

**THE BEAUTIFUL WOMAN AND THE
SLANDEROUS MINISTERS**
Si Cantik dan Mentri Hasut

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THE BEAUTIFUL WOMAN AND THE SLANDEROUS MINISTERS

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THE BEAUTIFUL WOMAN AND THE SLANDEROUS MINISTERS

Mahsyud Hak Seeks A Wife

Once there was a fishing village located within the land of Wakat. The land was governed by a king named King Wadirah, renowned far and wide for his wisdom. He had four ministers who also served as his teachers. One day, when King Wadirah was having an audience with the four teachers, the king said, "O my ministers, I have heard of Mahsyud Hak's wisdom. I want to appoint him as minister so that he may aid us and this kingdom."

One of the older ministers, Ajsam, said, "Yes, my Lord, I move that before Mahsyud Hak is allowed inside the palace, we must test him first."

Minister Ajdewan said, "That's right, my Lord. We do not yet know whether Mahsyud Hak is truly wise. We must put him to the test. Don't you agree, Lord Ajpakan and Lord Ajdewanda?"

The other two ministers agreed, "Yes, my Lord, Lord Ajsam and Lord Ajdewan are correct." After hearing their council, King Wadirah agreed with them. After the audience, the king returned to the palace.

The four teachers plotted a devious ruse to ensure that Mahsyud Hak would never set foot in the palace. They were afraid that Mahsyud Hak would rival them.

Yet, despite the ministers' efforts, Mahsyud Hak succeeded and was appointed as the king's minister. In fact, the king came to regard him as he would his own son. After Mahsyud Hak had served for seven years, King Wadirah and Queen Marika Dewi sought to wed Mahsyud Hak with whichever princess or minister's daughter whom he fancied. The king summoned Mahsyud Hak. "My dear Mahsyud Hak, are you ready to take a wife? I will betroth you to a princess or minister's daughter of your choice," said King Wadirah.

"Your Majesty Shah Alam, you have bestowed on me many bounties. But, with Your Majesty's blessing, I would like to find a wife on my own," said Mahsyud Hak as he genuflected before the king.

"All right, if that's what you want. I shall grant your request. Go now, and find your future wife," said King Wadirah with a smile.

"Please grant me leave so that I may take the time to pursue this," said Mahsyud Hak as he stood to excuse himself.

"All right, I will allow it."

Mahsyud Hak bowed to show respect before the king, then set off to make preparations.

The next day, Mahsyud Hak left the palace wearing a *derji*, an attire customarily worn by tailors in the kingdom. He carried with him several pots. Some were filled with patchwork fabric, yarn and needles. One pot contained rice grains made of ivory. He slung the pots over his shoulder and walked out of the city, stopping to eat only when someone had need of his services.

Almost a month had passed after he set out to find the woman who would be his wife. But, he had yet to find his heart's desire. One day, he came upon a beautiful girl. She was tall and lithe. She had the look of one who lived in simplicity and yet her piercing glance betrayed a cunning wit. She was about fourteen years old. He asked the girl.

"Hello beautiful, what is your name?"

"My name is the undying," answered the beautiful girl.

Hearing such an answer, Mahsyud Hak smiled. Her answer showed her wisdom. He asked again, "O Miss, where are you going?"

"I'm going to take some rice to a man accompanying two."

Mahsyud Hak understood that the girl was about to pay a condolence visit to a deceased person. Then he asked again,

“What do you have to do with the man accompanying two?”

"That's what I do at home," said the girl, meaning that the deceased person was still her parent's relative.

"Where is your house, Miss?" Mahsyud Hak asked again.

"My house is to the north," the girl replied.

"What's the sign of your house?" Mahsyud Hak asked.

"My house is near the two scattered temples and there are two large earthenware jars. That's the sign," the girl explained where her house was.

Mahsyud Hak did not understand what she said, but said nothing. He asked again, "When will you come back?"

"If my friend comes soon, I'll come back late. However, if my friend does not come soon, I will return soon."

Mahsyud Hak did not understand her reply, but he did not say anything. Mahsyud Hak continued his journey toward the port. The girl also resumed her journey. Mahsyud Hak met the tide and thought, "This is what the girl means."

He continued walking until he came to a village with many houses. On one side of a house, there were two drying racks for nets and two *jemalaka* trees. Seeing this, Mahsyud Hak came to

realize what the girl meant by two scattered temples and two large earthenware jars. He came to the house. There was an old woman sitting at the door of the house.

"Maybe that is her mother," Mahsyud Hak thought and then greeted her.

"Where do you come from to here, young man?" asked the old woman.

"I met your daughter on the street. She was bringing some rice. I see that she matches me very well. Therefore. I come here to ask for your daughter's hand in marriage," said Mahsyud Hak.

Hearing the proposal of the *derji* (tailor), the old woman fell silent. She looked at Mahsyud Hak, thinking, "My people work in the fields. If I accept this *derji*'s proposal, there will be a little glory from people who work in the ports (fishermen) and people who work in the fields. If so, I won't mind taking this *derji* (tailor) as my son-in-law."

"Oh, did you meet Citatah? I have told her to bring rice to his brother. Come on in here," she said.

"Oooo ... her name is Citatah," he told himself as he went inside. Mahsyud Hak gave the ivory rice to Citatah's mother. She cooked the rice. However, after being cooked for a long time, the rice remained uncooked.

Not long afterward, beautiful Citatah arrived home. She saw her mother cooking rice, but the rice remained uncooked. Then Citatah examined the rice. Apparently, the rice was made of ivory. The beautiful girl immediately took real good rice and cooked it.

After the rice was cooked, Mahsyud Hak gave three limes to be cooked into three kinds of curries. He told Citatah that the lime's skin was to be cooked into spicy curry, its flesh into fatty curry, and its seeds into sour curry. After cooking, Citatah served the rice and the curries to Mahsyud Hak. Although their tastes were very delicious, he pretended not to like them by eating only a little. Then, he poured the rest over Citatah's head while saying, "Your cooking was too tasteless!"

He wanted to try Citatah's heart and her mother's. If Citatah got angry, he would leave and not marry her. Citatah was not angry. Instead, she took a lime-juice bath in the river.

Then, Mahsyud Hak ordered Citatah to cook starch. After cooking, Citatah served it to Mahsyud Hak. Mahsyud Hak ate it only a little and spilt the rest over Citatah's head. Citatah did not get angry. Citatah's mother was about to get angry, but Citatah restrained her from getting angry because she had allowed herself to take this *derji* (tailor) as her son-in-law. She thought, "If I get angry, this *derji* will go away. In fact, he is willing to marry my daughter. I shall restrain myself. Hopefully my daughter will be

happy to marry this *derji*."

Seeing Citatah and her mother manage to restrain themselves, Mahsyud Hak become contented. If he went to seek some wages, he would give the earnings to Citatah's mother. "I am at your service, Ma'am," he said.

"How am I supposed to accept your proposal while Citatah's father has not come home yet from the port?" replied Citatah's mother.

When Citatah's father arrived home, her mother said, "This *derji* asks to be at our service and pledges himself to us." Citatah's father agreed to take the *derji* as his son-in-law. Mahsyud Hak was contented and gave them a hundred dinars of gold.

"You allow me to marry Citatah. However, I am not going to get married here. I will take her to my country and marry her there, in the presence of both my father and my mother." "Son, I allow you to bring Citatah to your country."

"If you allow me, I will return soon to my home country because I have left my parents for quite a long time."

The next day, early in the morning the two engaged persons were preparing to go to the land of Wakat. Mahsyud Hak said to Citatah's both parents, "When I marry, I will send someone to fetch you. Now we're leaving. We ask for your blessing."

Citatah also asked her parents for their blessing. "Father, I ask your permission to join my fiancé in returning to his home country. I ask you for your blessing. May God join us again," said Citatah as she kissed her father's hand and approached her mother.

"Mother, pray for me. May God still reunite us someday," said Citatah as she hugged her and kissed her hand.

Citatah's mother fell speechless with sadness. She stammered, "My daughter, be good in other people's country. Follow your husband's words because he is your parents' substitution."

Mahsyud Hak was touched to see the two women who would be separated. Then he took the pots and handed them to Citatah. In addition, he also provided an umbrella and socks for Citatah to test her versatility. Citatah took the two things, but decided not to use them immediately. After some time walking, they were blocked on a river. Citatah asked the *derji*.

"My Lord, shall we cross this river?" "Yes," his answer was brief.

Citatah immediately wore the socks for fear of exposure to animals in the water. Mahsyud Hak was contented because it turned out that Citatah was really clever.

He looked in the river, then asked Citatah, "Is this river deep?"

"Please ask the one in front of you," said Citatah.

Hearing Citatah's answer, Mahsyud Hak smiled because what she meant was the stick he was holding. He guessed the depth of the river with the assistance of the stick. Apparently, the river was not so deep.

"Just up to my knees," said Mahsyud Hak, bringing the stick closer to his feet. They crossed the river and continued on their journey. A few hours later, they began to enter the forest. Citatah soon opened the umbrella to avoid thorns and wood. Mahsyud Hak smiled to see the ingenuity of his future wife.

After a while, they met a guava tree with plenty of ripe fruits. Mahsyud Hak climbed up the guava tree. He ate the guava and stored some in his cloth. From above the tree he asked, "Do you want to eat warm or cold guava?"

"I want to eat warm guava." Mahsyud Hak immediately dropped the guava fruits into the sand. Citatah picked up the guavas in the sand. She patted the guavas to remove the sand. Then, she ate warm guavas which had been just exposed to warm sand. After eating, they continued the journey.

Citatah In the Land of Wakat

A few days had passed. They arrived at the edge of a city in the land of Wakat. Mahsyud Hak said, "Stay here. I will tell my family to come and welcome you."

"All right, I'll wait in this place."

Masyud Right went home. He sent for a handsome housekeeper. He told the young man to wear beautiful clothes and meet Citatah.

"Go out of the city. There is a woman sitting on a tree's root. Tell her you want to marry her. It's up to you to persuade her."

Mahsyud Hak's errand boy went out of town. He saw a beautiful girl sitting. He thought, "Perhaps, this is the girl my Lord Mahsyud Hak meant."

"Hi beautiful lady, where are you coming from?"

"I come with my fiancé, a *derji*," Citatah replied.

"Where's your fiancé?" the boy asked.

"Now he is going into town. He is coming home to call his family to welcome me," Citatah replied. "Do you know about the *derji*?" Citatah shook her head.

"He is a deceitful *derji*. He often sells women here. The women were taken from various places. I do not know how many tens of women he has sold. I hear that now he has kept a woman. He has taken gold money from a priest. I am told by the priest to see you. If I report to him, he will redeem it," said the young man.

"So? Do you still want to wait for the *derji*?"

"I do not want to hear your words," Citatah replied.

"Well, it's a shame that you have been cheated by that *derji*. As long as the *derji* is not here yet, let's go together. I will marry you because I'm not married yet," said the young man teasingly.

"I do not believe you, Sir. Even if I will be sold, I will accept it willingly. I do not want to change my loyalty to him because this is already my father's and my mother's will. After all, how great my sin will be if I dare to defy my parents. I do not want to move from this place," Citatah said.

The young man continued to persuade Citatah with spoiled words. However, Citatah was not distracted. She still sat there.

"I was told to sit here until he comes," Citatah said.

The young man left Citatah after failing to persuade her. He went home to report all Citatah's words to Mahsyud Hak.

"I'll get a loyal wife like Citatah," the errand boy told himself. Then, Mahsyud Hak ordered ten women to persuade Citatah and bring her home. They met Citatah.

"Where did you come from?" asked a woman.

"Since yesterday, I have seen you sitting here," said another.

"Are you running away?" another woman asked her again.

"Perhaps you have done something evil," said another woman.

"Since yesterday I've seen you sitting here without moving."

"I am not a runaway nor a bad person. I'm the fiancé of this hamlet *derji*. My fiancé told me to stay here. He is coming home to have his family come to fetch me. Since yesterday, he has not appeared. Why, I do not know," Citatah informed the women.

"You will be married to our priest," said one of the women.

"Let's go to his house. The *derji* has gone. He will not come again. You'd better go with us to our priest's house."

"I do not want to do so. If I'm to be taken to your priest's house, wait for my fiancé to come. I'll go there only if with him."

The ten women still persuaded Citatah to leave with them. However, Citatah could not be persuaded. She still sat there waiting for her fiancé.

The women became impatient. One of them said, "Do not say much! Let us take you to our priest."

"Do not force me. If my fiancé has come, then you can take me to your priest." Citatah begged for mercy. However, they did not care about Citatah's remarks. She was taken to Mahsyud Hak's house.

At that time, Mahsyud Hak was being confronted by 300 people. He was wearing his full dress uniform complete with his diamond. One of the women brought Citatah to Mahsyud Hak.

"I got a woman in the outside of town. Whether she is a good woman or a bad one, I do not know. Since yesterday, she has just sat under a wooden tree. I brought her here."

Mahsyud Hak told a woman to investigate Citatah for fear that she might recognize his voice. "Hi beautiful girl, what's your name? Where did you come from? What's your purpose of coming to this place?"

"I'm a fisherman's daughter. I am here with my fiancé, a *derji*. After arriving at the outside of the town, the *derji* ordered me to stay where I had been sitting. Since yesterday till today, he has not come back yet. Perhaps he got into trouble," Citatah replied.

"Hi, beautiful girl, try to look inside! Is your fiancé there?" asked the woman again. Citatah looked into the room where Mahsyud Hak was confronted by ministers. When she saw Mahsyud Hak, she said to the woman, "My fiancé is not here, but the priest resembles very much my fiancé, the *derji*. It is not possible for a

derji to be a priest. Why is the priest unwilling to look at me?"

Though the priest's face resembled very much the *derji*'s, Citatah was convinced that it was not the *derji*, her fiancé.

Hearing Citatah's answer, the women said, "If your fiancé is not in the crowd, then you are deliberately lying."

The women reported to Mahsyud Hak that the woman did not see her fiancé in the audience hall. Then Mahsyud Hak ordered the women to put Citatah in a small house.

Inside the house, Citatah was investigated again. Whatever the women asked, Citatah always told the truth. Mahsyud Hak told someone to bring food and clothing to Citatah. The person said to Citatah, "Eat this food! It is from a sixteen-year-old minister. He has not been married yet. His parents have proposed to many daughters of kings and ministers, but he does not like them. Right now you are the one he chooses to be his wife. He told me to deliver this food."

Hearing that, Citatah cried and slapped her head.

"I've been handed over by my father and mother to a *derji*. Therefore, the *derji* is my future husband. The other man is my father."

"The *derji* is gone. You'd better marry the minister!"

"No! Dead or alive, I will not turn away from that *derji*. I have been engaged to him," said Citatah.

The person had persuaded Citatah to accept the minister. However, Citatah still did not want to. "If you still refuse to marry the minister, please do not reject my request. Eat this food!"

Citatah still did not want to. She did not even take a glance at the food, let alone eating it. Citatah cried for seven days. She just ate the food she had prepared before, little by little. The person reported Citatah's condition to Mahsyud Hak. Mahsyud Hak was contented because he was sure that Citatah would not turn to other men than the *derji*.

The next morning, Mahsyud Hak wore *derji* clothes, carrying pots on his shoulders. He walked slowly to the side of the little house. Seeing the *derji*, Citatah immediately went out and came down from the house. She lay prone at the *derji*'s foot, weeping. "Why are you so slow to find me?"

"Upon arriving home, I fell sick. That is why I'm so slow to find you. Why are you at this place?" asked Mahsyud Hak, pretending not to know anything. "Aren't you supposed to be on the side of the road under a wooden tree?" Mahsyud Hak asked again.

Citatah grew sadder and cried more bitterly. Stammering, she told him about the incidents from the time he left her alone, without reducing or adding to the smallest. Mahsyud Hak was sad to see

Citatah's condition, but actually he was very happy because Citatah was proven to be a very loyal woman. He took Citatah's hand and kissed it. He led Citatah to his house.

Arriving at Mahsyud Hak's house, Citatah was surprised to see a big and nice house.

She was told to enter a big room fully furnished.

"Apparently Mahsyud Hak is a great and wise man," Citatah thought. "His house is big and spacious. He has many servants. In front of the house, two security guards stand ready to protect. Who is he really?"

Citatah wondered as she pondered what happened to her. She was still paying close attention to the room appointed by Mahsyud Hak. She hesitated to enter. Seeing that, Mahsyud Hak asked, "What do you think?"

"I just want to know, who are you really?"

"I'm a *derji* when I'm seeking for a wife."

"Are you really a *derji*?" "What do you mean by such a question?"

"Yes, are you really a *derji*?" "Yes, indeed, I'm a *derji* when I'm seeking for you," replied Mahsyud Hak with a smile. "You're mocking me."

"No! I was a *derji* when I met you. So was I when I was in your house until we parted outside the town. Even right now I'm still a *derji*," said Mahsyud Hak.

"So, who are you if you're not a *derji*?" Citatah asked curiously. She began to grasp Mahsyud Hak's words. Mahsyud Hak pretended not to hear.

"Take a shower first! After we eat, I will meet the king," said Mahsyud Hak leaving Citatah in the room.

Citatah was not satisfied with Mahsyud Hak's answer. She took a shower and changed her clothes. Afterward, they dined together, served by the servants. After dinner, Mahsyud Hak told her, "Stay here for a moment. I will meet the king. I will talk about our marriage."

"My Lord, it seems to me that you're a priest. Why do not you tell the truth to me and my parents?"

"That's the way I'm looking for a wife. I want to have a wife who really loves me for what I am. A loyal, beautiful and intelligent wife," said Mahsyud Hak with a smile.

Citatah bowed her head in embarrassment and was full of happiness to get a good, high-ranking husband with a good and wise character. She thanked God for having granted her a good soul mate.

Seeing Citatah just bowed her head, Mahsyud Hak understood what was in her mind. He invited Citatah to look around his house.

Citatah Gets Married

Citatah look around Mahsyud Hak's house. She arrived at the audience hall in the front of Mahsyud Hak's house. The hall was huge. No one had arrived there yet, only the servants were cleaning it. The chairs and tables in the hall were plenty. The chairs were placed in order, flanking a bigger, nicer chair. In front of the chairs was a rug used for the seats of the lay people. Seeing the hall, Citatah frowned. It seemed that she was once taken into this hall by some women. Remembering that, she looked at Mahsyud Hak who was still dressed in *derji* clothes, and thought, "This *derji* is the same as the man sitting on the big chair. However, it is unlikely that this *derji* is the priest that I saw yesterday. Apparently they resemble each other. Yes, yes ... when the women took me to a place. The place seemed like some kind of an audience hall. Well, like this one," Citatah said suddenly. Mahsyud Hak smiled at Citatah's sudden words. Citatah was surprised to see his smile.

"I wonder if this *derji* is the priest whom I saw." Citatah wanted to make sure of her allegation. "Are you the priest in this house?"

"Right. Do you think I do not deserve to be a priest?"

"I didn't say that, but why don't you just tell me the truth?"

"I already told you. I want to find a wife who, in addition of being beautiful, is also clever and wise, especially a woman who is loyal to her husband. Is there anything else you want to ask?"

"No! Just ... I have been brought to this place by some women. Two days ago? Yes ... at that time I saw you, as priest. At that moment you were being confronted by approximately 300 people. I was investigated by a woman, then taken to the little house."

"Did you not recognize me at the time?"

"I did see that you were like a *derji*, but I did not think that the *derji* was you. How could a *derji* become a priest?"

Mahsyud Hak smiled. He was very happy because his future wife was proved to be a wise and faithful woman. Then, Mahsyud Hak said, "Stay for a moment in this house. I will go to the king to report many things about you."

Mahsyud Hak went out and left Citatah. He walked to the palace.

Arriving at the palace, he lay prostrate at the feet of the king and Queen Marika Dewi. "I come to pay homage to Your Majesty."

The king smiled to see Mahsyud Hak coming. He said, "My dear son Mahsyud Hak, have you found your wife as you wish?"

“Thanks to your blessing, I’ve found her, my Lord. Right now my future wife is in my house. I have brought her here. We both want to get married here,” said Mahsyud Hak while lying prostrate.

"I will prepare for your marriage," said the king with a smile.

Queen Marika Dewi was very happy because her relative would get married.

"I also expect your blessing and your prayer, Lord Shah Alam. If not both Your Majesties, whom else should I expect?" said Mahsyud Hak to the king and his queen.

"Is there any request for this marriage?" The king asked Mahsyud Hak.

Mahsyud Hak nodded his head while lying prostrate. “Please, my Lord, if you permit, I want my both parents-in-law to witness my marriage. Besides, I also have promised to have people pick them up.”

The king agreed with the plan. He sent some security guards to fetch Citatah's parents. Mahsyud Hak also prepared a hundred people along with elephants and horses. He also prepared two large and beautiful board houses.

The people who were sent to pick up his future parents-in-law walked with all the sounds.

Not long afterward, the group of people who were sent to fetch his future parents-in-law arrived at the fishing village where Mr. Jala and his wife lived. The arrival of the group from Wakat Kingdom caused a commotion for people in the fishing village. They were shocked and astonished to watch the crowd coming up with elephants and horses. They wondered among themselves, 'Who will the king take?'

Finally, they saw the group go to Mr. Jala's house. Citatah's mother was surprised to see the group entering her yard.

"Is this group the messengers from Citatah's husband?" she thought. 'How happy my daughter is. Maybe the *derji* is a king's son or a very important person too.'

They entered Citatah's mother's house. "I come here by King Wadirah's order. Both your children Mahsyud Hak and Citatah pay their great respect to you both, Sir and Ma'am. Both of you, Sir and Ma'am, are invited to our country because the king himself will marry your two children."

Both Citatah's parents were very happy to hear the words of the group that picked them up. They were preparing themselves to go to the city of Wakat country. The group who picked them up immediately set off bringing Citatah's parents to Wakat country. When the group arrived outside the city of the country, Mahsyud Hak was ready to welcome his future parents-in-law.

Their arrival was heard by the king. He sent two security guards and two hundred people to welcome Mahsyud Hak's parents-in-law. Both the security guards and the welcoming people immediately brought Mahsyud Hak's parents-in-law into the board house that had been prepared before.

Queen Madika Dewi immediately ordered people to deliver beautiful clothes and all the house equipment with servants.

The king told the servants, "Tell Mahsyud Hak's future parents-in-law that I will marry their daughter to Mahsyud Hak."

Citatah's parents were very happy to hear that the king would marry their daughter to Mahsyud Hak. They turned to King Wadirah and his queen.

Citatah's father and mother prostrated themselves to pay homage to both the king and the queen.

"Excuse us my Lord. Let us both, lowly people, pay homage to Your Majesty."

"I accept your homage. How are you both, Sir and Ma'am?"

"We both are well, my Lord. We are blessed with your love because Your Majesty is pleased to receive us both."

"It's a must that I invite you. Your daughter is going to marry my son Mahsyud Hak, isn't she? I will marry my son Mahsyud Hak

to your daughter. Starting today, all preparations for the celebration have been completed.

Hearing the king's words, Citatah's mother said, "Do not say so, Your Majesty. I'm only a servant. How happy we are to accept Mahsyud Hak as our son-in-law because originally we are just people living in forest. We are very happy because we've received these great bounties. This all happens because of our future son-in-law Mahsyud Hak the wise man. He exalts us, two despicable people."

Having met with the king and the queen, both Citatah's parents returned to the board house provided by Mahsyud Hak.

From then on, the king told his people to assemble. Security guards were ordered to collect all the games. All kinds of musical instruments were played by people to celebrate the marriage of Mahsyud Hak to Citatah.

All sorts of games were set ready there. Many kinds of games, ranging from dexterity competitions, such as playing swords, martial arts, until cockfight games were crowded by many people. The arts of dancing and singing were also presented on stages provided by the king. All the people were served with plenty of great food for seven days and seven nights. Invitations were sent to all corners of the kingdom, including to its colonies.

The invited guests from neighboring countries who heard the

marriage of Mahsyud Hak began to arrive. They wanted to see the great marriage. Queen Marika Dewi told people to bring silver, gold, and clothes to Mahsyud Hak and Citatah. People were happy to welcome their prominent figures who would soon get married. They brought buffaloes, cows, goats, cattle, chickens, and ducks to be donated.

Farmers brought vegetables and spices to be cooked and eaten together. In addition, many gifts other than food were also brought, such as clothing and gems, both from royal officials, friends, and dignitaries from neighboring countries and colonies. Everything was reserved for the celebration of the bride and the groom.

Mahsyud Hak wore a golden full dress, a Bugi clothes embroidered with golden thread. His headdress was also made of soft, golden velvet. His overall appearance looked really dashing. The bride was also wearing a golden dress.

Wearing crowns embroidered with quality gems, wearing earrings, necklaces, and bracelets composed with many kinds of quality diamonds, and wearing special sandals with golden color, the bride and the groom sat side by side like a god and a goddess.

Many invited guests brought gifts for them. Masyud Hak had the gifts collected because they would be distributed to the poor.

After seven days and seven nights, at a good time, the king

married Mahsyud Hak to Citatah. After the marriage, they lived in joy and loved one another.

Mahsyud Hak is Slandered

Mahsyud Hak's and Citatah's married life ran smoothly. They lived in peace and harmony. They both loved and were loyal to each other. The king became fonder of Mahsyud Hak whose wife was beautiful, intelligent, and wise. The envy of the king's four teachers had increased since Mahsyud Hak's arrival to the country because of Mahsyud Hak's good luck. They always tried to disgrace Mahsyud Hak.

One day at the royal reception hall, King Wadirah was being confronted by ministers and security guards. He asked Mahsyud Hak, "My son Mahsyud Hak and the four teachers, if anyone has a secret, should others know it?"

"No, my Lord Shah Alam. If we have secrets, nobody should know them. If possible, our knees and bone joints should not know them either," replied Mahsyud Hak. Minister Ajsam who heard Mahsyud Hak's answer did not agree because he had other reasons. "My Lord Shah Alam, I think Mahsyud Hak gave that statement because he has many relatives. Even your brother has family relationship with him. In my opinion, he is about to disobey you, My Lord. That is why he said that any secret should be kept hidden from you. This respect of mine is only with a lie.

In fact, I have presented the truth.”

Hearing Minister Ajsam’s respect, King Wadirah felt there was truth in his words. As a result, the King got angry with Mahsyud Hak, but he kept it unnoticed. However, the wise Mahsyud Hak knew that the king was angry with him.

When the king entered the palace, the four teachers sat in the hall. They did not know that Mahsyud Hak was sitting on a throne not far from them. They thought Mahsyud Hak had gone home. Not long afterward, King Wadirah sent a man to deliver the royal letter and sword to the four teachers. The letter read as follows, "Tomorrow, early in the morning when Mahsyud Hak has not arrived yet, you four shall enter first, waiting for Mahsyud Hak. You should negotiate behind the door. If Mahsyud Hak is about to enter, kill him.”

How pleased the four teachers were to read the contents of the letter. One of them said, “Now the king listens to us four and blames Mahsyud Hak for hiding secrets. Tomorrow morning we are told to cut his neck off. If Mahsyud Hak is dead, there will be no one above us.” Thus, that was the conversation among the four teachers.

"Oh yes, there should be no secret among us. Therefore, it is fitting that Senior Asjam as the oldest of us tells us first his secret.”

"I keep a gem which belonged to the ancient king. All jewelers say that the gem is priceless. The only one who knows that I have the gem is my mother. When I'm about to have an audience with the king, I'll take a close look at the gem first. The king always fulfills any will of mine. Now it's Minister Ajdewan's turn to tell his secret."

"I have a secret with an immoral woman. She was rich and had several ships. Some skippers who played around with her were stripped of their wealth by this immoral woman. I told someone to kill her. She was tied to a large rock and drowned. I took away her enormous wealth. No one knows this secret of mine. I have told my secret. Now which Minister's turn is it to tell his secret?"

"I have an ulcer on my right thigh. The ulcer causes pus and a very foul odor. It's been incurable for a long time. Every day, my wife rips a bad cloth to wrap my thigh so that the odor will not be spread and smelled by people. Especially, I do not want the king to smell it because we always sit close to the king and the assembly. Only my wife knows this secret. Well, the three of us have told each other's secrets. Now Minister Ajdewanda, as the youngest, must also tell his secret."

"OK. I contract a disease called epilepsy. The disease comes only once a month, recurring at the time of full moon. No one knows my sickness, except my son," Ajdewanda said, looking left and right.

"Is anyone else listening to our conversation? Do not let Mahsyud Hak know our secrets," said Minister Ajdewanda. "Ah, he will not hear us."

The hall was quiet after the four teachers left the room. Mahsyud Hak went home. He thought of the king's letter containing the order to kill him.

That night, the king was restless. He was genuinely affectionate to Mahsyud Hak, but also influenced by the four teachers' remarks. Queen Marika Dewi was very surprised to see the king was very restless. He sat down for a moment, then went to lie down on the bed. However, the king still could not sleep. His eyes just stared at the ceiling in the room. His hands propped up his head. A few moments later the king rose. He paced back and forth in the bedroom.

Seeing the king's attitude like that, Queen Marika Dewi asked, "Is there anything making you unable to sleep? Is there anything that's troubling you?"

"I have sent a letter to the four teachers. I ordered them to kill Mahsyud Hak tomorrow morning. I am nervous because I'm very dear to Mahsyud Hak. He is a wise and prudent man. However, because he is about to rebel against us, I've told someone to kill him with the royal sword. That's what I'm going to talk about and what makes me restless."

"Because he is about to rebel against us, he should be killed. Even if I rebel, there will be no need to let me live, let alone my relatives."

Hearing Queen Marika Dewi's words like that, the king was consoled. He was lulled and then fell asleep. Queen Marika Dewi immediately ordered people to deliver food for Mahsyud Hak. In the food was inserted a letter stating the king's order to kill him. Having read the letter, Mahsyud Hak thought in his heart, "If I come early in the morning before the four teachers, I will be spared from the slash of the royal sword. I'll come up somewhat late in the morning to keep myself from the disaster."

The next day, the four teachers came to the king. At around high noon, Mahsyud Hak came with his people from another door.

When he arrived at the audience hall, he saw the king with Queen Marika Dewi. Seeing Mahsyud Hak coming, the king said, "Why did you come at such a high noon? Why have you not entered from the door provided?"

"I beg thousands of pardons, my Lord Shah Alam. If I came to you entering from that same door, I would surely lose my life. If I die, I will not be able in the future to carry out the duties you impose on me," said Mahsyud Hak while prostrating himself before the king.

Hearing Mahsyud Hak's excuse, the king glanced at Queen

Marika Dewi. "If not the queen, who else conveyed the order to Mahsyud Hak?" thought the king.

Seeing the king glance at Queen Madika Dewi, Mahsyud Hak fell prostrate again and said, "Forgive me, my Lord Shah Alam. I beg thousands of pardons. When you asked the four teachers and me at that time, some statements of mine were wrong according to the four teachers. That's why I saw your face change color. Then I went home. When passing the audience hall, I saw the four teachers were chatting in the hall. Then, I saw your letter of order and the royal sword that would be used to kill me. I saw the four teachers were very happy to get the order. I was surprised to know my mistakes. It was then that I heard the four teachers told their secrets."

"Is it true as you say?" said King Wadirah. Mahsyud Hak told the king all the secrets of the four teachers. The king was astonished at the four teachers' secrets. The king thought, "I think what Mahsyud Hak said is true because he is a wise man and he has never lied. Okay, I'll have people prove what Mahsyud Hak has said."

The king ordered people to ask for a gem to his minister Ajsam's mother. The servant ordered by the king came to Minister Ajsam's mother. The minister's mother was shocked. She was so afraid that she gave the gem to the king's messenger. The king accepted the gem, he thought," It is not proper that such a

beautiful gem like this one belongs to Minister Ajsam.”

“Why haven’t you offered this gem to me, o my teacher? I will certainly repay it with kindness as well,” the king ordered Minister Ajsam.

Minister Ajsam just kept quiet because he was very afraid. His face turned pale. So were the other three teachers. They seemed to be waiting for the death penalty.

Then, the king sent someone to the house of Ajdewan's wife to take the treasures of the immoral woman he had killed. The immoral woman's treasures with her clothes were presented before the king. The king became astonished, and then he said, "How wicked my teacher is. He had an adulterous affair with the immoral woman, murdered her, and took her property too. Having an adulterous affair is already evil, he made it even worse by murdering her and taking away her treasures.”

The king asked the civil judge to check the death of the immoral woman Minister Ajdewan killed. Some people witnessed the murder. Minister Ajdewan could only bow his head, seeing his crime known by the king. Then, the king ordered someone to examine Minister Ajpakan’s thigh.

A servant came to examine Minister Ajpakan’s thigh. Prior to that, Minister Ajpakan was taken to the corner of the room and only witnessed by several people. He started to open the bandage

made from rags. The servant saw the rotting cloth tying the minister's thigh. He began to grab the cloth and unwrap it little by little. The foul odor began to spread out. When the last sheet of the cloth was already taken off, the wound was clearly seen. It emanated pus and a foul odor. Some people could not stand the odor and vomited. The king refused to see the wound because its odor was already smelled from a distance. The king still sat on his throne. He angrily said, "How wicked Minister Ajpakan is! How dare he never tell me about his bad-smelling disease."

Minister Ajpakan who had just been examined did not dare look at the assembly. He just bowed his head as he imagined what punishment he would receive. Then, the king ordered the men to call Minister Ajdewanda's son. Ajdewanda who was pale and trembling could only surrender. He just looked down, didn't dare to hear the king's command.

"Son of the Minister Ajdewanda, is it true that your father contracts epilepsy?"

"It is true, Shah Alam, my father suffers from epilepsy, but not every day. My father will be sick if the full moon rises."

Hearing the answer of Minister Ajdewanda's son, the king questioned Minister Ajdewanda, "Why do you hide the disease? You forget your wickedness to Mahsyud Hak to open the secret so that I became angry and ordered you to kill my son Mahsyud

Hak. Had he been killed, my remorse would no longer be useful.”

Minister Ajdewan, Minister Ajpakan, Minister Ajdewanda, and Minister Ajsam only fell silent and were ready to wait for the king to impose his punishment. Their faces turned pale. They did not dare look to the right or to the left. Their sight was aimed only at the floor of the hall in front of them. Finally, King Wadirah told the four teachers, "Now these four teachers deserve to be put to death for being treacherous and wicked. Their treasures and servants will be passed on to my son Mahsyud Hak!"

When in front of the king, Mahsyud Hak carried out the king's command in accordance with the custom. However, by the time they reached their respective homes, Mahsyud Hak still treated them well. Hestill honored them. Mahsyud Hak went to the king. He begged forgiveness for the four teachers.

"I beg your pardon, my Lord Shah Alam. I ask forgiveness for the four teachers. Haven't they done much to you? Forgive them Your Majesty. I will return the wealth and the servants to the four teachers if you allow it," said Mahsyud Hak.

The king thought for a moment. He looked at Mahsyud Hak and thought, "This child is very forgiving and wise. His face doesn't show that he has been treated badly by the four teachers."

With a smile the king said, "All right, my son. I accept your homage and I grant your request."

The four teachers were spared from the king's punishment. However, Mahsyud Hak's goodness did not make the four teachers repent. Mahsyud Hak knew for sure that the life of this world would not last forever. He was only seeking God's good pleasure. Mahsyud Hak also knew for sure that humans were always full of mistakes. Therefore, he accepted the four teachers' bad treatment toward him as human error.

When the four teachers saw that the king had forgot their mistakes and showed his mercy, they still sought to destroy Mahsyud Hak. They agreed to search for people who could steal royal items. After getting the people who were good at stealing, Minister Ajsam told one of the thieves to steal the gem. Another one was ordered by the Minister Ajdewanda to steal the king's magnificent garment. Another one was ordered by the Minister Ajpakan to steal the king's sword and another one was ordered by the Minister Ajdewanda to steal the royal shirt studded with quality gems.

The shirt was a Hindu king's shirt that the king wore at the time he was crowned. The four items were those used by the king at the royal magnificent ceremony.

The four clever thieves immediately carried out their duties. They committed the theft by using a kind of black magic called *ilmu sirep* which was meant to make sleep all the guards and all the people in the house in which they were to commit the theft. The

four teachers could easily tell the thieves about the places where the four items were stored. Without any difficulty, the thieves easily took the royal items kept by the royal treasurer. The four thieves immediately handed over the stolen goods to the four ministers.

"My Lord, these are the four things you asked us to steal."

"Fine, we accept them. This is the wage for your good work. If you guys open your mouths, we will kill you!" the ministers said.

"Right, my Lord. We all promised not to leak it to anybody."

After they obtained the four stolen items, the four ministers appeared before King Wadirah. They lay prostrate together before the king.

"My Lord, we beg thousands of pardons. We pay you respect, our Lord Shah Alam." "I accept your respect. What will you present to me?"

"Do you know that the royal things are gone?"

"No, I do not know. What things were stolen?"

"My Lord, according to our astrological forecast, the first thing stolen is the gem, the second one is the royal magnificent garment, the third one is the royal sword, and the fourth one is the royal shirt, my Lord. You'd better check the treasurer first."

To prove the four teachers' words, the king ordered someone to check the treasurer. Apparently, the four items had been lost from the treasury. Seeing that fact, King Wadirah asked the four teachers, "My teachers, do you know who took the royal items? Who stole my stuff?"

"We know, our Lord. However, we four are afraid to inform you who did it."

"Do not be afraid! I will not be angry! Say it!"

"Who else if not Mahsyud Hak. Now those things are with him because he wants to be a king. Even reportedly, there are many people who already become his followers," said Minister Ajsam the oldest of them.

Hearing the four teachers' words, the king was angry with Mahsyud Hak. The king was about to kill him. Queen Marika Dewi also heard the news. She thought, "If Mahsyud Hak dies, this country will perish." Then, she made a letter inserted in the food specially prepared for Mahsyud Hak and told a servant to bring the food to him. The servant who delivered the letter was received by Citatah. She understood well that if Queen Marika Dewi sent them food, there was usually news that they had to know soon. "Tell the queen that I have received this food. Please express my gratitude to her."

The servant returned to the palace reporting that she had fulfilled

her duty. Citatah opened the food sent to her. Apparently, right inside the food there was a letter. The letter was addressed to Mahsyud Hak. Mahsyud Hak read the letter hidden that way.

"You, my brother Mahsyud Hak, should go and hide somewhere immediately because the king was angry with you! If we are still alive, we can meet again and may God the Almighty add to our common sense so that the king will have no regrets in the future!"

Having read the letter, Mahsyud Hak thought, "What the queen wrote is right!" Then, he said to his wife, "What Queen Marika Dewi wrote in her letter is right. My wife, wise men say if a danger or the king's wrath comes, we should take refuge first. We go until his wrath is gone. Now I'm leaving this house."

After Mahsyud Hak gave his message to his wife, he went down and headed north. He kept walking after his feet. When he met an old potter, he thought, "Well, I should serve this potter in order to make a living. If I look for a job elsewhere, I will be easily seen by people. If the king hears of my whereabouts, he will certainly summon me!"

After thinking so, Mahsyud Hak went into the old potter's place. Seeing Mahsyud Hak enter, the old man greeted him, "Where do you come from, my son? I see you look too good." "I am an orphan. I will serve you, Sir."

The old potter was very happy to hear Mahsyud Hak's answer. He

said, "My son, I am all alone and have no family. If you want to live with me, I will pass on my very little treasure to you.

After all I also have no children." Since then Mahsyud Hak lived with the old man. The potter regarded him as his own son. Wise and faithful, Mahsyud Hak never had any intention to go to devote himself to other kings. For him, it was better to serve this potter.

Catching Thieves

Hearing that Mahsyud Hak had gone from the palace, the four ministers who were also the teachers of the King of Wakat country were joyful too. They agreed to sell the stolen royal goods to Citatah.

"If the goods are already in Citatah's hands, we will search Mahsyud Hak's house," said Minister Ajsam. "Yes, we will seize the goods back. We show to King Wakat that our accusations are true," said Minister Ajdewan happily.

"Surely the king will seize all Mahsyud Hak's property," said Minister Ajdewanda also with joy. "We'll get a share of those goods ... ha ... ha ... ha ... ha ...," he continued, laughing out loud.

Minister Ajpakan only smiled and nodded his head to hear the three ministers speak. He imagined that Mahsyud Hak's many treasures and his beautiful wife would be usurped by the king.

Minister Ajsam who stole the king's gem immediately told people to sell it to Citatah. Citatah bought the gem. Minister Ajdewan also told people to sell the royal magnificent garment, Minister Ajpakan had the royal sword sold, and Minister Ajdewanda had the royal shirt sold. Citatah bought all those goods. They would be used as evidence to the king.

Apparently, it was not only Minister Ajpakan who liked beautiful Citatah. All of them also liked Mahsyud Hak's wife. They hoped that when Mahsyud Hak's goods which were to be seized were distributed, his wife would also be given to them. Relying on that fantasy, the ministers were about to start approaching Citatah. Minister Ajsam sent two older women to Citatah's house. They were told to bring a beautiful letter and clothes while persuading Citatah to marry him.

"My beautiful Lady, I am Minister Ajsam's messenger. I am asked to deliver this garment. I wish that you would like to receive it," said one of the messengers.

"You will get more treasures if you want to be his wife," said the other messenger. They used various persuasions to persuade Citatah to accept the proposal from Minister Ajsam.

"Moreover, you are just worthy of being a minister's wife," continued the first messenger. Citatah listened to all the messengers' persuasions. Thinking for a strategy, she listened to

the old women's persuasions with a smile. Then, she made a reply to Minister Ajsam. Her letter read as follows, "I love reading your letter because your wish is the same as mine. However, because I'm a woman, I do not dare to reveal it to you. My husband is going away because the king is angry with him. He left me. Therefore, I accept your proposal. Please come to my place immediately, but let no one else know it. Along with this letter, I also send food for you. May you love to receive it, my Lord." The letter and the food were brought by the old ladies. Minister Ajsam was very happy to read the letter.

A few days later, the two old ladies came back to Citatah. This time, they came under Minister Ajdewan's order to propose to Citatah. Citatah also made the same letter with the one sent to Minister Ajsam, then sent it to Minister Ajdewan. Minister Ajdewan was very contented.

Similarly, Minister Ajpakanda and Minister Ajdewanda also proposed to Citatah and were treated by Citatah similarly as the two other ministers. The four ministers were very joyous. They hid their feelings for Citatah. They did not tell each other. They were very confident that Citatah chose only one. Every moment they fantasized about having beautiful and wise Citatah. As the result, they forgot to raid Mahsyud Hak's house in order to convince the king that Mahsyud Hak was a thief.

Pretty Citatah immediately told people to build an underground

building from boards. Above the building was a floor made from solid boards. One of the boards was made into a see-saw. One end of the see-saw would be lifted when the object on it was lifted too, while the other end would drop the object on it. The board was like a see-saw, a children's game.

However, at a glance the board was not clearly visible. On one end of the see-saw was placed a water jar. When someone lifted up the water jar, he would step on the end of the board in which the water jar was placed and he would fall into the hole beneath. Citatah provided some toiletries, such as a water jug and a large silver ladle placed on one end of the see-saw.

A few days later, Citatah sent a letter to Minister Ajsam. Its contents asked the minister to come to her home at twelve o'clock in the evening on the same day if he seriously wanted to meet her. However, the minister had to come alone without a bodyguard because Citatah did not want anyone to know their relationship. The letter was sent to Minister Ajsam. He welcomed the letter happily. He was very contented. He could not wait for the night to come because he would meet Citatah.

Citatah also sent three similar letters to the other three ministers. The one sent to Minister Ajdewan asked him to arrive at her home at one o'clock in the morning, the one sent to Minister

Ajpakanda asked him to arrive at two o'clock in the same morning, while the one sent to Minister Ajdewanda asked him to arrive at three o'clock in the same morning. The four ministers were very excited at the prospect of meeting with Citatah. They felt the day passed by very slowly. They wanted the sun to be fast asleep and the promised night to soon arrive.

By twelve o'clock at the night, Minister Ajsam was preparing to leave for Citatah's home. In order not to be known, he wore a black shirt. Citatah was already getting ready to welcome him. At the door of her home, she stood waiting and thought to herself, "When you arrive, take my vengeance, thief."

As soon as Minister Ajsam arrived, Citatah greeted him as she said, "Why are you so slow to come?" Citatah pretended to frown. "I've been long longing for you," she continued.

"Please sit down, my Lord," Citatah said feigning friendliness.

"Let's go inside," said Minister Ajsam to Citatah.

"I will sleep with you, my Lord, but ... please take a bath first because you keep many women in your house."

Then Citatah led Minister Ajsam to her newly constructed building, then said, "Go and take a bath first in the bathing place provided!" Citatah said, pointing to the prepared building.

Minister Ajsam was too fond of seeing Citatah's beauty. In fact for Citatah, seeing Minister Ajsam was like seeing a sworn enemy. Minister Ajsam entered the building. He immediately took a shower and stood on one end of the see-saw. When the water in the water jar was running out, he raised the jar.

Suddenly he fell into the room beneath."Ooooooh!" he cried.

He felt as if his soul flew away because he was very shocked. Falling naked and hit by a water jar, he was in pain. He said to himself, "Well, I'm finished now. This is a very big disgrace. I'll be infamous in this country for having committed a crime." Minister Ajsam contemplated his fate in the dark building.

One hour later, Minister Ajdewan came to see Citatah. He also wore a dark shirt so as not to be known by others. As what happened to Minister Ajsam, Minister Ajdewan was treated the same as Minister Ajsam. His fate was the same. When he took a bath, he fell into the board building. The difference with Minister Ajsam was that Minister Ajsam fell directly to the board floor, while Minister Ajdewan fell on Minister Ajsam who was shocked by a human body and a water jar.

Shocked, Minister Ajsam asked, "Who is this?!"

Minister Ajdewan who came at one o'clock asked, "Who are you too? I'm Minister Ajdewan," he replied.

"I am Minister Ajsam," he answered while touching his friend. They were not doubtful and recognized each other's voice.

"We're finished this time. We have committed horrible crimes. We'll be infamous in this country for having committed something disgraceful," said Minister Ajsam continuing his words.

The two ministers talked to discuss their fate.

An hour later, at two o'clock, they were shocked to be struck by a man and a water jar. Minister Ajpakan who just fell felt as if his soul was flying away due to the huge surprise. He was even more shocked because he suddenly fell on people. He heard the voices of the persons he fell on.

"Who else is falling?" said the two previous ministers in unison.

"I am Minister Ajpakan," replied Minister Ajpakan. He recognized very well the voices of the two people who asked him. "Why are you here?" he asked in surprise.

"Why did you go here?" Minister Ajsam also asked.

They told each other their same experiences that caused them to fall into this dark building."So, we have been deceived by Citatah," replied Minister Ajpakan and Minister Ajdewan almost simultaneously.

While they were talking about their fate, an hour later they were suddenly struck by Minister Ajdewanda who fell at three o'clock in the morning. The three affected ministers asked, "Who else is this?"

"I am Minister Ajdewanda," replied Minister Ajdewanda, "Who are you guys?" He asked again. The three said, "Apparently all four of us are falling into this dark hellish building."

The four ministers were embracing each other and crying together, "This is the consequence of indulging in lust. Why did not we consult each other? This is the consequence of not consulting each other."

"Well, we're going to get a really big trouble. We're finished at once," said Minister Ajsam sadly.

"We'll die in this damned building without ever meeting our wife and children," Minister Ajpakan said sadly.

"Yes. I think that if the wise Mahsyud Hak is still around, we will not die in vain like this. Unfortunately he's gone from the palace," said Minister Ajdewan.

"Well, we do not know what Citatah will do to us," said Minister Ajdewanda. "Because she will treat us as she pleases," he continued in despair. Such was the four ministers' conversation in the darkened building.

The next day, Citatah told people to gather in the audience hall. She told his people, "I just caught thieves. What devils they are, I don't know. You can see them now!"

She ordered the security guards to take the thieves from the inside of the dark building. They were taken out one by one with their hands tied back. They were washed with a kind of sticky water. After the sticky water was spread evenly on their bodies, the wet clothes attached to their bodies were withdrawn. At first, Minister Ajsam was treated like that.

Ashamed for being naked, he rolled over wood shavings near the building so that his body was full of wood shavings.

Then on his neck were hung the four stolen goods, but except the gem, the other goods were taken back because he only admitted to stealing the king's gem.

After Minister Ajsam, then Minister Ajdewan was taken out, flushed with the same kind of sticky water, and stripped of his wet clothes. Then he rolled over the wood shavings. Like Minister Ajsam, on Minister Ajdewan's neck were also hung the four stolen goods. He only admitted to stealing the king's magnificent garment. Similarly, Minister Ajpakanda and Minister Ajdewanda were taken out one by one. Each of them was treated the same and then on each other's neck were hung the four stolen goods. However, one by one said that he only stole one item

which he later mentioned. After each of them confessed what item he stole, on each of the four ministers' necks was hung the stolen item he already mentioned. On Minister Ajsam's neck was hung the king's gem. On Minister Ajdewan's neck was hung the king's magnificent garment. On Minister Ajpakan's neck was hung the royal sword. And, on Minister Ajdewanda's neck was hung the royal shirt.

All people saw and heard the confessions of the king's four teachers.

The four men were smeared with starch and wood shavings again from neck to foot so that each of them did not look like a minister. Later, they were herded into the palace to face the king. Every minister took his stolen item around his neck. Citatah appeared before the King who was having an audience with ministers and security guards.

At first the king did not recognize them. He said, "Where did Citatah take these thieves from? They look like demon ghosts."

The king looked at the four thieves in front of him.

"They look like the four teachers," he thought, but he was not sure. The king frowned. He looked at Citatah. Seeing the king's stare, Citatah genuflected before him in respect.

"I beg your pardon, my Lord. I caught the thieves who have

stolen the kingdom's goods. What do you think of these thieves Your Majesty?"

"In my view, they are like the four teachers".

"My Lord, tell people to call the four teachers. Surely they will not answer. However, if you call them, they will respond. If they refuse to answer, let them go."

So the king ordered, "My masters, are these you?" They did not want to answer. After three summons, they replied, "Your Majesty, we are the four teachers."

Hearing the fourth teacher's answer, the king became angry.

"What kind of conspiracy is this?"

Citatah told the story from beginning to end. The king became very angry. He told people to shave their hair in the form of a square.

Their faces were streaked with turmeric, chalk, and charcoal so randomly that no one could recognize them any more. Then the king called the security guards.

"Security, march them around the country seven times! Your conspiracy has slandered my son Mashsud Hak. In fact, you are the thieves. You are treacherous and envious! You are slanderous, greedy, envious toward my son Mahsyud Hak. Security, after

marching them around, put them in prison!” the king commanded in anger.

The four ministers’ faces turned ghostly pale. Their bodies trembled with the utmost shame. They were immediately raised on top of the carts one by one. The security guards attracted people by making sounds, and then made an announcement to the people around the country. Pointing to the four ministers, the security guards conveyed the announcement. "O people, these are the four teachers who have stolen the kingdom's goods! They will be imprisoned!"

Back to the Palace

Since the four teachers were imprisoned, the king always thought of Mahsyud Hak. He was reminded of the dream interpreted by the four teachers. In the dream, the king saw four big fires getting smaller, while a smaller fire grew bigger as if to reach the heavens. The big fires were the symbol of his teachers, while the small fire symbolized Mahsyud Hak.

One day at the audience hall, the king called Citatah and said, "My daughter Citatah, your husband is a wise man who gets a beautiful and fair wife. I'm not going to have people search for Mahsyud Hak. He will surely return because he is innocent. He loves me too much and loves his wife. By himself, he will come back too."

Mahsyud Hak who went away from the palace lived with a potter. He did not know what happened inside the palace.

One day, suddenly came a diety to King Wadirah. He asked four questions that the king had to answer immediately. If the king could not answer, the land and its king would be destroyed by the diety. The diety asked about four things.

The questions were as follows. "First, someone who is not her enemy suddenly slaps and hits her. However, the one who is hit is not angry. Instead, her affection increases. Second, for having made mistakes, someone is scolded. However, the one who scolds the person becomes very sad. Who is scolded and who scolds? Third, two people are so deeply in love that, when one of them dies, the other will die too. However, sense of hatred sometimes emerges between them as if they are great enemies. Fourth, there is a pond in which a kind of cherry tree grows and a flock of birds perch on the tree. When a bird perches on each flower of the tree, another bird cannot perch. If two birds perch on each flower of the tree, there will be more flowers left. How many birds and how many flowers are there? Tell me the answers!"

The king fell silent and pale because he did not know the answers to the questions. Seeing the king in such a condition, the diety said, "O King, if you do not answer my question, within seven days I will destroy this country," threatened the diety.

Then, the diety said again, "Man has four kinds of temperaments, namely ignorant, confused, clever, and wise. The person is called a fool for hearing evil words which cause fear and grief to him. As the result, he loses his mind and uses the others' minds. The person is called a fool if, when hearing evil words, he gets angry until he loses his mind and his body becomes stiff. A wily man is not in virtue. When he stays silent, someone speaks with reason. A wise man, if he hears the wicked's words, will immediately give the perfect response."

The diety's words in the presence of King Wadirah were heard by the royal authorities. Unable to answer the questions, the king thought back of Mahsyud Hak. The king asked Queen Marika Dewi, "Where did Mahsyud Hak go?"

"I do not know where Mahsyud Hak goes. You should ask his wife, Citatah." Soon the king ordered the security guards to sound the gong in all corners of the kingdom and its colonies. The security guards asked all the people to seek Mahsyud Hak. The king also ordered people to call Mahsyud Hak's wife. Citatah immediately appeared before the King.

"Please, my Lord, I pay my homage to you. Do you need me, Your Majesty?"

"I accept your homage. My daughter, I need your information. Which way does my son Mahsyud Hak go away?"

"I beg your pardon, my Lord, Mahsyud Hak goes to the north. He wears the clothes of a *derji*, without any provision," Citatah said.

Hearing Citatah's statement, the king ordered several security guards to seek Mahsyud Hak by following the direction that Citatah had pointed out.

Some time later, the security guards met Mahsyud Hak.

"You are summoned by the king. How long have you left the palace and the king?" said security guards while kneeling before Mahsyud Hak to pay respect.

At that time, Mahsyud Hak was making a water jar. He was wearing a cloth of four cubits with joy because his heart was like a golden cloth. He was sitting on the ground as if he were sitting on a golden bed. In his heart, the mud on his body was like rhubarb and vetiver. He was sitting between pots and large bowls. In his heart, he felt as if he was facing the king for his love and loyalty. He was grateful for himself.

When the security guards who were looking for him arrived at the place, he just smiled and said goodbye to his adoptive father. With his clothes smeared with mud, Mahsyud Hak immediately appeared before the king. He lay prostrate in front of the king. When the king saw Mahsyud Hak lie prostrate in front of him, the king said, "O my son Mahsyud Hak, why are you like this? Aren't you angry with me because I paid attention to the four men's

slander which put your household in such a mess for so long?"

"My Lord, do not say such things because nothing will happen if not with the permission of Allah the Almighty. Anyone who shelters under a large tree must be struck by its branch some time, let alone me who since the age of seven years have become your servant under your protection," said Mahsyud Hak while lying prostrate.

"What should I do? I haven't paid careful attention so that I become separated with you, my son," said the king to Mahsyud Hak. Then, the king gave all the jewels he was wearing to Mahsyud Hak. After Mahsyud Hak sat down, the king told him about the deity's questions he had to answer.

"God willing, hopefully I can fulfill your order, Your Majesty," replied Mahsyud Hak while lying prostrate. Then, the king went inside and Mahsyud Hak went home.

Citatah was very happy to see her husband back. She told her husband to take a shower and change clothes. They expressed their longing for each other and exchanged news from each other. Mahsyud Hak told her that he lived with a potter and helped the potter so that he could make a living from his adoptive father. He asked Citatah, "What building is in our yard? As far as I know, I've never made that building, have I? Who lives in the building?"

Citatah told all the events that happened to her since Mahsyud Hak left the palace. The four ministers had harmed their lives until she could catch the four ministers who had stolen the kingdom's goods.

“Where are the four ministers now?” asked Mahsyud Hak.

“Of course they are in prison,” said Citatah with a smile. “They are awaiting your punishment,” Citatah said as she hugged her husband.

The next day, the king, the court officials, and Mahsyud Hak gathered again in the audience hall. They prepared to wait for the deity who had given them the questions before. Not so long, the deity appeared suddenly and said, “What are your answers to my questions?”

“O my son Mahsyud Hak, answer the deity’s questions!” said King Wadirah.

“O deity, as for the first question, someone who is not enemy suddenly slaps, scratches, and attacks the other randomly but the latter does not get angry and becomes happier instead, and her affection even increases too. It is a child supported by his mother,” replied Mahsyud Hak. “That’s right,” said the deity.

“As for the second question, someone rebuked someone else who had done wrong, but the former became sad because the latter

went away. It is a child who is guilty and scolded by his father," replied Mahsyud Hak. "That's right," said the deity.

"As for the third question, two people love each other. When the one dies, the other wants to die too. However, sometimes they hate each other like enemies. That's two married people, husband and wife," said Mahsyud Hak.

"That's right," said the deity. "What about my fourth question?" he asked Mahsyud Hak.

"Well, as for the fourth question, there is a pond in which a kind of cherry tree grows and a flock of birds perch on it. When one bird perches on each flower of the tree, another bird does not get a flower to perch on. However, if two birds perch on each flower of the tree, another flower will be free from birds. Therefore, there are three flowers in the pond, while the birds are four," replied Mahsyud Hak with a smile.

The deity was content to hear Mahsyud Hak's answers. However, he still wanted to ask Mahsyud Hak again. "O Mahsyud Hak, do you have brothers on your mother's side and on your father's side?"

"From my father's side, I have seventy-one brothers while from my mother's side, I have seventy-one brothers. Apart from them, all are strangers to me. However, one of the strangers is my brother too," replied Mahsyud Hak.

"Where is that person now? Is he in this country or abroad?" asked the diety.

"He is here in this area too," said Mahsyud Hak answering the diety's question.

Hearing Mahsyud Hak's answer, the diety realized that Mahsyud Hak was a wise man and whom he meant was King Wadirah. He said to Mahsyud Hak, "Protect that man very well from all wonderful things. If you do not take proper care, you will only waste up your work." Then, the diety said again, "Wait a moment for me!"

Suddenly the diety was gone. A moment later he reappeared with too many flowers and gems. He bestowed the gems in front of King Wadirah and Mahsyud Hak. Then, the diety told King Wadirah, "O King Wadirah, do not listen to slanders! Take good care of this country. Blessed are you for having a man as good as Mahsyud Hak who is wise, good-hearted, and faithful." Then, the diety was gone again. King Wadirah was very happy because Mahsyud Hak had saved this country. He grew more affectionate to him and granted Mahsyud Hak Wakat country under his law.