also cried. They felt Buyuang’s sadness.

Buyuang lowered his head and he opened his hands. He prayed for his brother, Bujang Katinggian. He asked for God’s mercy for the sins that Bujang had committed. The other people also joined Buyuang and prayed for Bujang. They supported Buyuang’s prayers so that God the Merciful fulfilled Buyuang’s wish. Inside the coral cave, the incarnated cow moored over and over again, as

if his expressed his regret for his evil doings. The cow with Bujang Katinggian's face was in tears. His cry broke the heart of people who heard it. The sound of the cow's cry of regret because of the punishment that he received echoed and fulfilled the coral cave. The people who lived around the place often heard the moo. Sometimes, the fishermen were surprised to hear the moo turned to hoarse cry of a young man. The fishermen tried to avoid the reef. They did not have the heart to hear the pleading moo or sob. The other people who passed through the place would also feel sorry when they heard the sound from the coral reef. In the end, the people of State of Bayang named the coral cave *Karang Malanguah* or the Mooing Reef. The mooing sound is still heard until now by the people who stay around the *Karang Malanguah* coral reef. The name of the coral serves to remind people that someone who does wicked thing will bring calamity for him or herself. God will not let wickedness spread in the world. It goes the same for kindness. All kindness will be paid with kindness. God will always repay kindness with good things that humans cannot predict. Buyuang Kacinduan sowed kindness, and then he received kindness in his future. Buyuang Kacinduan and the people of State of Nagari never thought that Buyuang would become the only heir of of Mr. Tolong's wealth. God had chosen the right person to inherit Mr. Tolong's wealth so that the wealth was helpful for many people. Buyuang Kacinduan followed Mr.

Tolong's steps. He used the wealth to help the less fortunate people from State of Bayang.