

**BATU SULI HILL**  
*Bukit Batu Suli*

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## **BATU SULI HILL**

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## BATU SULI HILL

### Humans and Giants

Based on the legend circulating in Central Kalimantan, once upon a time, the sky and the earth were very close to each other. As it was close, one could take a trip between the sky and the earth, down and up through the hills or mountains. In fact, when we looked up, it seemed like we could touch the blue sky simply by using stairs or climbing up a tree.

It was told that on earth or the world (also called *pantai danum kalunen*), the human race lived. Humans, in the belief of Dayak Ngaju tribe, were the descendants of Maharajah Bunu.

In the legend of the human race creation from Dayak Ngaju tribe, Maharajah Bunu was the ancestor or the progenitor of human beings. It was narrated that, at first, Maharajah Bunu lived in the sky named *Batu Nindan Tarung Liang Angkar Batilung Nyaring*. In the legend of the human race creation from Dayak Ngaju tribe, Maharajah Bunu was the ancestor or progenitor of human beings. It was narrated that, at first, Maharajah Bunu lived in the sky named *Batu Nindan Tarung Liang Angkar Batilung Nyaring*.<sup>1</sup> Maharajah Bunu lived with both of his parents and two siblings;

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<sup>1</sup>The name of the sky where Maharajah Bunu lives.

Maharajah Sangiang and Maharajah Sangen. Both of Maharajah Bunu's parents were the first human beings created by *Ranying Mahatala Langit* or *Ranying*.<sup>2</sup> The lives of Maharajah Bunu and his family were very secure and peaceful, as there was no hostility between them.

One day, the parents would like to give valuables to their children.

"My wife, it seems like we need to create something for our children," said the father.

"Yes, my husband, but what do you think it should be?"

"I think we should create something useful and long-lasting. Should we make a dagger? A dagger will be highly useful for them."

"In my opinion, why shouldn't we create a spear?"

"It seems a little bit difficult to carry around a spear, but a dagger is small and has plenty of advantages."

"Oh, yes sure enough. If so I think I agree to this."

"Well, what do you say if we create this starting from tomorrow?"

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<sup>2</sup> God in the belief of the Dayak Ngaju tribe

“All right, tomorrow I am preparing everything needed to create the dagger.”

Thereon, on the next day, Maharajah Bunu’s parents created three daggers for their three children. After finished creating the three daggers, they then called their three children.

My sons, Maharajah Sangen and Maharajah Sangiang, we are giving daggers that we named *sanaman lampang* to each of you,” told their father as he gave them the dagger.

“Thank you, father,” replied Maharajah Sangen and Maharajah Sangiang at the same time.

“And you, Maharajah Bunu, since you are the middle child, we are giving you a dagger that we named *sanaman leteng*,” said his father.

“Thank you, father,” replied Maharajah Bunu, as he accepted his father’s gift.

“Do remember, the daggers we gave you are supernaturally powerful. Thereby, do not ever use them for anything that might harm yourselves. Take care and take care of our gifts!” said their father as he gave advice to his children.

“Yes, father,” said the three of them.

The three of them were overwhelmed with joy. On the next day, they held a discussion because they wanted to try the supernatural power of the three daggers.

“My brothers, let’s try to see the supernatural power of the three daggers given by our parents,” said Maharajah Sangen.

“Let’s try them on that vast field there, my brothers!” responded Maharajah Sangiang enthusiastically.

In the beginning, they tried the daggers belonged to Maharajah Sangen and Maharajah Sangiang, but then after that, they tried Maharajah Bunu’s dagger.

After tried on the three daggers, they became amazed.

“Wow, Maharajah Bunu, why is your dagger different from ours?” questioned Maharajah Sangiang to Maharajah Bunu.

“I don’t know, brothers,” replied Maharajah Bunu, in amazement.

“Your dagger could cut through and split any object into two, but why the same thing doesn’t happen to ours?” asked Maharajah Sangen. He felt envy.

“That’s right, so why don’t you just hand over this dagger to us. After all, after thinking about it thoroughly, you don’t deserve it,” said Maharajah Sangiang as he came nearer to Maharajah Bunu.

“I’m sorry, my brothers. Not that I don’t respect the two of you, but both of our parents have given their messages and given the daggers to each of us. So, in my opinion, we must take care and maintain the daggers according to our parents’ message,” Maharajah Bunu reacted in calm voice.

“But, why is your dagger different from ours?” I cannot accept this and I want to have it!” said Maharajah Sangen.

“So do I. I’m the one who deserves it,” said Maharajah Sangiang in a high tone of voice. Thereafter, since they all had the desire to own Maharajah Bunu’s dagger, a dispute finally broke between the three of them.

The dispute among the three of them ultimately reached the ears of *Ranying Mahatala Langit*. He was terribly disappointed and angry to hear the dispute among the three of them. Therefore, they were summoned to appear before *Ranying Mahatala Langit*.

“The three of you have provoked my anger and disappointment. For this reason, all of you must be separated,” told *Ranying Mahatala Langit* in thunderous voice.

Maharajah Bunu and his brothers fell silent upon hearing the words spoken by *Ranying Mahatala Langit*.

“Maharajah Sangiang, I’m sending you back to the upper world, to the nirvana where I live! Maharajah Sangen, you’re staying in

*Batu Nindan Tarung Liang Angkar Batilung Nyaring.* As for you Maharajah Bunu, I'm sending you to the earth/ the world," said *Ranying Mahatala Langit.*

"Very well, my Lord," replied the three of them in a terribly apologetic feeling for being involved in a feud.

And that was how they got separated. Each of them was given with task in their respective new place. The task given was determined by *Ranying Mahatala Langit.*

The task given to Maharajah Bunu on earth was to be the guardian and ancestor or progenitor of humankind on earth.

Furthermore, it was then narrated that other than the earth, there was also a life in the sky. A married couple from giant race with huge and strong bodies lived there.

The husband of the giant couple was named Garahasi, while the wife was named Garahasa. Based on the story passed around in the community of Dayak Ngaju tribe, giant Garahasi was also known as Tatu Garahasi, which meant enormous giant. Giants Garahasa and Garahasi had lived for a very long time in the sky, yet they occasionally look down to the earth and human beings. They constantly paid attention to the behavior and the things done by humans on earth. Thereby, they had a strong desire to descend the earth/ the world, yet they did not know how to do such thing.



## **Giants Garahasi and Garahasa Descended the Earth**

One day, when the two giants were taking a stroll and enjoying the scenery in the sky, they started to grow bored because that was all they could see. Giant Garahasi walked and looked down on earth once in a while, because he wanted to see the people down below/ the earth.

Something peculiar caught giant Garahasi's eyes all of a sudden. Then, he stopped and reached into the object he saw. When the giant reached in and observed the object carefully, he became very surprised and his eyes glowed in happiness.

“Hoi, my wife Garahasa, will you take a look at what I just found?” cried giant Garahasi joyously.

“Yes, my husband, what have you found? Did you find delicious food?” replied giant Garahasa as she rushed to approach giant Garahasi.

“Look at this, I think I have found the way to get to the earth,” said Garahasi. Garahasa then immediately came to giant Garahasi.

“Wow precisely, my husband! It means both of us can go down to the earth through this, making our dream comes true,” responded giant Garahasa in tremendous sense of joy. Those two giants were overly excited for imagining the things they would do once they arrived down there/ the earth.

“My husband, Garahasi, when will we be able to come down to the earth? I can’t wait any longer to meet the humans on earth. Or, should we go down there now?” asked giant Garahasa.

“Wait; hold your horses, O my wife! We should first investigate whether we could really use this object as a stair to come down to earth, or we could have broken the stair on the process, leaving us unable to get back to the sky!” said giant Garahasi while observing the object they found.

“Oh, you’re right, my husband. It didn’t occur to me. I couldn’t wait to come down to earth!” said giant Garahasa sheepishly.

“Yeah, I also want to come down to earth quickly. However, we must make judgment and observe everything in the first place to avoid regrets later, my wife!” Let’s just wait for a few more days while observing this stairway!” advised giant Garahasi to his wife.

“Okay, my husband. I truly hope we can come down to earth!” told giant Garahasa. Both giants then waited for the right time to come down to earth/ the world.

When the long-awaited moment finally arrived, the two giants made their way down there.

“It’s better for me to get down first to see the condition. If there is danger, I can handle it first, said giant Garahasi.

“Oh all right, my husband. You go down there first and then I will be right behind you,” answered giant Garahasa.

The two giants went down to earth cautiously. As the sky was just a stone’s throw away from the earth, it did not take a long time for them to reach the earth. Arriving on earth, they quickly went looking for humans. The footsteps of the two giants shook the earth “Bam...bum...bam...bum,” it sounded like.

“Gee, why is the earth suddenly shaking? Is it an earthquake?” one human asked another.

“I have no idea, but why is the sound coming closer to us?”

The human beings became much more confused and scared when they found out that it all came from two giants with enormous, strong, and horrible bodies. They ran and went into hiding.

Nevertheless, it was terribly unfortunate for the humans who crossed paths with the giants. They got extremely petrified and panic. They had no idea where to hide anymore.

“Help...help...the giants come.”

“Run for your lives!”

“Runnn...”

“Hey, don’t you run away, O humans. No matter where you run to, we will find and get you,” said giant Garahasi, laughing at the running humans.

“Come here, O humans! Do not run and hide. We will only eat you,” shouted giant Garahasa. The humans, of course, got scared even more.

All humans tried their might to hide and avoid the two giants. But, these two giants were no less fast. Using their enormous bodies and hands, they easily caught humans. Finally, they managed to capture several people and ate them.

“My husband, I am already full. Let’s go home now,” asked giant Garahasa to her husband.

“Just wait a minute, my wife. I am still hungry,” giant Garahasi spoke as he casted his eyes around, looking for humans.

“My husband, I think we should not finish off these humans, as we would run out of prey. We can always come down here later if we get hungry,” said giant Garahasa to giant Garahasi.

“Oh, you are right, my wife. All right, let's go home,” replied giant Garahasi. They walked back and climbed the stair back to the sky.

The two giants were very happy because they finally could get something they had yearned for in a long time.

Because of this, the giants did not come down to earth for that one time only. Whenever they felt hungry, they would get down to earth and look for something to eat: human beings.

### Puruk Sanukui: A Stairway for the Giants to Come Down to Earth

As been told before, giants Garahasi and Garahasa habitually went down to earth/ the world. Giants Garahasi and Garahasa did not come down using ordinary stairs; instead, they used *puruk*<sup>3</sup>, located in the upstream of Kahayan River, Central Kalimantan.

This rocky hill or mountain was also called *Puruk Sanukui*. This hill or *puruk* became some kind of a stairway for giants Garahasi and Garahasa to go down to earth and climbed up to the sky. As a matter of fact, humans could also go up to the sky through this hill/ mountain. However, the existence of the two vicious giants preying on humans had inflicted fear upon humans to climb up and see whatever there was in the sky.

*Puruk Sanukui* was a steep hill at an extremely high altitude. There were many huge and dense trees growing around this *puruk*. A wide variety of plants and animals also lived here.

Someday, there were a number of people who wanted to find out what *Puruk Sanukui* was like, so they talked about it.

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<sup>3</sup>A hill or rocky mountain

“Folks, let’s climb up *Puruk Sanukui*. Who knows there are many fruits and preys”

“Gee, I don’t dare. If the giants suddenly come, then we are finished. No, I don’t dare to do it!”

“I want to see it. Anyway, those giants don’t come down to earth all the times. So I think it will be okay.”

“Now, who comes with me to *Puruk Sanukui*?”

There were only a handful of people who raised their hands.

“Okay, let’s climb it tomorrow morning!”

“All right, we are ready,” replied the brave people.

They departed on the next morning. In that place, they saw many huge trees and plenty of animals. But, once they got at the middle of *puruk*, they did not dare to continue going up. Besides the fear of crossing paths with the two giants, they were also afraid of the *puruk*’s altitude. Therefore, up until now, the humans still had no knowledge about what and how the life forms were in the sky, whether they were the same or different as those on earth.

## ***The Wrath of Ranying Hatala Langit***

Whenever giants Garahasi and Garahasa went down to earth, the people became so scared that their blood ran cold. They ran around and went hiding, but those two giants always got what they wanted. Thereby, Giants Garahasi and Garahasa were getting out of control as they kept preying on humans, making *Ranying Hatala Langit* (God) angry. *Ranying Hatala Langit* summoned his commander, Rajah Tunggal Sangumang.

“My lord, the giants are ferocious and strong. My Lord, what do you think is the best way to help the people?” asked Rajah Tunggal Sangumang as he thought about the way to defeat the two giants.

“It seems a little difficult to defeat those two giants. For this reason, you should bring Darung Bawan and Patahu<sup>4</sup> to accompany your journey to earth!” said *Ranying Mahatala Langit*.

“Very well, my Lord!” responded Rajah Tunggal Sangumang, while bowing to *Ranying Mahatala Langit* to salute him.

“Sangumang, there’s another message from me. Upon your arrival on earth, meet the mighty young men of Tumbang Pajangei Village named Rambang, Ringkai, and Sangen. Once

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<sup>4</sup> Spirits

you meet them, you will find a way to help the people,” told *Ranying Mahatala Langit*.

“As you wish, my Lord, we will leave for the earth soon,” replied Raja Tunggal Sangumang.

Then, he came out of the place of Rajah *Mahatala Langit* and rushed to meet Darung Bawan and Patahu. He conveyed the command of Rajah *Mahatala Langit* to the three of them.

After that, they started packing, and then they came down to earth after getting themselves ready.

### **Negotiations**

Arriving on earth, Rajah Tunggal Sangumang, Darung Bawan, and Patahu tried to find out where they could meet the young men from human race who were well-known for their supernatural power, so that they could cooperate to handle giants Garahasi and Garahasa.

They then turned up in a village. They were in quandary about how to find the brave young men told by *Ranying Mahatala Langit*. Therefore, the three of them stopped and asked the villagers whom they met.

“Excuse us, gentlemen, the three of us are looking for Tumbang Pajangei Village. Is this the village we’re looking for?” asked Darung Bawan.



The villagers saw strangers who came to their village. They become alarmed, suspicious, and frightened.

“Oh no, it’s not, gentlemen. May we know who you are?”

“We are the messengers from *Ranying Mahatala Langit*. I am Rajah Sangumang, this is Darung Bawan, and the other one is Patahu,” told Rajah Tunggal Sanguman.

“Oh, I’m sorry. We had no idea that all of you are messengers of *Ranying Mahatala Langit*. Tumbang Pajangei Village you referred to is about three times the distance to our village,” answered the villagers.

“Wow, it means it is still far away, isn’t it?” Darung Bawan reacted.

“May we know why you would like to go to Tumbang Pajangei Village?” asked the villagers.

“We are looking for three supernaturally powerful young men: Rambang, Ringkai, and Sangen. Based on the news we heard, they could help us obliterate giants Garahasi and Garahasa,” said Rajah Tunggal Sangumang.

“Oh, the three of them! Yes, gentlemen. They are young men famous for their bravery and supernatural powers. It’s just that Tumbang Pajangei Village is quite farther,” replied the villagers.

“Oh, I see. Very well, we have to carry on the journey if so. Thank you for your information,” said Rajah Tunggal Sangumang.

“You’re welcome. We are pleased with your presence. We have great expectation that your presence will stop the giants from disturbing our lives,” lamented the villagers.

“It is true. We are scared the whole time, and sometimes we don’t have the courage to do anything,” said another villager.

“Okay, we will help you all as best we can. Now, we shall go to find the young men. Farewell!” said Rajah Tunggal Sangumang to the villagers.

“Excuse us, please wait for a minute!” shouted the villager as he rushed to get something.

“These are some food and fruits for your supplies during the trip. We are praying that you will successfully conquer the giants,” said the villagers.

“Oh, thank you very much!” replied Rajah Tunggal Sangumang and his friends. Then, they said goodbye and set off on their journey.

Rajah Tunggal Sangumang and his friends finally arrived at Tumbang Pajangei Village. Tumbang Pajangei Village was the name of a village located in the upstream/ the edge of Kahayan

River, Central Kalimantan. This village was a small village with not so large population around vast forest areas.

Rajah Tunggal Sangumang and his friends immediately tried to find Rambang, Ringkai, and Sangen. It was not very difficult to find the three young men, because they all villagers knew them for their supernatural powers.

Finally, Rajah Tunggal Sangumang and his companions gathered with Rambang, Ringkai, and Sangen in a particular place. Rajah Tunggal Sangumang then began to wholeheartedly speak about the intention of their visit to the three brothers.

“Gentlemen, we came to see you because *Ranying Hatala Langit* has heard what befell upon you for all this time. For this very reason, we were sent by *Ranying Hatala Langit* to help. But, we would like to ask you one more time:

“Is it true that the giants feed on humans?” asked Rajah Tunggal Sangumang, trying to investigate the truth about the news they heard.

“All is true, my brother. The two giants are husband and wife. They are huge, strong giants. Everybody became frightened whenever the giants came. We are desperate to find a way to handle those huge, vicious giants,” explained Rambang as he invited Rajah Tunggal Sangumang and his companions to enjoy the food and drinks presented.

“Do they come to earth every day or on particular days?” asked Darung Bawan.

“They do not come here every day, but if there is sunshower, they will certainly come down to earth,” responded Rambang.

“Oh I see. Do you know where they came down from, or how they came to earth?” asked Darung Bawan as he started to chew betel and areca nut provided by the villagers.

“As said by the people who had seen them, the giants came down from the sky through a hilltop or the top of a mountain with plenty of stones (Puruk Sanukui), located in the upstream of Kahayan River,” answered Rambang.

“Puruk Sanukui, where is it? It seems like I have just heard that name,” said Rajah Tunggal Sangumang.

Puruk Sanukui is located in the upstream of Kahayan River,” replied Rambang.

“I think that we should better find out the truth about Puruk Sanukui, thus we can determine what steps to take in the future,” said Rajah Tunggal Sangumang.

“Exactly, it will be difficult for us if we don’t know the truth,” said Darung Bawan.

For that reason, what if Rambang, Ringkai, and Sangen check and observe the existence of Puruk Sanukui in advance?” asked Rajah Tunggal Sangumang.

“Well, we are ready. First thing in the morning we would go to Puruk Sanukui because it is located quite far from here!” replied Rambang.

“Okay, maybe we should end the conversation to this point, my brothers. We better to have a rest now because we have so much to do tomorrow,” said Rajah Tunggal Sangumang as he stood up.

After hearing this, everyone who gathered in that place gave their approval and went on to have some rests.

Early in the morning, Rambang and his two brothers, Sangen and Ringkai, headed to Puruk Sanukui and observed that place. Thereafter, they went to a village nearby Puruk Sanukui. In that village, they asked the villagers about the truth to the story they heard.

“Excuse us, gentlemen. We are Rambang brothers who live in Tumbang Pajangei Village. We would like to ask whether giants Garahasa and Garahasi came down from the sky through Puruk Sanukui?” asked Rambang.

“Gosh, the three of you are the people famous for your supernatural power. It’s true, the giants came down via Puruk

Sanukui and they would get down here only during the sunshower,” said the villagers, as they were blown away for seeing the gallantry of Rambang, Ringkai, and Sangen.

“So if the story we heard is true; is there any of you who has ever climbed up Puruk Sanukui,” asked Rambang.

“Yes, there is, we once went up there but they did not make it to the sky because that *puruk* has very dense forests and many wild animals, so it was very difficult to reach the sky. After all, the villagers here are worrying if the giants suddenly come and prey on us,” told the villagers.

“Oh, I see. How do the giants look like?” asked Sangen.

Those giants are husband and wife. They have terribly frightening faces. They have huge, enormous and strong bodies. We do not have the bravery and nobody could fight them,” told the villagers.

“Ooh, that’s beyond horrible. All right, gentlemen, thank you for your information. We will directly inspect the situation around Puruk Sanukui,” said Rambang and his two brothers as they began to embark on their trip to Puruk Sanukui.

“Okay, gentlemen. May *Ranying Mahatala Langit* be with you,” responded the villagers in great hope that Rambang and his brothers would be able to defeat giants Garahasa and Garahasi.

Rambang, Ringkai, and Sangen then continued their journey. Once they reached Puruk Sanukui, they saw that Puruk Sanukui was a huge, towering hill. Big and dense trees grew around it.

After watching and observing the surroundings of that *puruk*, they quickly went back to Tumbang Pajangei Village to convey the information they had just obtained. The three of them moved so fast that they appeared to be hovering. And finally, they arrived at Tumbang Pajangei Village in the afternoon.

After hearing the arrival of Rambang, Ringkai, and Sangen, Rajah Tunggal Sangumang, Darung Bawan, and Patahu (spirits), the elders, and community leaders held a gathering in the village. They were discussing on how to defeat giants Garahasa and Garahasi.

“Gentlemen, we had seen Puruk Sanukui and questioned the villagers. It seems like giants Garahasi and Garahasa are invincible. They are very huge, strong, and vicious,” explained Rambang.

“Good grief, it’s bad. It means human beings might go extinct for being eaten by those giants,” said the elders.

Rambang then asked to Rajah Tunggal Sangumang.

“Sangumang, you have been sent by *Ranying Hatala Langit* to help us. Can you find a way to stop the giants from eating us?”

Rajah Tunggal Sangumang thought for a moment and said, “Beyond a doubt, we will lose if we fight these giants. It seems that the only way to do it is to cut down their pathway: Puruk Sanukui.”

Everyone at the place fell silent, and questions came to their minds. Then, one of the community leaders asked a question.

“How can we cut down that enormous Puruk Sanukui? I think we won’t be able to cut it down because that hill is terribly huge.”

Rambang then answered: “We can do it by incising it little by little. I think we won’t find problems if we cut Puruk Sanukui. But, if we cut it down at the bottom in a very large circle, then it seems rather difficult. It is why, I think, we have to make a staircase (*tangka*) or *para-para* to cut down Sanukui. And, using that staircase, we will get into a higher altitude, allowing us to cut Sanukui in its smaller perimeter. In this way, it will be rather easy for us to do so.”

“Well, you’ve got a point, Rambang,” replied the elders present at that place. Rajah Sangumang Tunggal, Darung Bawan, and Patahu also approved of Rambang’s idea.

“Very well, so now we have made agreement. Looks like tomorrow is a good day to do our work. What if we start doing the work tomorrow morning?” asked Rajah Tunggal Sangumang.



“We agree,” said everyone who was present at the time.

That very night, they selected the young men to help them cut Puruk Sanukui. They were known to be very brave. After that, they rushed to sleep so that they could wake up early in the morning with sufficient energy to face a great work.

### **Rambang and his Friends cut Puruk Sanukui**

On the following day, the villagers selected to cut Puruk Sanukui had themselves prepared. They brought in all kinds of supplies that might be needed there, such as *mandau* (a type of traditional sword of native Dayak tribe in Central Kalimantan), knives, and hatchets. Afterwards, they embarked on the journey to Puruk Sanukui.

After they reached Puruk Sanukui, they started to build a staircase or *para-para* to cut Puruk Sanukui. Some of them chopped the trees, be it the big ones and the small ones, to be made into poles and staircases. Others went to search for rattan to bind the poles and staircases together. Rattan is a climbing plant of which stems are usually used to make various goods or furniture (such as chairs, ropes, and bracelets).

They needed a large quantity of trees to build the staircase, and they got all of these from the trees growing nearby Puruk Sanukui.

They worked hand in hand and worked tirelessly to build the staircase. At last, just within days, they could finish the construction of the staircase.

Rambang saw that the staircase was finally finished.

“Well, we have finished building the staircase. My brother, Sangen, it would be nice of you to start cutting Puruk Sanukui,” ordered Rambang to his brother, Sangen.

Without talking much, Sangen picked up a *beliung* (a tool to cut trees, resembling a hatchet) and started to walk up the stairs to cut Puruk Sanukui.

But, what happened? No matter how deep the slash made by hatchet swung by Sangen, the slash mark in Sanukui Puruk healed to the way it was before, because the stones there were moving closer together to block off Sangen like living beings.

Sangen noticed that and said: “Good grief, if it goes on like this then I can’t do this. Until the end of time, I will never be able to cut this hill.”

Rambang who stood under the stair heard his brother’s complaint and asked: “What’s the matter, my brother?”

“I cannot cut this hill, my brother. Every time I’m cutting this hill, it always returns to its original shape.”

Rajah Tunggal Sangumang heard their conversation and then said: “Rambang, you cannot get someone else to do it because I sent you first; it was your idea anyway. So, you are the right person to start it.”

“All right, Sangumang, I will keep on trying to cut this hill,” said Rambang.

Rambang then began to climb the staircase and took the hatchet from his brother’s hand, Sangen. Before cutting Puruk Sanukui, Rambang prayed first to God, *Ranying Hatala Langit*. It turned out the stones fell to pieces when Rambang began to cut the hill.

“Wow, look at it. Rambang apparently managed to cut off Puruk Sanukui,” said the young men who were there to help. They were delighted to see such thing.

“Wow, Rambang apparently managed to cut off Puruk Sanukui. Come, we should help him,” said the people at that place.

After that, everyone picked up their hatchets and started to cut off the hill together. Based on the hearsay among the community, there were thirty-four brave, mighty young men from Tumbang Pajangei Village who helped Rambang, Ringkai, and Sangen to cut off Puruk Sanukui. They tirelessly worked to cut Puruk Sanukui from morning, noon, until nighttime.

In the long run, after three days, the center of that *puruk* left only a tiny bit of uncut part, but it was not going to collapse.

“It’s weird. What caused Puruk Sanukui not to fall down right away?” asked Darung Bawan.

Everybody got confused, prompting Rajah Tunggal Sangumang to try to find out about it. And then, he looked up.

“Although we nearly cut away Puruk Sanukui, it won’t fall off because its top end is being held by giants Garahasi and Garahasa,” told Rajah Tunggal Sangumang.

“No wonder then...!” said everyone there.

So, what else can we do to bring down Puruk Sanukui?” asked Rambang.

“All right. I hope everyone will stay away from Puruk Sanukui. Don’t come closer. I know the way to do it,” replied Darung Bawan.

After all of them got farther away from Puruk Sanukui, Darung Bawan, with all his might, kicked that *puruk* to the south.

Puruk Sanukui kicked by Darung Bawan was thrown far away until it reached the mouth of Katingan River. Katingan River was located very far away from Tumbang Pajangei Village because

Tumbang Pajangei Village was located on the upstream of Kahayan River.

Puruk Sanukui kicked by Darung Bawan to the mouth of Katingan River is now known as Batu Mandi, which is located close to Damar Island. Meanwhile, a piece of boulder fell not far from Puruk Sanukui, which is located around Tumbang Manange Village.

### **The Collapse of Puruk Sanukui**

After Darung Bawan successfully kicked Puruk Sanukui, there was no more stairway for giants Garahasi and Garahasa to come down to the earth/ the world with. Thus, the people were safe from giants Garahasi and Garahasa.

“Well, thank goodness, we are now free from those evil giants. They won’t be able to come down to earth and prey on us,” said the young men who helped cut off Puruk Sanukui. All of them were having fun and dance around.

“Yeah right, we no longer need to live in fear. We are free to either be inside or outside the house,” replied Ringkai.

“For this reason, we have to wish our gratitude to *Ranying Mahatala Langit* who had helped us through our brothers Rajah Tunggal Sangumang, Darung Bawan, and Patahu,” said Rambang to everyone who was present in that place.

“Absolutely, we would like to express our endless gratitude to our brothers, Rajah Tunggal Sangumang, Darung Bawan, and Patahu who had helped us,” said all of them as they shook hands with Rajah Tunggal Sangumang and his friends.

“Yes. We’d also like to thank all of you here. There’s no way we could do this without the help of all of you. Now, it seems like our job is done here. We must go back to nirvana to report everything to *Ranying Mahatala Langit*,” said Rajah Tunggal Sangumang as he approached Rambang and his brothers.

“All right, gentlemen. Our job is done here. We will immediately return to our hometown. See you, my brothers!” said Rambang.

Then, they parted ways. Rambang and his friends headed to Tumbang Pajangei Village, while Rajah Tunggal Sangumang, Darung Bawan, and Patahu set off to nirvana.

As for *kayangan* (nirvana), it was the living place of *Ranying Mahatala Langit*. Nirvana was a very beautiful, serene, peaceful place without any dispute, conflict, or warfare.

Something in contrast happened to giants Garahasi and Garahasa. They were very angry, and screamed when they learned that Puruk Sanukui had been successfully cut down.

“Arghhhhh, Puruk Sanukui has been cut off by the humans. How can we come down to earth again?” shouted giant Garahasi.

“Right, we can no longer prey on humans. I’m huuungry,”  
Garahasa screamed as well.

Giants Garahasi and Garahasa kept on screaming and regretting why they did not try harder to prevent Puruk Sanukui from falling off. But, there’s no use crying over spilt milk. They could only stare at humans from the sky.

Days went by. Then, those two giants got back on taking a stroll in the sky.

“Garahasi, let’s find another stair to get down to earth. I cannot wait to prey on humans again,” said giant Garahasa.

“Yeah right, Garahasa. I desperately want to prey on humans. I’m always trying to look around on the street, who knows there are other stairs to earth. But, up to this moment, I have not found one just yet,” replied giant Garahasi.

“My goodness, we will never ever be able to feed on humans again,” said giant Garahasa sadly.

“What we do every day is nothing but staring at humans from this sky.”

The two giants looked down to earth with an intense desire to prey on humans, but their wish did not come true, making them drooling over humans. People said that Garahasi and Garahasa’s saliva dripping onto the ground turned into leeches living on land

(*halimantek*), while those dripping into water turned into leeches living underwater (*jelau*). Leeches are a species of creeping, invertebrate creatures that suck on human blood.

### **The Remaining of the *Puruk* that fell down to Kahayan River**

Little did Rambang and the young men who managed to cut off Puruk Sanukui know that there was a boulder falling down nearby Puruk Sanukui, blocking off the water flow of Kahayan River that was located close to Tumbang Manange Village (now is known as Upun Batu Village).

Kahayan River had been blocked off by the *puruk*, making it impossible for the people to cross it. Even the fish living in Kahayan River could not freely swim to and fro as usual.

The fish in the Kahayan River were troubled by the boulder that blocked off their way. That was why they attempted to roll over the boulder en masse. They worked together to roll over that boulder.

“Good grief, this boulder has blocked our way, it will be difficult for us to swim back and forth like we used to,” said the fish around the boulder.

“Yeah right, why don’t we try to turnover that *puruk* together? It seems like we can do it,” suggested *belida* fish (knife fish)



“Yes together.” All the fish there agreed. They all gathered nearby that *puruk* boulder.

“1...2...3...lift,” shouted the big *tampahas*<sup>5</sup> (*wallago* catfish).

“Because of my tiny body, I will help to give command only. Go, Go, keep lifting,” shouted *balantau*<sup>6</sup> fish, giving cue.

All the fish there worked tirelessly and tried many kinds of ways to lift that boulder. But, they could not do a thing because that boulder did not move an inch. Instead, it was the fish which changed shapes.

Let’s take a look at the fish. *Belida*<sup>7</sup> even bended its back for pushing the boulder; *papuntin*<sup>8</sup> became slimy, as it was drenched in sweat, making them slimy until now. Meanwhile, the mouths of *tampahas* fish and *balantau* fish became permanently wide open from giving commands to other fish (but thank God their mouths were not ripped). There was also *jela*<sup>9</sup> that became flat like a leaf from being trampled over by other fish.

Apparently, the fish were not the only ones who felt troubled by that boulder, as the people living nearby Kahayan River did not feel uncomfortable as well.

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<sup>5</sup> Slightly flat-shaped, non-scaly, wide mouthed river fish.

<sup>6</sup> River fish with small scales and wide mouth.

<sup>7</sup> Hunchbacked, non-scaly, bony river fish.

<sup>8</sup> Non-scaly, slimy river fish.

<sup>9</sup> Flat-shaped river fish which looks like tongue.

In the olden days, the only public water transportation route was via Kahayan River. So, the surrounding community also felt disturbed because they could not travel via Kahayan River.

People who were about to return to their hometown must enter Halilit River, then Itik River, and then down to Borau River in the downstream of Batu Nyiwuh Village. In contrast, if one had intention to go downstream, they must enter Borau, and then down to Itik River, and finally to Halilit River. Borau River and Halilit River are tributaries to Kahayan River.

### **The Return of Rajah Tunggal Sangumang and Darung Bawan to Earth**

After spending a very long time in nirvana, Rajah Tunggal Sangumang and Darung Bawan wanted to see the earth/ the world and meet with Rambang and his brothers again. They then descended to earth/world, and headed to Tumbang Pajangei Village.

In Tumbang Pajangei Village, they met with Rambang, Ringkai, and Sangen again.

“My brothers, long time no see. It’s good to see you all again. How are you doing?” said Rajah Tunggal Sangumang to Rambang and his brothers.

“Exactly, brothers. We also miss Darung Bawan, too. We are doing just fine here, moreover now there are no giants preying on us,” replied Rambang.

“Well, thank goodness, then.”

“Come on in to our house. We would prepare meal for us all!” said Rambang as he invited his guests to enter his house.

They finally went into the house and started telling stories. As they were busy chatting, they were served with beverages and lime betel which was a typical tradition of the people in Central Kalimantan whenever they had guests. They were so eager to meet each other again. They exchanged stories of their lives after they did not see one another for so long.

“Gentlemen, please excuse us because there are still many things to do. If we have time in the future, we will come to visit this village again,” said Rajah Tunggal Sangumang.

“Why, what’s the rush, gentlemen? It seems we haven’t seen and chatted to each other long enough. Stay here for a day or two!”

“We are sorry. We actually would like to spend more time here, but there are still many things to do.”

“Oh, I see. Come back here later whenever you have the time!”

“Okay, we would come back here again sometime.”

“All right but before going home, you must bring packaged food for you to eat on the way,” told Rambang while preparing packaged food for Rajah Tunggal Sangumang and Darung Bawan.

“Thank you so much,” replied Rajah Tunggal Sangumang while shaking hands with Rambang and his brothers. Then Darung Bawan stood up.

Rambang gave *rambat* (a container than can be carried on one’s back) to each of them. That *rambat* contained mature *suli* fruits complete with its stalk attached to the trunk. *Suli* is a type of galangal plants with edible young fruits and trunks.

The trunk of the *suli* was one cubit long or half the size of one’s hand, as measured from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger. The sugarcane given was also at the same length.

Rajah Tunggal Sangumang and Darung Bawan still wanted to walk around the earth/ the world, and they wanted to see the condition of Kahayan River’s upstream after they cut Puruk Sanukui down.

Then, they walked down the river and arrived nearby a village, Tumbang Manange Village, or now known as Upun Batu Village. Both of them stopped, then sat back to relax while chewing sugarcane.

When they were enjoying the view, all of a sudden Rajah Tunggal Sangumang said, “Hey, Darung, look! Isn’t that boulder is actually the piece of *puruk* that you once kicked? It fell not far from Puruk Sanukui!”

“Is that true? Let’s take a look closer,” replied Darung Bawan.

Then, the two of them approached the place.

“Wow, it’s indeed true and this boulder is blocking off Kahayan River,” said Darung Bawan.

They both watched the activity of the people around Kahayan River. The people who did not bother to take the route via Halilit River and Borau River immediately swapped boats nearby the boulder.

“Gee, I feel sorry for the people around this place, and the fish living underwater. They must have been unable to go downstream or upstream. It’s the result of our action in the past,” said Rajah Tunggal Sangumang.

“That’s right, it was because we did not carefully check whether or not there was a boulder that fell and blocked off Kahayan River,” said Darung Bawan. They were sorry for causing trouble to the surrounding community.

“Let’s finish our unfinished work,” said Rajah Tunggal Sangumang.

Darung Bawan immediately jumped into Kahayan River, lifted that *puruk* boulder, then put it on the riverbank, but the boulder was rolling again. Darung Bawan once again lifted it to the river's edge.

“Sangumang, please help me!” said Darung Bawan while panting because the boulder was so heavy. Upon hearing that, Rajah Tunggal Sangumang jumped in to approach him. He subsequently propped it up with two segments of sugarcane he was chewing.

“Gee, apparently the sugarcane I'm using to prop it up isn't strong enough,” told Rajah Tunggal Sangumang while holding the boulder so as to not fall down again. Both of them were thinking about the way to prop that boulder up.

“Then, why don't we just use all of *suli* trunks in the *rambat* to prop it up?” asked Darung Bawan.

“Well, that's a good idea. Bring those *suli* trunks here and prop this boulder up,” instructed Rajah Tunggal Sangumang. Darung Bawan then took the entire *suli* trunks and used them as a wedge. Once and for all, they managed to prop the boulder up, thus preventing it from rolling ever again.

### **The Name of Puruk Batu Suli**

In the present time, the remaining piece of Puruk Sanukui that was propped up with *suli* trunks and sugarcane by Rajah Tunggal

and Darung Bawan turned into stone, and so did the entire trunks and sugarcane they used. Thereby, the remaining piece of this *puruk* was named Puruk Batu Suli as it was being propped up with *suli* trunks.

Nowadays, we can clearly see Puruk Batu Suli if we pass along Kahayan River. Puruk Batu Suli appears to be tilted because it was propped up with *suli* trunks and sugarcane. Puruk Batu Suli is located in the headwater of Upun Batu Village that is included in the territory of Tewah District, Gunung Mas Regency. Puruk Batu Suli is located next to Puruk Amai Rawang. The people outside Upun Batu Village frequently suspect that Puruk Amai Rawang is actually Puruk Batu Suli because Puruk Amai Rawang is way bigger than Puruk Batu Suli. Puruk Batu Suli appears clearer when the river water starts to recede. And it is the end of the story of *Puruk* Batu Suli that comes from the folklore of Central Kalimantan.

## Glossary

1. **Batu Nindan Tarung Liang Angkar Batilung Nyaring:**  
The name of the sky where Maharajah Bunu lives.
2. **Ranying Mahatala Langit or Ranying:** God in the belief of the Dayak Ngaju tribe.
3. **puruk:** a hill or rocky mountain.
4. **patahu:** spirits
5. **tampahas:** slightly flat-shaped, non-scaly, wide mouthed river fish.
6. **balantau:** river fish with small scales and wide mouth.
7. **belida:** hunchbacked, non-scaly, bony river fish.
8. **papuntin:** non-scaly, slimy river fish.
9. **jela:** Flat-shaped river fish which looks like tongue.