

KEKEKOW AND THE POOR GIRLS
Burung Kekekow dan Gadis Miskin

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KEKEKOW AND THE POOR GIRLS

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Burung Kekokow dan Gadis Miskin

Cerita Rakyat dari Sulawesi Utara

Ditulis oleh

Sri Diharti

BURUNG KEKEKOW DAN GADIS MISKIN

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Foreword

Literature work is not only series of word but it also talks about life, both realistically and idealistically of human. If it is realistic, the literature work usually contains life experiences, good model, and wisdom which have been added various style and imagination along with it. Meanwhile, if it idealistic, the literature work contains moral lecture, good character, advices, philosophical symbols, culture and other things related to human life. The life itself is very diverse, varies, and full of various problems and conflicts faced by humans. The diversity in humans life also affects to the diversity of literature work because the contents are inseparable from civilized and dignified humans life.

The literature works that dealing with life utilizes language as medium of deliverance and imaginative art as its *cultural land*. On the basis of the language medium and imaginative art, literature is multidimensional and multi-interpretative. Using language medium, imaginative art and cultural dimension, literature deliver messages to be reviewed or analyzed from various perspectives. The outcome of that perspective depends greatly on who is reviewing and analyzing with various socio-cultural and knowledge background. There is a time when a literary reviewer reviews from the point of view of metaphor, myth, symbol, power, ideology, economy, politics, and culture can be refuted by other reviewers who see from perspective of sound, referent, or irony. Even so, Heraclitus said, "However opposite they work together and from different directions, the most beautiful harmony emerges".

There are many lessons that we can get from reading literature, one of which is reading folktales that are adapted or reprocessed into children's stories. The results of reading literature always inspire and motivate readers to be creative in

finding something new. Reading literature can trigger further imagination, open enlightenment, and add insights. For this reason, we express our gratitude for the processors for the story. We also express our appreciation and gratitude to the Head of the Coaching Center, Head of the Learning Division, and Head of the Subdivision of Modules and Teaching Materials and staffs for all the efforts and hard works carried out until the realization of this book.

Hopefully this storybook is not only useful as a reading material for students and the community to foster a culture of literacy through the National Literacy Movement program, but also useful as an enrichment of our knowledge of past life that can be utilized in addressing current and future life developments.

Jakarta, June 2016

Regards,
Prof. Dr. Dadang Sunendar, M. Hum.

Preface

All praises be to Almighty God, because of His grace and blessings, *Kekekow and Poor Girl* can be finished in a well-organized manner. *Kekekow and Poor Girl* is an oral literature from Minahasa, North Sulawesi. This story is often told by parents to their children. Writing children's stories based on regional literature must continue to be encouraged because it can enrich the treasures of Indonesian literature, especially stories for children and also an effort made to support National Literacy Movement.

Kekekow and Poor Girl is a folklore contains noble values. In the story can be found several messages, including help and cooperate with each other, and a value of sincere friendship. The main message of this story is not to forget someone's good intention.

The author would like to say her utmost gratefulness and sincere appreciation to Head of Languang Cultivation Center, Prof. Dr. Gufran Ali Ibrahim, M.S. and Dr. Fairul Zabadi as the Head of Learning Field who have provided opportunities for all Region Languages Center staff throughout Indonesia to rewrite folklore from every province in Indonesia. The author also thanked the Head of the North Sulawesi Language Center, Supriyanto Widodo, S.S., M.Hum. and Greis Rantung, M.Pd. who have given opportunity to the author to write children stories from North Sulawesi.

Manado, April 2016
Sri Diharti

Table of Contents

Foreword.....	v
Preface.....	vii
Table of Contents	viii
Kekekow and The Poor Girls	1
The Author.....	40
The Editor.....	42

KEKEKOW¹ AND THE POOR GIRLS

Once in Minahasa, North Sulawesi, lived an old widow with her two daughters. They lived in a rickety shack beneath a shady tree. They were so poor that they did not have sufficient food, adequate clothing, and other basic necessities. However, poverty did not make them live in despair. They were still eager to fill the days.

The old widow and her two daughters never complained and lamented their poverty. They went through everything with patience and resignation. To her two daughters, the old widow always advised never to regret their poor life. Listening to their mother's advice, the two daughters lived their life with full of joy.

The kind of life led by the old widow and her two children was peculiar. They would seek for food when it was about time to eat. When they were about to have breakfast, they would search for food early in the morning, and they would do the same for their lunch and dinner. So, when they were hungry, regardless of the time, they would immediately go to the forest to find edible fruits or vegetables. Fortunately, in the forest where they usually went

¹ A bird endemic to Minahasa, North Sulawesi. In Minahasa language, the word kekekow is derived from two words, *keke* that means girl or a monicker used to call girls, especially in the villages, and *kow* that means you. So, *kekekow* means you girl.



for foraging, there were various types of fruits and other edible plants, so they did not have to worry about food. That was how they met the basic need for food in their life.

One day, the fruit season in their village was over. Likewise, in the forest they used to go for foraging, none of the trees yielded fruits, and there were also no vegetables. Even the stream in the forest, wherefrom the villagers usually got their water for bathing and drinking, was also very dry. As a result, all villagers were in despair.

“My dear, get up. It’s already late in the morning. It’s time to search for food,” the mother woke her two children up.

“Yes, Mom,” responded the eldest daughter, rubbing her eyes. Actually, the eldest daughter was still very sleepy and exhausted from looking for firewood in the forest with her sister the day before. However, she did not have the heart to continue sleeping because her mother had already waked her up to go foraging in the forest.

As she rose from her bed, she turned to look at her sister who was still in a deep sleep beside her. She immediately roused her sister.

“Sister, wake up, let’s hurry to go foraging in the forest. Poor mother has been waiting for long,” the older sister woke her younger sister up while patting her sister’s head. Hearing her older sister’s voice, the younger sister immediately rose from the

bed and headed to the room at the back where they usually bathed.

Not long afterwards, the two sisters finished dressing up. They immediately bid goodbye to their mother.

“Mom, we’re leaving to forage in the forest,” the two sisters said goodbye to their mother in unison.

“Yes, be careful on your way, my daughters,” the mother reminded her two daughters.

Taking their leave, the two sisters went to the forest. Along the way, they both greeted the villagers who passed them by on the streets. The villagers were so familiar with the hospitality of the two sisters that many were so fond of them. In addition to being very hospitable, the two sisters were also known to be very helpful to anyone. Both helped with sincerity, without expecting any returns.

After half an hour of walking, they arrived at the forest. The forest they visited every day was located not far from where they lived, so it did not take a long time for them to get there. The two sisters immediately entered the forest and dispersed to search for fruits and vegetables for their food. However, even after they searched around the forest for several times, none of them found any trees bearing fruits or vegetables that they could make for their meal. Apparently, at that time the fruit season had been

completely over in the forest, so there was not a single tree bearing fruits found. Although the two sisters continued walking through the forest in the hope to find any fruitful tree, their efforts were fruitless. Finally, they decided to rest because they felt tired and their stomachs had growled since morning. They then rested under a shady mango tree.

“Big sister, my stomach feels so sore,” said the younger sister with a pitiful face.

“Yes, little sister. My stomach also hurts,” replied the older sister as she turned toward her younger sister. Actually, the older sister was very sorry and sad to see how her younger sister had been rubbing her sore stomach to contain her hunger.

However, in front of her younger sister she tried not to show a sad face so that her younger sister would not find about it. Meanwhile, her mind was also thinking of their mother who had been waiting for them with hope. Of course, remembering her mother made her sad. As the eldest child, she felt responsible for her mother and sister, but she tried to conceal the sadness that plagued her soul and mind. In her heart she kept praying and wishing that they would get a miracle so that her younger sister and mother could eat. The older sister started at the soft and pitiful sound of her little sister, jerking her wandering mind back to reality.

“Where else should we go to find food? Poor mother at home is waiting for our arrival,” said the younger sister while holding her stomach.

“I don’t know, little sister. I’m also confused as to where else to look for food. All day we had been walking through the forest, but none of the fruitful trees we found,” replied the older sister with a grim face, imagining the face of the mother who was awaiting their arrival. When the older sister turned around, she could see her young sister’s sad face. As an older sister, she could not bear to look at the face of the younger sister who held her stomach to endure the pain of her hunger. Finally, with great compassion the older sister stroked her sister’s head while saying, “Little sister, we should sleep first under this tree and when we wake up our hunger will disappear,” she said.

The older sister then leaned closer to her younger sister, and then lovingly stroked her little sister’s head while singing softly, hoping that her sister would soon fall asleep. However, because of the overwhelming hunger, the younger sister could not close her eyes. For a moment, silence befell on them as they kept quiet and drifted in each of their minds. The two sisters who were in silence were then startled by a yellow object falling right in front of them. The younger sister who first saw the object immediately moved from under the tree while asking her sister.

“What did just fall, Sister?” asked the younger sister.

“I don’t know, little sister. Let’s take a closer look at that thing!” invited the older sister.

Both sisters rose and approached the object while looking at and holding it.

“Apparently, it’s a comb of golden bananas,” said the older sister, turning to her younger sister.

“You’re right, Sister, it’s a comb of golden bananas,” the younger sister echoed her sister’s words.

“I wonder how these bananas could fall right in front of us, while we are actually resting under a mango tree,” asked the older sister with a face full of amazement while looking at the golden bananas.

“I also wonder why, Sister. How can a mango tree yield banana; besides, you see there is no banana tree around here,” wondered the younger sister, looking straight ahead and making sure once again that there were no banana trees around.

“Or ... could it be that someone threw these bananas to us, Sister,” the younger sister continued, turning to her older sister who was still staring at the golden bananas.

“Ah, how could that be, little Sister. No villagers passed by this place since we got here. It was just us both,” the older sister replied.

“Or it could be, Sister, that there’s someone on this mango tree who threw the bananas at us,” suggested the younger sister, looking up to the mango tree. Seeing the younger sister looking up, the older sister also looked up to the mango tree out of curiosity. The eyes of the two sisters wondered over the mango tree, but they did not see anyone there. They only heard the melodious chirp of a *kekekow*.

“*Keke kow keke kow keke kow keke kow*,” sang the Kekekow while looking toward the sisters. However, the two girls did not realize that they were being observed by the Kekekow. Apparently, the Kekekow had been perching on a branch of the mango tree and listened to the conversations of the two sisters. The Kekekow was very sorry and concerned about the two sisters for not getting food all day; furthermore, the Kekekow could hear how worried the two sisters were with their mother who waited hungrily in their hut. Finally, the bird chucked a bunch of golden bananas at the two sisters.

The Kekekow did not want the two sisters to find out that he was the one who gave the bananas. Therefore, the Kekekow did not show himself in front of the two sisters. Both sisters were still filled with a sense of confusion because they did not know the origin of the golden bananas lying in front of them.



When they were still wondering about the mysterious bananas, they were again made surprised by many kinds of fruits falling and getting scattered under the mango tree on which they leaned. Seeing the strange incident, the two sisters became increasingly puzzled. The two siblings no longer felt the pressing hunger because they were overwhelmed and shocked by what just happened to them. Interestingly, although in front of them lay a lot of fruits ready to eat, they did not eat the fruits right away. Instead, the two sisters immediately ran away from the mango tree to their hut not far from the forest.

From a distance, the mother could be seen sitting nervously in front of the door waiting for her two daughters to arrive. Sitting dreamily, the mother muttered, “May my two daughters be able to get food for today.” The mother who was still absorbed in her reverie suddenly saw her two girls rushing toward her. Seeing this, the mother quickly rose from the chair and welcomed her two children.

“What’s going on, my dear? Why were you two in so much of a hurry? Was anyone chasing or bothering you? Come on. Tell your mother, my dear,” the mother pestered her two daughters with many questions at once.

“No, Mom, no one was disturbing or chasing us,” replied the elder sister.

“Then why were you running in a rush?” the mother asked.

“Here’s the story, Mom. While resting under a mango tree, we experienced a strange incident,” explained the younger sister.

“What kind of strange incident?” the mother asked in amazement.

“Well, Mom, after going through the forest and not finding a single fruit-bearing tree, we chose to rest under a mango tree. When we rested, suddenly before us a comb of golden bananas fell from the top of a mango tree,” the older sister explained to her mother.

“Well, to our astonishment, we couldn’t find the person who tossed the golden bananas, Mom. We’ve searched around the mango tree even up to the top of it, but no one was around,” the younger sister continued her older sister’s explanation.

“Even more surprising, Mom, when we were still wondering about that incident, suddenly from the top of the mango tree a variety of fruits fell right in front of us,” continued the sister explaining to the mother.

“But we’re sorry, Mom, we didn’t dare to take the fruits because we didn’t know where they were from. As you have often taught us, we should not take something that does not belong to us,” said the elder sister.

“You’re right, my dear. No matter how difficult our life is, we should never take something that does not belong to us,” the mother replied. In her heart, the mother was very happy and proud because she had successfully inculcated honesty in her two daughters.

“Mom, let’s go back to the mango tree to see what’s going on there,” invited the younger sister.

“Yes. You’re right. We’d better go back to the mango tree where you had the strange incident,” the mother agreed.

After closing the door of the hut, the mother went with her two daughters to the mango tree. Soon the three of them arrived at the destined place. The mother was surprised to see various kinds of fruits scattered on the ground under the mango tree.

“Wow. Look at these fruits! How abundant!” cried the mother.

“Yes, Mom, but how can we eat the fruits, while we do not know who gave them to us?” replied the younger sister.

“How about we gather all these fruits, then we disperse in this forest to find out the one who has given us these fruits,” the mother advised her two daughters. Then, the three of them collected all the fruits scattered under the mango tree. After all the fruits were gathered, they began to disperse to find the person who had given the fruits. Apparently, no matter how long they

searched, they could not find anyone else in the forest. The mother and her two children were really surprised because after walking through the forest for quite some time, they did not meet a single person there. Meanwhile, her two daughters already looked very tired, especially the younger sister who seemed to continuously holding her stomach.

“Are you hungry, my dear?” the mother asked her two daughters.

Her two daughters, though very hungry, did not want to bother their mother and said they were not hungry and still able to endure the hunger.

After hearing the answer of her two daughters, the mother smiled. In her heart she knew that her two daughters ought to be lying just to please her.

Unable to see the suffering of her two hungry daughters, the mother then invited the two daughters to rest under the mango tree where they put the fruits they had collected. Finally, because of fatigue and hunger, the mother invited her daughters to eat some of the fruits. The three of them sat under the mango tree while enjoying the fruits they had collected. Once satisfied, the three returned to their hut.

The next day, the two girls went back to search for food in the forest. Like the day before, they did not find any fruit-bearing trees. The elder sister took her younger sister to rest under the



mango tree where they previously experienced a strange incident. Even before they leaned on the mango tree, the two sisters suddenly heard the melodious chirp of a singing *kekekow*.

“Keke kow keke kow keke kow.”

Hearing the song of the Kekekow, the two sisters immediately looked up to the mango tree to see the Kekekow. However, the two did not see the bird; they could only hear the chirps.

“Keke kow keke kow keke kow keke kow.”

“Big Sister, let’s go home, it looks like today there would be no strange incident like yesterday,” invited the younger sister.

“All right, let’s go home to our mother,” agreed the older sister while holding her younger sister’s hand.

Both immediately rose from under the mango tree and walked towards their hut. They had not walked too far when suddenly they heard a voice calling them.

“Oh, you girls, come here! I’ll give you food like yesterday.”

Hearing the voice, the siblings automatically turned their heads to the source of the sound. Apparently, the sound came from the mango tree where they just took their rest. Both immediately turned back toward the tree. When they both reached the mango tree, suddenly many kinds of fruits were dropped from the tree.

Both girls raised their heads and saw a *kekekow* perching on one of the tree's branches.

"Kekekow, were you the one who gave these fruits to us?" asked the older sister.

"Yes, that's right. I was also the one who gave you fruits yesterday," replied the Kekekow.

"Why do you give us food?" inquired the younger sister to the Kekekow.

"It's because while perching on this branch, I accidentally listened to your conversations. I also have seen you two several times when flying and perching on the trees in the village. I often saw you helping the villagers in need," replied the Kekekow lightly.

"Well then, thank you, kind-hearted Kekekow. Because of your help we are no longer suffering from hunger," replied the elder sister.

"Yes, Kekekow, it was all because of you. Even though the fruit season has been over, our family has no trouble finding food again. Thank you, Kekekow," the two girls thanked the bird simultaneously.

"Yes, as creatures of God, we should help each other," said the Kekekow with full wisdom.

“Well, take all the fruits scattered under the tree and bring them back to your hut. Eat them with your mother,” the Kekekow told the two girls.

Both of them quickly picked up all the fruits scattered on the ground. How happy the two girls were.

They could imagine the face of the mother who had been awaiting their arrival. They were even happier when they imagined a smile broke on their mother’s lips when she later found out that the one who had given them the fruits so far was a kind *kekekow*. After they both finished picking up all the fruits, they immediately said good-bye to the Kekekow while unceasingly thanking the kindness and generosity of the Kekekow to their families.

“Kekekow, we are leaving. Thank you for your help. Surely mother is waiting for us anxiously at home,” said the older sister.

“Alright, hurry up and go home, it’s getting late. From now on we are friends and you can come here every day to pick up food,” replied the Kekekow.

Hearing the words of the Kekekow, the hearts of the two sisters grew very happy because they had made friends with a kind and generous bird. Waving their arms, the sisters left the Kekekow and immediately returned to their hut.



The mother who had been waiting for the arrival of her two daughters was very nervous. Occasionally, she looked out of the house.

As soon as she saw her two daughters in front of the yard, she immediately welcomed them.

“I have been waiting for you. I’m afraid something bad has happened to you,” said the mother as she held the hands of her two daughters and led them into their hut. The mother went straight to the kitchen to get some water for her two daughters.

“Drink this, my dear. You must be very tired after foraging in the forest. Tell me what happened to you in the forest,” said the mother. As the mother put the glasses on the table, her eyes caught the fruits lying on the floor in abundance.

“Did you get these fruits from the forest, my dear?” the mother asked.

“Yes, Mom. We got the fruits from the forest, but we did not need to tire ourselves through the forest to get them,” cried the younger sister with a radiant face.

“Then how did you get this many without searching in the forest, my dear?” Her mother asked in amazement.

“It was just like yesterday, Mom. As we rested under the mango tree, suddenly there were fruits falling from the top of it. After we

investigated, it turned out that the one who has helped us for these two days is a *kekekow*,” the older sister explained to her mother.

“A *kekekow*?” The mother repeated in amazement.

“Yes, Mom. The Kekekow was very good and we are now friends with him. Mom, the Kekekow even told us to come there every day to get food,” the sister chimed in.

After hearing the explanations of both girls, the old widow grew very excited. She also endlessly expressed her gratitude to God for having given help through a *kekekow*.

Since then, the old widow’s family had become friends with the Kekekow. Every day, her two daughters went to the forest to see the Kekekow. They played together, joked, and played tags with joy.

The Kekekow was also very happy to be friends with the two sisters. Moreover, the two sisters often shared their food with the neighbors and villagers who also lived in poverty. The Kekekow did not only help with food, but he also provided household appliances to the family of the old widow. In fact, when the dry season came, the Kekekow gave them water for their daily needs.

Thanks to the help of the Kekekow, the life of the old widow’s family and her two daughters gradually improved and they were no longer poor.

In the past, they had been very poor and had difficulties in meeting their needs. Now they had enough of everything.

Their newly gained wealth did not make the old widow's family arrogant. On the contrary, with improved economic situation, this family never hesitated to help the villagers in need of their help. To anyone who needed a help, the mother and her two daughters would very easily lend their hands. This was what made the Kekekow love the family of the old widow even more. The Kekekow was delighted to see the kindness and generosity of the widow and her daughters who did not become arrogant even though their lives were improving.

The new life of the elderly widow and her two daughters had certainly provoked the astonishment of some villagers. They were of course surprised to see the economic improvement of the widow's family. They knew how hard the widow's life had been. In fact, it was not infrequent that some cocky villagers insulted the widow and her daughters.

These villagers were amazed and in disbelief that within a short time the life of the old widow's family improved greatly. Of course, this made the villagers envious of seeing the economic improvement of the old widow's family and her two daughters. Because of the jealousy, some of the villagers whose children were friends with the two daughters of the old widow told their

children to find out the cause of the sudden change in the life of the old widow and her daughters.

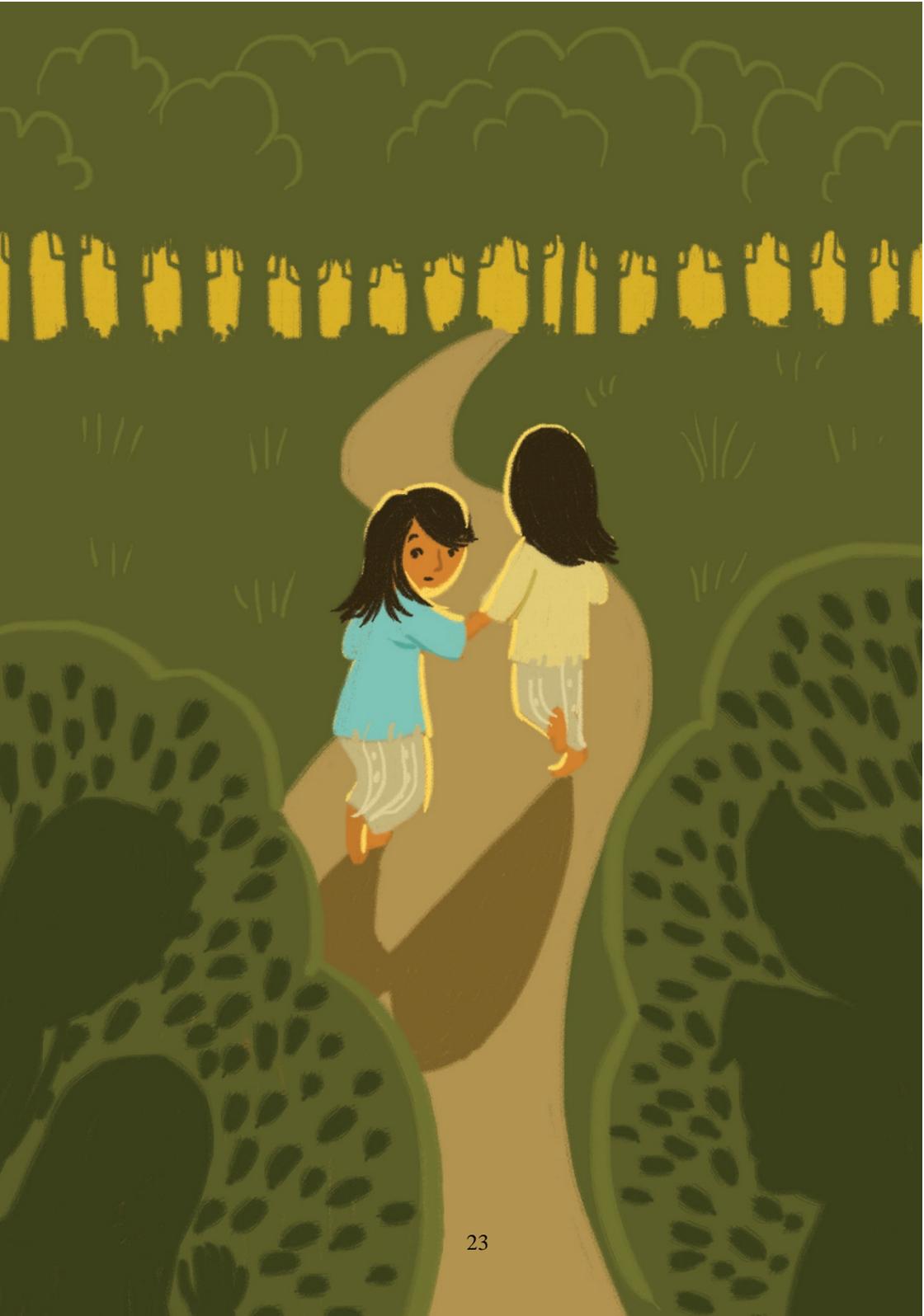
One day, some playmates of the old widow's two daughters quietly followed and spied on the two sisters as they headed for the woods.

How surprised they were when they saw the two girls playing and joking with a *kekekow*. They were astonished at seeing a bird speaking human language. Their amazement was doubled when they saw the Kekekow giving so much food to the two sisters. Not only that, with their own eyes they saw that whatever the girls asked for was always fulfilled and granted by the Kekekow.

This incident certainly bewildered them. They believed the Kekekow was the incarnation of a powerful person. Without waiting for long, the children who had followed the two girls immediately ran to the village. They then reported what they had just seen to their parents.

After listening to their children's report, of course the villagers were shocked and considered the incident experienced by the two old widow's girls as rare and strange. Therefore, they decided to report the incident to the village chief.

Arriving at the village, the villagers went directly to the village chief's house to report the incident they had just seen.



“Why are you all crowding my house?” asked the village chief.

One of the residents stepped forward and said, “Look, Sir. We are all here astonished by the economic improvement of the old widow and her two daughters who live at the edge of the village near the forest,” pointing to the hut located at the far end of the houses in their village.

“What’s wrong with the life of the old widow and her two daughters?” inquired the village chief with a frown.

“Everyone in our village knows how poor they were, Sir. However, now they are living well, even better than all of us,” said one resident loudly and fiercely.

“Shouldn’t we be grateful then because our villagers who were poor have now gradually improved their life?” one of the villagers chimed in.

“Yes, but the way they get a better life is not right,” shouted one of the villagers who had been spying on the old widow’s family in the forest.

“What do you mean by ‘not right’?” asked the chief of the village with a slightly confused face.

“Well, Sir, we once followed and spied on the old widow’s two girls as they headed into the woods. We saw with our own eyes

what happened to them,” interrupted a villager who tried to convince the village chief.

“Yes, Sir, that’s right. Surely you wouldn’t think that we are lying. Besides, what good does it have for us if we tell you something that’s not right?” a villager added.

“Sir, we are reporting the incident that we saw because we do not want anyone from our village to keep a half-man half-demon creature,” said one villager.

“What kind of creature are you talking about?” The village chief inquired, a little confused.

“I mean we villagers believe in God. Just imagine what if there are among the villagers who keep a half-man half-demon creature. We are afraid that later the creature will ask for a sacrifice, Sir.

Then, it is possible that one by one we will be made the sacrifice. Isn’t that terrible, Sir?” convinced one of the villagers while shuddering at the thought of something terrible.

Hearing the full story from the villagers, the chief of the village immediately rose from his seat and ordered all villagers to immediately catch the Kekekow in the forest.

“Well, after hearing all your stories, I now order all villagers right now to immediately go to the forest and catch the Kekekow, then

bring it to me. However, remember, do not let the bird die. Catch it alive!” ordered the chief of the village.

Hearing the order of the village chief, the villagers together went into the forest and searched for the Kekekow on the mango tree. Meanwhile, inside the forest, the Kekekow who was tired after playing with the two sisters perched on one branch of the mango tree while singing melodiously.

“Uh, just a moment. Did you hear the bird chirping?” asked one of the villagers who participated in the group searching for the Kekekow.

“Yeah, I heard the chirp. It seems that the voice came from behind the big mango tree,” replied one of the villagers.

Then, the villagers galloped toward the huge mango tree from which they could hear the bird chirping. Arriving near the mango tree, they then arranged a strategy to catch the Kekekow.

Meanwhile, the Kekekow who was unaware of the distress that would befall him continue singing melodiously as if describing his happy mood after playing with his two new best friends. All of a sudden, the Kekekow was surprised when he felt his body being squeezed by a large hand. As the Kekekow turned its face to the side, grim faces with sinister smiles could be seen crowding the Kekekow. Only then did the Kekekow realize that he was captured by humans. The Kekekow just remained silent and

resigned, unable to release his body from the powerful grip of human hands.

“Finally, we caught this *kekekow*,” exclaimed one villager who held the body of the Kekekow tightly.

“Yeah, yeah. It was easy to catch him.”

“Don’t grip him too tightly. This bird might die,” another villager reminded.

“That’s right, the chief of the village has reminded us to bring this Kekekow alive,” reminded another villager.

“I know. Calm down. This bird will not die. I hold it tightly so it won’t escape,” defended the villager who gripped the Kekekow.

“Then, let us immediately bring this bird to the village chief. It’s getting dark,” suggested one villager.

They immediately went out of the woods and headed straight to the village chief’s house with the Kekekow they managed to catch. Arriving at the home of the village chief, they were greeted by the village chief with a broad smile as he saw the arrival of his villagers bringing the Kekekow they had caught.

“Good work,” the village chief praised his people.



“Put this Kekekow into the cage right away and feed him. Tomorrow morning we will take him to the village hall,” said the village chief.

The villagers immediately put the Kekekow into a cage. The Kekekow was really sad. His body was also in pain because of the very strong grip of one of the villagers. He did not even touch the food and drink served by the village chief and the villagers. The Kekekow only hoped to get out of the cage immediately. Alas, the cage was too strong for him.

The next morning, the old widow’s two girls as usual headed for the woods, more specifically to the spot under the mango tree whereon the Kekekow usually perched. How surprised the two sisters were because they did not find the Kekekow there. They were even more surprised to see the many feathers of the Kekekow scattered on the ground.

“Big Sis, where is our friend, the Kekekow?” the younger sister wondered.

“I don’t know, little sister. I am worried seeing these scattered feathers of the Kekekow,” said the older sister softly.

“You’re right, big sister. What if there was a hunter coming into the forest and shooting the Kekekow,” said the younger sister while picking up the feathers of the Kekekow.

“If our guess is true, how unfortunate our friend’s fate is. The Kekekow has been so good and of much help to our family, little sister,” said the older sister with a sad face.

“Big Sis, let us both go separately in this forest to find our friend the Kekekow,” suggested the younger sister.

“That’s right, little Sis. Let’s look for him together. Maybe our friend is perching on another tree in this forest,” the older sister replied.

Soon the sisters dispersed to search for the Kekekow, their friend. However, after several hours searching in the forest, they did not find the Kekekow. The two went back to meet under the large mango tree where they often played and joked with the Kekekow.

The sisters then leaned their backs against the mango tree trunk, wondering what really happened to their friend, the Kekekow. Finally, the two sisters went home and told the mother about the incident.

“Why do you look sad, daughters?” asked the mother.

“Mom, we went to the forest and headed for the mango tree where the Kekekow usually perches on, but when we get there, the Kekekow was not there. Instead, we found his feathers scattered on the ground,” explained the older sister.

“What? The Kekekow has gone?” how surprised the mother hearing the explanation of her two daughters.

“Who would have a heart to do such a thing to the kind Kekekow?” the mother said in a low voice.

“Yes, Mom. Where should we look for the Kekekow?” asked the younger sister with a sad tone.

In the meantime, the villagers brought the Kekekow to the village hall where a case was usually decided. Arriving at the village hall, the chief of the village showed a cage containing the Kekekow.

“Villagers, now in front of us there is the magical Kekekow. I said magical because this bird will grant all our requests. So, you can ask for whatever you want,” said the village chief in front of his people in a loud voice.

After hearing the words of the chief of the village, the people crowded the bird and competed to shout to make their request for food heard by the Kekekow. In fact, it was not just food they asked for. The villagers even asked for housewares and money to the magical Kekekow. Looking at how greedy the villagers were, the Kekekow became increasingly furious.

The village chief approached the Kekekow and shouted. With a loud voice the chief of the village commanded the Kekekow to grant all the villagers’ requests. However, the Kekekow remain

unmoved and unwilling to grant the villagers' requests. This of course angered the chief of the village and his people. Seeing the anger of the villagers, the Kekekow instead gave them dry grasses. This attitude of the Kekekow, of course, made the village chief and the villagers become angrier and angrier.

"You, scam! How dare you insult us!" snapped the chief of the village.

"Just get rid of that bird!" shouted one of the villagers who were very angry at how the Kekekow treated them.

"Yes, that's right. Let's get rid of this bird!" cried all the villagers who were upset, angry, and disappointed with the Kekekow that failed to meet their demands. Finally, all villagers and the village chief agreed to murder the Kekekow.

Meanwhile, the old widow and her two daughters were startled to hear the noise coming from the village hall.

"Little Sis, did you hear that? It seems there's a ruckus at the village hall. Don't you think so?" asked the older sister, looking toward the village hall.

"Yes, big Sister, I also heard it. What do you think?" replied the sister.

“I don’t know, little Sis, there may be thieves or some villagers who are in disagreement, and they are brought to the village hall,” replied the older sister.

“But, big Sis, as far as I know our village has always been safe. There’s never been a thief or a dispute here,” refuted the younger sister.

“Well. You two better go to the village hall to see what’s going on,” their mother suggested.

“Alright, Mom. We’ll both go to the village hall now.”

The girls immediately ran to the village hall to see what was going on. They were dumbfounded to see the Kekekow in a cage, and some villagers were getting ready to slaughter the Kekekow.

The two girls hurried to their house and reported the incident that happened to the Kekekow to their mother. After hearing her daughters’ report, without further ado the old widow and her two daughters headed to the village hall.

Arriving at the village hall, the three of them begged the chief of the village and all villagers not to slaughter the Kekekow. The mother and her two daughters expressed their willingness to give all of their property to the villagers as long as they did not slaughter the Kekekow. Seeing the family’s effort to rescue him,

the Kekekow was very touched and proud because he had friends who were willing to sacrifice for him.

Unfortunately, the request of the mother and two daughters was rejected by the village chief and the villagers.

The mother and two daughters continued trying to prevent the Kekekow from getting slaughtered. Alas, they were so helpless that they were even pushed away and kicked out by the villagers.

How sad and hurt the old widow and her two children were witnessing their friend the Kekekow getting slaughtered by the villagers very cruelly.

After the Kekekow was slaughtered, the villagers grabbed its meat and dumped the bones behind the house of one of the villagers. They ate the meat of the Kekekow. After eating the meat of the bird, the villagers and village chief with a winning smile returned to their respective home, leaving the old widow and her two daughters in the village hall.

“Mom, it’s really sad to see the Kekekow slaughtered,” said the younger sister as she hiccupped and wiped her tears.

“Yes, Mom, how could they be so cruel with the Kekekow. What has the Kekekow done wrong to them? The Kekekow has never disturbed them. In fact, the food we usually give to the villagers

was all given by the Kekekow,” said the older sister with great sadness.

Seeing her two daughters sad, the mother immediately took them home.

“Let’s go home, my dear. This incident has taught us a lesson that we should not be greedy,” said the mother.

“What do you mean by being greedy, Mom?” asked the younger sister to her mother.

“The villagers and village chief should not have forcefully asked for something because all creatures of God that exist on this earth have their own limitations. So did the Kekekow. He has his own limitations.

Thus, we should ask for something as needed and not bother other creatures,” the mother explained to her two daughters.

“Come on, girls, let’s go home. However, before returning home, we should take the bones of the Kekekow thrown behind the house of one of the villagers,” said the mother to her two daughters.

The three of them immediately headed to the house of said villager, whose backyard was used as a place to throw the bones of the Kekekow away.

The three of them carefully picked up the bones of the Kekekow and took the bones home. Arriving at home, they cleaned the bones of the Kekekow and then buried the bones in the back of the house.

Every day, they cleaned the grave or the place where the bones of the Kekekow were buried. They watered the soil and cleaned it up. Every day, they willingly did that. Although the Kekekow had died, the life of the elderly widow and her two daughters was never short of anything.

A few years later after the incident, the two daughters of the old widow grew into mature women with a very beautiful face. They still lived well because they had kept and taken care of all the gifts from the Kekekow very well.

Meanwhile, above the grave of the Kekekow grew a big tree that never stopped yielding fruits. The fruits produced by the tree had a pleasant aroma and very good taste. If the widow and her two daughters were hungry, they would just pick the fruits of the tree. The elderly widow and her two daughters did not hesitate to help the hungry villagers by giving the fruits of the tree that grew on the grave of the Kekekow that had been slaughtered by the villagers themselves.



“Mom, shouldn’t we be grateful that we could be friends with the kind Kekekow,” said the older sister while cleaning the grave of the Kekekow.

“You are right, my dear. It is because of the goodness of the Kekekow that our life has gradually improved, and we are no longer poor,” replied the mother who also helped clean the leaves that fell from the tree to the grave of the Kekekow.

“Mom, we can still feel the kindness of the Kekekow to our family. Although the Kekekow is no longer with us, our life is still supported by the bird,” said the older sister emotionally.

“What do you mean, big Sis?” asked the younger sister who had been sweeping around the grave of the Kekekow and listening to the conversation between her mother and older sister.

“What I mean is that when the Kekekow was still alive, we were assisted in the forms of food, household equipment, and even water for our daily needs. Well, after the Kekekow died, he continued to support our life.

The proof is on the grave of the Kekekow has grown a big tree that produces fruit that tastes very good. Of course this is proof that the Kekekow still cares about us and does not want to see us live miserably again, little Sis,” the older sister explained to her younger sister at length.

“What you said is really right. In fact, it is not only our lives that are supported by the Kekekow, but also the lives of the villagers who are starving. As a proof, we give the fruits of the tree that grows on the grave of the Kekekow to the starving villagers,” replied the younger sister with great enthusiasm.

“Well, that means the Kekekow still wants us to always do good to each other and help each other, and we should not be revengeful, my dear. No matter how bad people have treated us, we must still give forgiveness. Let everything be governed by the Almighty,” responded the mother to her daughter.

“Yes, Mom, because God is just, and He will not let His creatures suffer all the time. What is important is that we should always endeavor and live in accordance with the rules of God, and we will have a good life,” the older sister responded wisely.

“My daughters, this incident has taught us some lesson that we can learn to live our lives,” explained the mother while hugging her two daughters. In her heart, the old widow was very grateful for having children who had a heart as good as the Kekekow’s, their true friend, and who did not forget the kindness of the Kekekow. Even when nature separated them from the Kekekow, their friendship would never be broken because they reminded each other to always do good to fellow creatures of God.

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