

VUYUL PUNSU NEGUNGGUN
Vuyul Punsu Negunggun

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VUYUL PUNSU NEGUNGGUN

Vulangnembua and Madianggalang

Once upon a time, long, long ago, there was a kingdom in Babolo ruled by King Babolo. The King lived with his wife and they had a pair of boy and girl. The elder, the boy, was named Madianggalang, and the younger, was named Vulangnembua.

King Babolo was very much revered by his people for his just leadership. King Babolo cared about his people so much. If he found out his people were sick or in need, he would gladly help them himself. The people of Babolo lived in harmony, peace, and prosperity under the reign of King Babolo. The crops were abundant every year. This made some other kings in the surrounding kingdoms envied Babolo.

The most envious king of all was King Tinombo. He tried to provoke other kings to follow his footsteps. King Tinombo made a slander by accusing the Babolo Kingdom that they had lived prosperously due to their pact with jinns and toyols to help them gather wealth. Other kings were infuriated at hearing this since most of them were Muslims. Keeping jinns and other evil spirits was strictly forbidden in Islam. For this reason, the other kings agreed to destroy Babolo Kingdom. King Babolo, who heard about the slander King Tinombo had told other Kings, wanted to

meet King Tinombo. The cunning and short-sighted King Tinombo was unwilling to meet him. Yet, on King Babolo insistence, the two kings finally met.

“King Tinombo, the slander you made against me and my people to the other kings have reached my ears. What a terribly cunning king you are. I have no wonder as to why you and your people still live in poverty,” said King Babolo to King Tinombo. “What is your purpose to speak of such slander? We in Babolo do our agriculture as it is, we are men of faith, so it is unlikely that we depend ourselves on jinns or creatures as such.” King Babolo continued.

King Tinombo had gone too envious that the words of King Babolo were uttered to no avail. He even became much more envious at the sight of King Babolo’s appearance who came to meet him clad in some very fancy clothing. He said to King Babolo, “King Babolo, what a useless thing for you to have come here.

The other kings have fallen into hating you. We shall unite to attack your kingdom. You’d better return home now to prepare yourself for our battle,” replied King Tinombo.

King Babolo then returned home to prepare his troops. King Babolo couldn’t help but feel unoptimistic about winning the battle as they would encounter a multitudes swarm of enemies.

However, he had to struggle to defend his kingdom, his people, and his family. Hence, he soon called the chief of his troops, a man named Lagilot. Knowing what kind of condition to face, he then came to see King Babolo.

“Lagilot, we shall be visited momentarily by enemies to attack our kingdom. We shall fight together with our troops. Should I fail to prevail and die in the battlefield, I need your help. Please save my queen and children. Take them into hiding in a safe place,” asked King Babolo to Lagilot.

“Majesty, our enemies are in a very great number. My men and I shall fight to the last drop of blood to defend our kingdom. I shall persevere to guard your queen and children, wherever and whenever.” That was the oath made by Lagilot before King Babolo. The war finally broke out. Babolo was attacked by multitudes of enemies. King Babolo was their primary target. It was unfortunate that King Babolo died in battle. Lagilot tried to save the queen, but he failed as the enemy had encircled the palace before he could save her. The queen managed to escape, but sadly, Lagilot had no idea where she had escaped to. He only had the chance to save the king’s children. Lagilot took Madianggalang and Vulangnembua into the woods by riding some horses. Some enemies who had seen Lagilot took the king’s two children attempted to chase them, but the horses Lagilot’s horses were strong stallions so they could outrun the horses of the

enemies. From a distance, Lagilot could see Babolo was on fire and annihilated by the enemies.

After traveling for days, Lagilot and both the king's children came to a forest. They hid there until Lagilot decided to dwell in the forest as their new home. Lagilot thought, there is no way they could return as the enemies were still searching all three of them. In their runaway, many times Lagilot wondered where the queen had hidden. In fact, he had no idea whether she was still alive or not. Hence, Lagilot never told Vulangnembua and Madianggalang about their mother's fate.

In the forest, Lagilot raised Madianggalang and Vulannembua. After they reached adulthood, they decided to move to a village.

They named the village Punsu. In Punsu Village, Madianggalang and Vulangnembua didn't live at the same house. Madianggalang lived with Lagilot and Vulangnembua lived alone. Their houses were bordered by a farm, toiled by Madianggalang and Vulangnembua.

The Encounter with Wayang Bird

Vulangnembua who lived alone felt so lonely that in many occasion she decided to stroll around to find comfort. She walked into a woods. As she got tired, she rested under a tree and finally fell asleep. In the sleep, she dreamed to have met a very beautiful angel. She greeted Vulangnembua.

“Hello, Vulangnembua. What is your purpose to have come so deep into these woods?” asked the angel. Vulangnembua answered, “I feel so lonely for I live alone. I try to comfort myself by strolling around into these woods. I hope to seek a friend, like a bird that I could keep as a friend.”

The angel pitied on Vulangnembua. She thought that Vulangnembua was so diligent in finding friend that she braced herself to go into the woods alone. In no time, she gave Vulangnembua a bird. Vulangnembua was so happy. The bird was white, with red stripes, and beautiful sound. It had glossy feathers with a yellowish crown, and a strong beak as if it were a sword.

“How beautiful this bird is. I shall name it Wayang Bird,” said Vulangnembua as she petted the bird. The angel nodded in agreement. Before she went, the angel told Vulangnembua, “You take a very good care of this bird. It will be your most loyal friend. Remember this; never cut the talons of this bird. If you do, disaster will befall you.” Vulangnembua answered, “Alright, angel. I shall remember that forever. Thank you very much for this gift.”

Right after Vulangnembua had said that, the angel vanished mysteriously. Vulangnembua awakened from her sleep. Half-conscious, she felt a deep sadness as it was only in a dream. She hoped to meet the bird from her dream. Vulangnembua was

musing about her dream. In her sorrow, suddenly she felt something that had fallen onto her shoulder. It was a bird that looked exactly like the one in her dream. The bird was white with red stripes, glossy feather, and strong beak. Vulangnembua felt an utmost joy.

To the bird, she said, “Hey, beautiful bird, I shall name you Wayang Bird. Be my companion forever.” Wayang Bird nodded as though it had approved to this.

Soon after, Vulangnembua left the woods and returned to her house with Wayang Bird. As she reached the house, she then made a cage for Wayang Bird. It was a beautiful cage. She placed the cage inside the house so she could be with it all the time. The bird was everywhere with Vulangnembua. As they were together all the time, Wayang Bird could mimic anything that Vulangnembua did. When she was farming, it scratched the soil so Vulangnembua could put seeds into it. When Vulangnembua was cooking, it was the bird that carried firewoods. Her life was easier thanks to the presence of the bird.

One day, Vulangnembua was checking on her food supplies in the kitchen. She found out that she was very short on fish. She decided to go to the sea to catch some fish. Of course she brought Wayang Bird with her. Along the way to the sea, they played tag. As they reached the sea, Vulangnembua taught the bird how to catch fish. Vulangnembua could only catch smaller fish. Wayang

Bird tried to catch some fish the way it was taught to it. Surprisingly, the result was fantastic. The bird could catch big fish in one soar. The bird did it many times until they managed to get plenty of fish. Vulangnembua was very happy as she had never seen that much of fish. Ever since, Wayang Bird replaced Vulangnembua to fish in the sea and as the result of that, they were never out of fish. Even the fish caught by Wayang Bird were sold in the market so Vulangnembua could live a good life. The friendship between Vulangnembua and Wayang Bird brought grace to Vulangnembua. She no longer lived alone and besides, she had substantial help for her daily works and she could live a good life.

The Greed of Madianggalang

Meanwhile, the life of Madianggalang was pretty much north from that of Vulangnembua. Madianggalang, who lived with Lagilot was always in shortage of fish. Though they went to the sea every day to catch fish, sometimes they couldn't catch any, even for days. At times of food shortage, Madianggalang heard that his sister had kept Wayang Bird. He also heard that the bird was very good at fishing. Indeed, the story about Vulangnembua and Wayang Bird had been all over the village. Some villagers had even followed Vulangnembua's path in keeping birds.

They wanted to rival Vulangnembua so they could use birds for fishing too. But Wayang Bird was no ordinary bird, and naturally,

other birds were not as good as Wayang Bird, especially in fishing.

Madianggalang also tried to do what most villagers did. As he grew desperate of yieldless fishing, he decided to keep a bird. He walked into the forest where he captured a bird. He made a cage way fancier than that of Wayang Bird. Everyday, he took the bird to the sea to do fishing. But, Madianggalang's bird was not as good as Wayang Bird. The bird never managed to catch any fish, and this angered Madianggalang. Madianggalang thought really hard about how he could get some fish. He had been out of fish for quite some time now. He had no idea of how to get some. At the very same moment, Vulangnembua was seen to be passing Madianggalang's house. It turned out, she was on her way to the market to sell the fish that had been caught by Wayang Bird. She had plenty of fish, from small to big ones. Hence, Vulangnembua decided to sell some of the fish.

Madianggalang then had an idea to get some fish. He planned to use Wayang Bird. The next day, he visited his sister's house.

“My sister Vulangnembua, are you at home? Your brother is visiting,” shouted Madianggalang from under the staircases of the house.

“Yes, Brother, I am inside, tending to some fish. Come in, Brother,” replied Vulangnembua.

“Thank you, sister!” replied Madianggalang.

Vulangnembua who hadn't met her brother for quite some time was thrilled of the coming of her brother. Since she had Wayang Bird, she became somewhat dormant and liked to stay at home so she never visited her brother. Vulangnembua gleefully welcomed Madianggalang. They chatted and joked. Then Madianggalang expressed his wish to use his sister's bird.

“Sister, may I use your pet bird? It's been days since the last time Lagilot and I had fish as we never managed to catch some,” said Madianggalang. “I wish to use the bird for catching fish. Once I can catch some, I'll return it to you,” Madianggalang continued. As siblings, they had been loving each other.

For she loved her brother, Vulangnembua replied to her brother's request, “By all means, Dear Brother, you can use the bird. Treat it very carefully, and don't you ever cut its talons.” Vulangnembua then handed the beloved Wayang Bird to her brother.

“Certainly, Lovely Sister. I will take good care of your beloved bird as you had. I will never cut its talons as you commanded,” said Madianggalang. Then, Madianggalang went home with joy as he managed to bring Wayang Bird home.

The next day, Madianggalang and Lagilot went to the sea. Wayang Bird was released. Swiftly, the bird started to catch fish.

The result was pleasing Madianggalang and Lagilot. They have never been able to catch fish that much. They then returned home with a bucketful of fish. It went on for days. Madianggalang sold the fish caught by Wayang Bird as they have plenty of fish in their supplies. After returning from the sea, it was Lagilot's duty to sell the fish to the market. They split the revenue.

Wayang Bird's skill in fishing made Madianggalang forgot about his promise to return his sister's bird. He got carried away as the sales of fish were abundant. Really, he had forgotten that the bird was not actually his. Greed had made him forget the rights of others, in this case, none other than his own sister. Meanwhile, Vulangnembua felt lonely because of the absence of her beloved Wayang Bird. In order to comfort herself, she sometimes hum the chant of her yearning for Wayang Bird. She tried to contain the feeling. Her brother did make a promise to return the bird immediately. Vulangnembua thought, "Maybe the bird hasn't caught any fish. That's why Madianggalang has not returned the bird." That was how Vulangnembua tried comfort herself. She had no idea at all that, at the same time, her brother was enjoying himself because the money earned from selling fish helped by Wayang Bird.

Day by day, Vulangnembua underwent loneliness. Her yearning for Wayang Bird was unbearable. She then decided to meet her brother and ask him to return Wayang Bird. As she reached her

brother's house, Vulangnembua told him why she had come. "Dear brother, I have come here to ask you to return Wayang Bird. I feel so lonely without it." asked Vulangnembua.

Madianggalang tried to persuade his sister as he had experienced how easy it was to fish with Wayang Bird. He said, "Lovely sister, please don't you take the bird yet as It's been only for several days."

"But brother, the bird had been here for over a week. I am so lonely as I live alone. I'm out of fish supplies as well," said Vulangnembua. It turned out that Madianggalang was unwilling to return Wayang Bird. He then lied to his sister.

"Dear Sister, fell sorry for your brother, will you? It had only caught very little fish for me. We don't even have fish supplies for tomorrow, so let it stay with me for some more days," said Madianggalang. Vulangnembua had no idea that her bother was lying to her. She felt sorry for her brother.

"Please forgive me, brother. I really have no idea that it had caught very little fish. Maybe the bird has not been accostumed to you," said Vulangnembua regretfully. She then decided, "If so, I'll allow you to keep it for some more days. But allow me to meet it for a short moment."

How happy he was when he heard this from Vulangnembua. His greed for money had duped him into forgetting his sibling,

meanwhile Vulangnembua was the only family he had in the world. As she met Wayang Bird, Vulangnembua petted the bird and said, “Wayang Bird, do stay for another few days here, and catch plenty of fish for my brother Madianggalang.” The bird writhed and closed itself into the cuddle of Vulangnembua. It actually wished to tell her that Madianggalang had been lying, but Vulangnembua thought it was expressing its yearning towards her. After she hugged the bird, Vulangnembua left and went back home.

Though she had to sacrifice her own feeling, Vulangnembua accepted that her beloved Wayang Bird was to be used by Madianggalang as she loved her brother. Madianggalang’s happiness is hers too, though she felt an unbearable longing for Wayang Bird. Vulangnembua returned to her house without Wayang Bird.

Meanwhile, Madianggalang who borrowed Wayang Bird became richer day by day thanks to the fish caught by Wayang Bird. He simply forgot that Wayang Bird wasn’t his. He was even unwilling to share his wealth with Vulangnembue, though Lagilot had warned him.

“My Lord, Madianggalang, why don’t you share some of the money earned from selling the fish to Vulangnembua. She deserved it,” said Lagilot to Madianggalang.

“Ah, Lagilot, you don’t have to think about Vulangnembua. She’s a woman. Someday a man will come to propose marriage. She’ll be fed by her husband,” denied Madianggalang. Then Madianggalang continued, “Lagilot, never tell Vulangnembua that it was Wayang Bird that made me rich like this. I don’t want her to know about this.”

Lagilot just stayed silent at the words of his lord. He was sad because Madianggalang was willing to trade blood ties for wealth, even though wealth was not to die with. Moreover, his sadness grew deeper as he had taken the two siblings as his own children for he had cared and raised them since childhood.

Vuyul Punsu Negunggun

Meanwhile, after days, Vulangnembua returned to Madianggalang’s house to ask her brother to return Wayang Bird. She felt that the bird had been with her brother long enough. Vulangnembua thought that her brother must have had plenty of fish thanks to Wayang Bird. Hence, she asked the bird to be returned.

As she reached Madianggalang’s house, she was shocked to see that her brother’s house had turned into a very large house. She wondered why the house hadn’t been like what she saw when she came a few days earlier. Vulangnembua thought that it was probably because of the crops from the farm that her brother and

Lagilot had worked on. It never crossed her mind that all was because the success brought by the Wayang Bird. Vulangnembua then met her brother. She asked the return of the bird as her brother had borrowed the bird for over a month.

“Dear brother, please return the bird to me. I cannot contain my longing to the bird, and I’m very lonely,” asked Vulangnembua.

“Sister, your bird had not caught a single fish in the last few days. Allow the bird to stay here for several more days,” said Madianggalang.

“Brother, the bird had been here for so long, it’s been more than a month,” replied Vulangnembua.

“Sister, I do understand. Please, let the bird be with me for several more days. I really want to eat some fish that it catches. I will return the bird to you immediately,” said Madianggalang attempting to persuade his sister. She didn’t have the heart to hear such a thing from her brother.

Vulangnembua conceded to her brother one more time. “Alright, Brother. I’ll let you borrow the bird for a few more days. I will now return home. Once you get some fish caught by Wayang Bird, please return the bird to me, Brother!” said Vulangnembua.

“Yes, Sister. I promise you to return Wayang Bird as soon as possible,” replied Madianggalang. He tried to convince his sister.

Meanwhile, in fact it was all a lie. That was really an evil thing a brother could do to his sister. Vulangnembua who had no prejudice returned home empty-handedly. Every day she waited and expected the coming of Madianggalang to carry Wayang Bird home. But, the awaited brother never came to sight. She then returned to Madianggalang's house.

She was astounded at the look of Madianggalang's house. The house was not only big, but it had looked like a palace. Vulangnembua was amazed, as a few days earlier she had come to the house, and it was nothing like the house she saw now.

“Wow, the yields of Madianggalang's farm must have been amazing, in just a few days, his house had looked like a palace,” muttered Vulangnembua.

Madianggalang welcomed his sister with an unfriendly expression. He knew exactly that his sister had come to take Wayang Bird. Yet, he could not anymore excuses. He had been trying to buy some time from returning the bird.

Vulangnembua then met her brother and said, “Madianggalang, My Brother, it is my third time to come here to ask for the return of Wayang Bird. Please return it to me as you promised,” said Vulangnembua.

Madianggalang still tried to find excuse on how he didn't have to return the bird to Vulangnembua. He then said, "I am sorry, Sister. Wayang Bird died yesterday."

Vulangnembua was shocked. "What? Wayang Bird died? Of what?" asked Vulangnembua in a sad tone. Her tears almost dropped unbearably.

"Yes, Sister. Wayang Bird had died yesterday afternoon. Your bird ate some rat poison that I had spread over my farm," said Madianggalang, lying to his sister.

"O, Dear Brother. What a bad fate that Wayang Bird had had to live. If so, where did you bury the body? Let me move its body to my farm so I'd be able to see its grave every day," replied Vulangnembua.

Suddenly, Madianggalang at a loss for words. How would one show the grave of a bird that was actually alive but hidden? In his bewilderment, suddenly Wayang Bird made such a sweet birdsong that Vulangnembua could hear. It finally dawned her that her brother had lied to her.

"Brother, isn't that the song of Wayang Bird? How could you have the heart to lie to me? What are you trying to do here? Please return the bird to me right now, Brother!"

Madianggalang was still trying to beat around the bush. “No, it wasn’t the sound of Wayang Bird. It was the sound of Lagilot’s bird. I didn’t bury the body of Wayang Bird. I threw it into the sea as it never had gotten any fish.”

Vulangnembua couldn’t believe his brother anymore. She then cried, “O, my dear Wayang Bird, if you really are alive, fly to me.”

Suddenly, a bird flew towards Vulangnembua and perched on the shoulder of the girl. It was Wayang Bird. The bird knew too well its real master. Vulangnembua was utterly happy to meet her life companion. So was Wayang Bird. The bird flapped its wings in happiness. Madianggalang who saw what transpired before his own sight was infuriated. He grabbed Wayang Bird from Vulangnembua’s shoulder. He then grabbed a knife and cut all the talons of Wayang Bird. Vulangnembua screeched hysterically at the sight of her talonless bird. She became angry at what her brother did. She seized the knife in her brother’s hand. She then performed the movement of the *mentalo* dance, or the battle dance. She became very strong. As she was crying, she raised the knife and yelled with lips shrilled to Madianggalang, “Madianggalang, from now on, I shall end our blood relations! O, God, show me Thy power and justice.”

As soon as she said that, thunder roared and followed by lightning. What sounded like a choir of thunderbolts roared

continuously. The sky suddenly became very dark. A storm blew so hard that the earth crumbled and split a crack. Volcano erupted and gushed hot, boiling lava. Shortly after, a very hard rain poured from the sky and washed anything away in the Punsu Village. It turned out that it was mount Punsu that erupted. People ran back and forth, trying to save themselves. So did Madianggalang and Lagilot. They never thought that things would change so swiftly. Vulangnembua's screech turned out to be so magical that the nature heard it.

The old saying couldn't be any truer; the prayers of those who have been wronged were always answered by God. And so was Vulangnembua's. Meanwhile, Wayang Bird have flown unknowingly. Talonless, it could no longer catch fish, meanwhile fishing couldn't have been easier with its talons.

Consumed by terrible sorrow, Vulangnembua tried to search for Wayang Bird to all corners of the village to no avail. "Wayang Bird, where might you be? Please return to me. I shall love you though you have no more talons."

Vulangnembua promised she would never stop trying to find Wayang Bird.

She regretted for keeping the bird neglectfully. She suddenly remembered her dream of meeting the angel who had given her Wayang Bird.

“This *was* the disaster that befell us if the talons of Wayang Bird were cut,” muttered Vulangnembua. Hence, she remained determined to find Wayang Bird relentlessly.

The Kneeling Tombstone

Punsu village was now wrecked to the ground. Madianggalang felt sorry for what he did. Everything he owned now gone. The curse couldn't be undone. Everything had happened. His once palace-like house was now ruined to the ground. No more wealth. His house, land, and farm were all gone. It was even worsened by the fact that he no longer had a sibling. Vulangnembua had ended their blood ties because of his own action. Vulangnembua was now gone, nowhere to be found. Madianggalang was determined to find his sister to apologize for everything he had done to her.

Madianggalang searched his sister to all corners of the village. He finally reached the sloping foot of Mount Punsu. In that spot, he called out for his sister, “Vulangnembua, my sister, where are you?” No answer at all. He repeatedly called out for his sister, but he heard no reply. Once again, Madianggalang called out for Vulangnembua, “Vulangnembua, where are you? I am so sorry for my fault!”

It was quiet, still, no signs of life, not even Vulangnembua's answer. Madianggalang sat silently on the foot of Mount Punsu. He remembered the togetherness he had with his sister since

childhood until the two of them became grown-ups. As he knelt, he regretfully cried for everything he did. He felt he was the cause of the disaster. At that moment, a bird suddenly flew above Madianggalang.

He looked up and he saw that it was the Wayang Bird. Sadness and happiness raged within him. He was happy to see Wayang Bird. “Vulangnembua can’t be far if Wayang Bird is flying nearby,” he thought. But, he felt sadness as he saw Wayang Bird as he was really sorry for what he did to the bird.

He cut the talons that had given him better life. It was the talons that had caught fish for him for days, and yet, he never thanked the bird. Madianggalang still sat silently at the foot of Mount Punsu. He knelt and cried and regretted all the things he had done. He felt that he was the cause of the all disasters. Then, a bird flew on top of his head again. Madianggalang looked up. It was Wayang Bird. Suddenly the bird spoke to Madianggalang, “Madianggalang, regretting all what you did served you no good. Indeed, regret always comes after.” said Wayang Bird to him.

Madianggalang was thunderstruck at hearing the voice of the bird. He never thought that the bird he had been using was a magic bird. He asked Wayang Bird, “O, magic bird, who are you?”

“You don’t need to know who I am, Madianggalang. It is not important for you to know who I really am. You’d better repent to God for all your evil deeds. Ask for God’s forgiveness and promise never to repeat those deplorable deeds.” said Wayang Bird. It then continued. “You should also apologize to your sister whose heart you have hurt, and sincerity you have betrayed. Madianggalang looked down flaccidly. He sobbed. He was imagining what he had done to Vulangnembua and Wayang Bird. The bird had made him rich. He could imagine what he had done to Wayang Bird. The bird made him rich, but he had the heart to cut its talons. He regretted everything he had done. Hence, he pleaded to Wayang Bird. “Wayang Bird, please forgive me for what I did. I regret everything I have done. I promise not repeat what I did, O, Wayang Bird!” Madianggalang pleaded the bird.

Wayang Bird then said, “Alright, I’ll forgive you. But, you must do what I am telling you!”

Madianggalang answered “I shall do anything you tell me, Majesty.”

Wayang Bird then commanded Madianggalang. “You must find Vulangnembua before sunset tomorrow. If you cannot find her by sunset, you shall be punished according to your transgression!” said Wayang Bird. Madianggalang accepted the order. He thought that Vulangnembua couldn’t be far, that’s why he accepted the order.

“Alright, Wayang Bird. I will now keep on searching for Vulangnembua and bring her to you before sunset tomorrow. I am ready to accept the punishment if I fail you,” said Madianggalang.

Madianggalang started to walk to find Vulangnembua. He walked to browse the whole corner of the village to no avail. He walked to leave the village. Yet, his sister was nowhere to be found. He grew restless. Time seemed to pass so quickly. He had to find Vulangnembua before sundown. At last, he unknowingly reached Gorontalo area.

In his journey, Madianggalang met Lagilot. He then told him about his encounter with Wayang Bird and its command to find Vulangnembua. Madianggalang asked Lagilot to help him find Vulangnembua. But, Lagilot rejected the request.

“Lagilot, please help me to find Vulangnembua as the deadline is approaching, and so far, I haven’t been able to find Vulangnembua,” asked Madianggalang to Lagilot.

“No, Madianggalang, I am really sorry. I can’t help you. I’m afraid you should find her yourself. Haven’t I been warning you enough not to fall into greed and not to cheat on your own sister? I have raised you both, through happiness and sorrow. But you were blinded by greed. This time you have to be responsible for your own actions. Once again, I can’t help you, I am sorry,” replied Lagilot.

Madianggalang fell silent as Lagilot spoke to him. This time, reality hit him so hard. He realized that Lagilot had been the man who had faithfully raised, accompanied, and served him. He had also been the one who always advised and forged him into good characters. Yet, it was his own greed that had made Lagilot abandon him. Another regret consumed Madianggalang. Not only his sister who had denied him of brotherhood, Lagilot, who was as good as parent to him, had also cared nothing about him. Madianggalang regretted everything he had done.

“Alright, Lagilot, if you say so. I shall continue my journey alone. I deserve all the punishment for what I did,” said Madianggalang.

“Off you go, Madianggalang. Proceed your venture to search for your sister. The night might be coming soon. I pray for your success,” replied Lagilot as he walked away. Madianggalang continued his journey. Finally, he reached the Gorontalo area. As he arrived in Gorontalo, Madianggalang sat in contemplation.

Shortly the sun would set. But, he hasn't been able to meet Vulangnembua at all. He was out of energy. He had travelled all night and day long. He was desperate. It was impossible to bring Vulangnembua to Wayang Bird.

In his grief, he chanted a song.

gauma oma iyo ina

seinsa pinantoya

lembo ome golontalon

The song meant, ‘where might she be, when the plain Gorontalo is in sight’. He repeated the song over and over again until the sun finally set and it was followed by lightning and thunder. The wind blew so hard. Madianggalang knelt to withstand the harshness of the wind. Suddenly, the thunder struck Madianggalang. And it was at that very moment he turned into a kneeling stone. He could not keep his promise hence the consequence. He turned into a stone which had been called by the people of Gorontalo as the Bagintuu Stone. It was said that the stone remained at the border of Parigi Moutong and Gorontalo.

The Encounter Between Lagilot and the Queen

After the eruption of Mount Punsu, Lagilot ranged over as a fabric trader to various areas within Central Sulawesi. After a short stay in Toli-toli, Lagilot continued his journey to the area of Buol. As usual, he went to the market to sell his goods. One day, as he was selling his goods, he was approached by a mid-aged woman. She intended to buy Lagilot’s goods.

“How much does this fabric cost, merchant?” asked the woman as she grasped a red cloth. Lagilot looked at the woman in awe. He stared at the woman who stood before him in disbelief. The woman was the wife of King Babolo, the queen, the mother of

Madianggalang and Vulangnembua. Though she had aged now, Lagilot couldn't forget the face of the queen. The woman who greeted Lagilot seemed to be aware of the fact that the man was in fact the commander of her kingdom's troops. She then exclaimed, "I do hope that my eyesight serves me well. Are you Lagilot, the commander of Babolo Kingdom's troops?"

"Forgive me, My Queen, I *am* Lagilot. Your eyesight serves you very well, Your Majesty," replied Lagilot.

"I would never have expected that we could meet. Follow me to my house. We have many things to discuss. I don't want anyone to know my disguise," said the queen.

The two people who has just met each other then walked to a small house. It was in this house that the queen had been living alone.

During her exodus, she disguised herself as a commoner who worked as a servant in Buol Kingdom. Lagilot, in knowing this, felt really moved. He never thought, the woman who once had served as his queen had to become a servant in some other palace for her own living. The queen then told Lagilot her experiences when Babolo Kingdom was attacked. She ran to the crowd of subjects who were fleeing. She blended in with those subjects and then she escaped and hid from one forest to another until she finally reached Buol. During her escape, she had always been in

disguise and nobody knew about her. Even some people thought that the queen had been assassinated in the attack to Babolo.

After she had told Lagilot the story of her life, the queen asked Lagilot, “Lagilot, where are my children? How are the two of them?”

Lagilot fell silent. For a moment, he was stunned, guilt overwhelmed him. He felt that he had failed to keep the king’s assignment to him. A while later Lagilot said, “First, I would like to apologize as I have never tried to find you, my queen. I too, thought that you have been assassinated. We had lived in the forest for some years. Madianggalang and Vulangnembua are now man and woman, Majesty.”

Hearing the news about her children made the queen tremendously happy. She imagined that she would meet her two children. However, the happiness turned sour as Lagilot continued his story.

“Majesty, your two children have now been scattered. Words had reached my ears that Madianggalang had turned into a rock as a result of the curse of Vulangnembua’s bird.”

Lagilot continued, “At this particular moment, I have never met Vulangnembua anymore. But from what I heard, Vulangnembua is now in Punsu,” said Lagilot.

The queen fell silent as she heard the story from Lagilot. Her hope to meet Madianggalang had perished. However, she was still optimistic about meeting Vulangnembua. Thus, she asked Lagilot to go meet Vulangnembua in Punsu.

“Lagilot, please take to meet my daughter, Vulangnembua. I really want to see her,” asked the queen.

“Yes, Majesty, I will accompany you to meet Vulangnembua.” Lagilot accepted the request of the queen. The next day, they left for Punsu.

Vulangnembua and Tadingkura

Meanwhile, in her grief, Vulangnembua tried hard to find where had Wayang Bird possibly gone. Never had she lost hope in finding the bird. In Gorontalo she came to see what her brother had become; a rock. Sadness struck her the moment she saw what her brother had turned to. Yet, things couldn't be undone. After all, what Madianggalang had turned into was the reward for all he had done.

After she felt peaceful, she returned to Punsu. She hoped that she would be able to find Wayang Bird there. In her journey, she became tired and fell asleep under a big tree. She had a dream where she was visited by a beautiful angel. It was the angel who had given the Wayang Bird. Vulangnembua felt very guilty that she couldn't care for the the bird well.

“O, angel, forgive me for my failure to keep Wayang Bird carefully. Now it had been talonless and nowhere to be found. I have spent days to search for it, but to no avail,” said Vulangnembua. The angel, who knew what had really happened, said to Vulangnembua, “I know exactly what had happened. It was not your fault, Vulangnembua. I know how much you loved Wayang Bird.”

“Yes, angel, I love the bird very much. It is the only friend in my life, and it had always been there to help me,” replied Vulangnembua.

“I understand, Vulangnembua. I will help you to find the bird. But you have to do me one favour!” said the angel.

“Angel, I would try to do your command as long as I can be reunited with Wayang Bird,” said Vulangnembua vibrantly.

“Fine, you’ll be able to find the Wayang Bird behind that hill on the south. Yet, you must first find twigs of sandalwood. Once you meet the bird, you must unite those twigs with the claws of Wayang Bird. When the bird’s talons regrow, you must kiss the bird,” asked the angel to Vulangnembua. After the series of commandment, the angel disappeared. Vulangnembua was now wide awake. She thought about her dream. This time she was certain that it was not merely a dream. She hurriedly tried to find sandalwood tree. After she found the tree, she picked some twigs.

Suddenly, a voice was heard, “O, human, who might you be? How could have the heart to cut me?”

Vulangnembua jumped in bewilderment as she heard the voice from the sandalwood tree. She was silent for a while, then answered, “I am Vulangnembua. I have forgiveness to ask of you for I have taken some of your twigs. I followed a commandment of an angel to put together the claws of Wayang Bird with this twig,” Vulangnembua answered with fear and anxiety.

“If that is your intention, you may take my twigs. But, if you meet Wayang Bird, you must flush me with the water from the lake behind that hill,” said the voice from the sandalwood tree.

“Your wish is my command,” replied Vulangnembua.

With the twigs of sandalwood in hand, Vulangnembua headed south and hiked the hill. The fervor of meeting her beloved bird made her feel tireless. Once she reached the other side of the hill, she bellowed to call Wayang Bird

“Wayang Bird, oh, Wayang Bird, where might you be? It is I, Vulangnembua who had come to see you,” cried Vulangnembua. No sign of the existence of Wayang Bird. The surrounding was very quiet. Vulangnembua waited in silence. Then, suddenly a bird emerged from a big rock. It flew upward and encircled her. It was Wayang Bird. Vulangnembua was very excited. Wayang Bird landed right on Vulangnembua’s shoulder.

“O, Wayang Bird, my beloved bird, I have come to bring back your talons as they were. I will attach these sandalwood twigs on your claws,” said Vulangnembua as she showed the twigs to Wayang Bird. Then, she attached the twigs to the claws of Wayang Bird. Magically, the talons of Wayang Bird regrew as they were.

Vulangnembua was extremely happy. Unknowingly she kissed Wayang Bird. Suddenly, the bird transformed into a very handsome young man. He was tall and hefty, with bright, clean face, thick hair and clad in a fancy outfit. Vulangnembua was stunned as she looked at the gorgeousness of that young man. The young man was also doing the same thing, he looked at the stunningly beautiful Vulangnembua.

The young man approached Vulangnembua and said, “Thank you, Vulangnembua. You have released me of a curse. I was cursed by a witch. Only true love’s kiss that could break the curse entirely. You are my saviour. Hence, I shall marry you,” said the young man.

Vulangnembua was stunned. She never had any idea that the bird she had kept all along was an embodiment of a very handsome young man. The prince was now proposing her to take her as his wife. No excuse for Vulangnembua to deny such proposal. Vulangnembua accepted the proposal. In the meantime, Lagilot and the queen had arrived in Punsu. They immediately search for

the whereabouts of Vulangnembua. The words have spread about the marriage of Vulangnembua and Tadingkura throughout Punsu, so it wasn't difficult for Lagilot and the queen to find Vulangnembua.

The meeting between Vulangnembua and the queen was extremely heartberaking. They had been separated for tens of years. Vulangnembua had never expected that her mother was still alive. She was exceptionally moved and happy. It's been way too long that she hadn't felt any love from her parent. The queen's feeling was mutual. The child she had carried and nursed had been taken away from her due to some unexpected condition. Both the mother and daughter were hugging as they cried for a while. Lagilot, who witnessed the reunion of a mother with her daughter, couldn't contain his tears either. After relieving the longing, they had had for years, Vulangnembua told her mother about the plan of her upcoming marriage to Tadingkura. The queen and Lagilot were thrilled about the marriage.

Shortly after, the wedding party of Vulangnembua and Tadingkura took place. The party went on for three days and three nights and it was rousing. All food and drinks were served for all the people who witnessed their wedding. After the wedding party, Vulangnembua took Tadingkura to take some water from the lake. They had to pour the water over the sandalwood tree, as she had promised to the tree. Once the water poured over the tree, the

tree suddenly turned into a magnificent, very fragrant palace. Vulangnembua and Tadingkura lived in the fragrant and magnificent palace. They were endowed with two children. The names of their son was Lavusiginti and their daughter was Tandi Vulcan. They lived happily ever after.