

PRINCESS KUMALASARI

Putri Kumalasari

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PRINCESS KUMALASARI

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Cerita Rakyat Kalimantan Utara

Putri Kumalasari

**Ditulis oleh
Djamari**

PUTRI KUMALASARI

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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

I thank God for the presence of Allah SWT. because the writing of this children story entitled Princess Kumalasari can be finished on time. I wrote this story as a reading material for elementary school students in grades IV, V, and VI. I wrote this story and I adapted it from the oral story of Tidung, North Kalimantan. This short story in short form was published in *Bunga Rampai Cerita Lisan Tidung*, North Kalimantan written by Inung Setyami, Eva Apriani, and Siti Fathonah.

In my opinion, the story in this book is worth reading by elementary school-aged children. Aside from being able to enrich national insight through various regional cultures or literature in Indonesia, this story also contains spiritual teachings, manners, and positive personalities that are very much needed by children. This is reflected in the story that in everyday life, anyone can do good to help others. If the people who are in charge are not good, then they will use their power to make it difficult and oppress others. In principle, people must help each other. As a leader, if you have promised something then you must keep it so that others will not feel harmed. Therefore, the noble heritage in this story is expected to be one of the media to develop the quality of life and the future of Indonesian children.

Hopefully this story is beneficial for the reader.

Tangerang, April 2016
Djamari

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PRINCESS KUMALASARI

1. Princess Kumalasari Fell Ill

The sky on the Middle of Nowhere Kingdom was clear with white clouds stroking like a painting. A breeze winded up the leaves and flowers in the garden. King Kasmidun used to enjoy the beautiful ambience together with his daughter, but it was not so that afternoon. His only daughter named Princess Kumalasari fell ill.

In her pavilion, Princess Kumalasari had been lying listless on her bed. The maids were always there standing by. They took care of her all the time alternately waiting in case the princess woke up. The king often came to see how she was going. Intermittently he walked closer to her and then stood up and back on his seat. The King was distressed thinking about his beloved daughter's illness.

“Maid, find a guard and tell him to come.”

“Yes, Your Majesty.”

The maid rushed to perform the task. Shortly after, a guard came and kneeled before the king.

“Guard, find a healer and bring him here.”

“Yes, Your Majesty.”



The guard raced into a healer's house. Luckily, the healer was in and he followed the guard to the palace.

"Healer, my daughter is ill. Examine and treat her illness."

"Yes, Your Majesty."

The healer checked Princess Kumalasari carefully. But the healer found it difficult to know what kind of illness the princess was suffering from.

"How is she, Healer?"

"Forgive me, Your Majesty. I trace no illness in the princess' body. I have never found anyone fell ill like the princess."

"What do you mean, Healer?"

"Forgive me, Your Majesty. Your daughter is indeed ill, but I do not know what kind of illness it is."

Having heard it, King Kasmidun showed an overly anxious attitude. The healer was afraid for being incapable to cure the princess.

"Forgive me, Your Majesty. Please excuse me. Perhaps other healer might be able to cure the princess."

King Kasmidun justified what the healer had said. There could be chance another healer was capable of curing his daughter. So the King called the guard again.

“Guard, find another healer. Bring him to my presence.”

“Yes, Your Majesty.”

The guard rushed out to another healer’s house. Lucky for him, the healer was in. He had just returned home from visiting a sick man somewhere. The guard told the healer of his purpose to come. The healer thought the princess had the same kind of illness as the person’s he had just treated. The healer followed the guard to the princess’ pavilion.

“Healer, my daughter was ill. Please check and give her some medicine.”

“I shall do, Your Majesty.”

The healer examined the princess thoroughly, but he did not understand what kind of illness the princess was suffering for. The healer was afraid to disappoint the king. He thought he could be punished. His hands were shaking.

“How is my daughter, Healer?”

“Forgive me, Your Majesty. I am incapable of curing the princess. Only healer with inner knowledge might be able to cure the kind of illness the princess was suffering for.”

“What do you mean, Healer?”

“I mean a healer who can heal not only physical but also spiritual illness.”

King Kasmidun comprehended what the healer had said. He immediately called out his guard once again.

“Guard, go find the ultimate healer in this country! The one who can cure physical and spiritual illness. Bring him here fast.”

“Yes, Your Majesty.”

So the guard went to the intended healer’s house. When the guard arrived, the healer was at home. The healer did not expect that he was summoned to cure the king’s daughter. The healer was honored and pleased to fulfill it.

“Healer, my daughter is ill. Please check and cure her.” asked the king when the healer arrived.

“Yes, Your Majesty.”

The healer immediately examined the princess carefully. After a thorough examination, he could not find a sign of physical illness.

He then exerted all his strength and ability. He paused. Then he closed his eyes, concentrating. He wandered over a drug that could cure the illness of Princess Kumalasari.

“How is she, Healer?”

“Your Majesty, the princess can heal if—” The healer paused.

“Spell it, Healer. What’s the cure?”

“Forgive me, Your Majesty. The princess should drink a decoction of buluh perindu (lit. “bamboo for passionate longing” is little bamboo which is credited with mystic properties by the natives and is in much request by love-lorn swains whose mistresses are cold and irresponsible).

“Buluh perindu? Where can it be found, healer?” asked the King impatiently.

“It is in Mount Masmas. It cannot be found easily, however, because it is guarded by an evil demon.”

“Then you go to get that buluh perindu.”

“Forgive me, Your Majesty. I am afraid I am incompetent to do as you wish.”

“So in your opinion who are competent enough?”

“Your Majesty has the authority to deploy the royal army or order the people to find and take buluh perindu on Mount Masmás.”

“Alright, then.”

The healer then prescribed a drug concoction aimed to halt the disease from spreading to the entire body.

“Your Majesty, I beg to leave.”

“Very well, Healer. I shall follow your suggestion”

The healer left the palace being escorted by the guard. Shortly after, the guard returned to the palace. He waited for the king’s next order while the king himself was too occupied thinking about who he would send to Mount Masmás: the royal army or the people.

“Guard, get all courtiers to gather.”

“Yes, Your Majesty.” The guard was so deftly. In short time, all king’s aides of the Middle of Nowhere Kingdom had gathered in the great hall.

“Forgive me, Your Highness. We are ready to carry out your commands,” reported one of the king’s aides representing the rest.

“As you all know, my daughter is ill. The healer said my daughter will recover with buluh perindu.”

“Buluh perindu? Where is it, Your Majesty?”

“It is in Mount Masmias. Take all the troops to find it and bring it here.”

“Yes, Your Majesty.”

One of the king’s aide contacted commander of royal forces to exert royal elite forces. They were assigned and expected to be successful in looking and bringing the buluh perindu from Mount Masmias.

2. The Buluh Perindu

That day the sky was clear. All royal soldiers had gathered in the public square. They were all looking handsome all in complete uniform and carrying weapons as if they were going to a battle field. Everyone who saw them could not help but to feel was proud.

“Good afternoon, soldiers!” said a courtier.

“Good afternoon!” replied the soldiers in unison.

“As we all know, Princess Kumalasari is ill. According to the healer, her illness can only be cured by drinking a decoction of buluh perindu. Today you are assigned to look for and bring buluh perindu from Mount Masmamas.”

“Aye aye, Sir!” replied the Commander.

“I leave out the technical implementation to you.”

“Aye aye, Sir!”

After paying homage to the courtier, the soldiers left for Mount Masmamas in a long convoy. They walked through a mangrove forest where there lived a pack of long-nosed and reddish-gray-haired monkeys. The monkeys were screaming and making loud noises feeling interrupted by their presence because usually no one came to that place.



The soldiers were insecure to see the monkeys. There were many of them hanging and jumping on from one mangrove branch to another following every soldier's steps seemingly terrorizing. As the night fell and the sun had set, the soldiers took a rest. They set up tents to spend the night. The journey was about to continue the next morning.

“Brothers, we're going to set up tents. Let's do it together,” instructed the Commander.

“Aye aye, Sir!”

While they were busy setting up the tent, a soldier rushed in scared. He had just encountered a coconut-tree-trunk-sized python.

“That snake won't bite us if we leave it alone,” said the Commander.

“Unless if that snake is hungry, it will swallow us alive,” added another soldier.

“Mince your words. This forest provides many preys for the snake. Besides, a snake will not go hunting for two to three weeks after having its meal.”

Outside the tent, some soldiers got a turn to watch. Some were sleeping while some others were keeping watch.

Night went by quickly to be replaced by the morning light. There were the sound of pelicans, herons, starlings, gulls, and wild rooster alternating here and there. The soldiers were up and hurried to dismantle the tent together before getting ready to continue their journey to Mount Masmás.

When they reached the foot of Mount Masmás, the Commander ordered them to stop.

“Soldiers! We have arrived at our destination. The target location is on the mountain top. Disperse around the mountain! We walk to the summit together.”

“Yes, Commander,” replied the soldiers simultaneously.

The soldiers strode around the mountain foot towards the summit. They encountered many terrorizing obstacles in form of a group of monkeys, and large snakes. It seemed they did not want the soldiers to explore the mountain.

Aware of the many obstacles they had to face, halfway journey to the summit, the commander sent a chain message to all his soldiers.

“Do not kill the animals no matter how troubling they are except if you are in danger that threatens your life” wrote the message.

The soldiers obeyed the superior’s order through the message. No matter how disturbing, not one of the soldiers killed the animals.



All soldiers finally reached the summit safely although some of them injured.

“Brothers, let’s disperse to find it! Whoever finds it should only take one.”

“Aye aye, Sir!”

And so the soldiers dispersed and carefully observed every inch of the mountain ground hoping to find the buluh perindu. Alas! Not one soldier could find it. The commander decided to quit the search and return to the palace.

On their way down the mountain, some soldiers were having a conversation. They talked about how difficult it was to climb the mountain up to the summit only to find nothing. Some blamed the healer who could have mistaken giving guidance. Having heard the conversation, the commander gave remainder.

“Brothers, as the king’s confidant, we must carry out our duties professionally, sincerely and earnestly. Either we succeed or failed is a matter of fate that we can evaluate for the sake of improvement.”

“Aye aye, Sir!”

At the pavilion, the maids, king’s aides, and King Kasmidun had been waiting for the return of royal soldiers anxiously.

3. The Quest of *Buluh Perindu*

King Kasmidun had just received a report that the soldiers were unable to take the buluh perindu. The report made the king more distressed. He had no idea how to get the cure for the princess' illness.

“Commander, come over!”

“Yes, Your Majesty.”

The commander kneeled before the king.

“Make announcement to the people that I—King Kasmidun invites all people in this kingdom on a quest to find the cure for my daughter. Whoever can bring the buluh perindu from Mount Masmias shall receive a reward. If it is a female, I shall make you my daughter's sister. And if it is a male, he shall be entitled to marry my daughter, Princess Kumalasari.”

“Yes, Your Majesty. Your word is my command.”

The commander immediately coordinated with all his men. They shared the duty so that the entire population would soon find out the contest held by the king.



The young people were ecstatic about the contest. They were excited to join because the royal family was kind to all the people. In addition to that, Princess Kumalasari was known as a beautiful girl with good temperament.

Although she was a princess, she was not arrogant and never hesitated to make friend with anyone. She always spoke politely and gently. She respected older people no matter who they are. She also loved and cared younger people.

For a few days after the announcement was made, there were young people grouping here and there talking about the mountain, the location of the mountain, and how to get there. They had heard that it was not easy to go there so they agreed to go there together. Preparations, including food, water, tent, and weapons—just in case, were also made together. Upon departure, they asked for blessings to their parents hoping it would help them to get the rewards.

The young people finally set off for the quest. They walked through the mangrove forest where a bunch of long-nosed and reddish gray-haired monkeys lived. Feeling annoyed, the monkeys made loud noises and kept following them. The young people were mostly worried only except some girls who were terrified with the monkeys and then decided to quit the quest.

When the night fell, the young people stopped to rest and spend the night there. The next morning, they left for the summit of Mount Masmas.

Along the way to the summit, they had to encounter more animals that seemed disrupting their journey on purpose. The young people, however, did not bother. All they thought about was how to get to the top of the mountain as soon as possible, search for the buluh perindu, pick one, return home, and pass it along to the king. They had been imagining the victory and the rewards on and on.

The reality, apparently, was not as easy as they had thought. On top of the mountain they dispersed, but they could not find any buluh perindu. They did not despair easily and then started from the beginning to search around the summit. Still, they could not find the buluh perindu. Hopeless, they decided to return home with no result. All parents whose children joined the competition were waiting anxiously. They wanted to know the result. When their children finally arrived, they fired them with questions.

“How is it, Son? Who can get the buluh perindu?” asked a mother to her son.

“I couldn’t find it, Mother. Neither one of us could find it in Mount Masmas.”

“Don’t be sad, son. Maybe it’s not your luck,”

“Yes, Mother. At least I have tried,”

The next day everyone was talking about the failure of the young men in obtaining the buluh perindu. Everyone was praying hard for the recovery of the princess.

The news slowly but sure reached the palace and it brought misery to the king. He was on the verge of despair. The king was caught shedding the tears from his eyes. The king paused, and then prayed. He pleaded to the Creator for the cure of her daughter illness.

4. The Winner of the Contest

In the territory of the Middle of Nowhere Kingdom lived a strong and handsome young man named Ujang. He lived alone. Both his parents had passed away. On daily basis, Ujang went to the forest early in the morning looking for firewood. It was his primary source of income.

One morning, as usual, Ujang woke up early. Taking a bath and having shubah prayer were his morning rituals before leaving to the forest. Taking along his mandau (a sword made in Borneo), Ujang then set off to the forest.

Upon arriving at the border of the forest he asked permission to the guardians of the forest: “Uuii..Grandmother, uuii..Grandfather, your grandson wishes to pass through looking for sustenance in this forest.”

In the forest, he went straight to look for firewood. He collected dry branches or twigs, and tied them together before leaving for the market. He used what he earned from selling the firewood in the market to buy groceries.

That day in the market, he accidentally heard people talking about the quest to find cure for the princess' illness. He was interested in joining the quest and planned to take on a journey tomorrow. He rushed back home to prepare the supplies and equipment he

might need during the journey. He also prepared himself by sleeping earlier to recharge his energy.

The next morning, Ujang woke up and performed his daily routine as usual, only this time in addition to asking for God's protection, he also prayed to be given safety during his journey to Mount Masmah. Shortly after, Ujang was ready to set off for the quest.

On the way, Ujang also encountered several long-nosed and reddish-grey monkeys. The monkeys, however, did not bother him. They had been familiar with him. He broke his steps when the monkeys approached him.

“Hi buddies, how are you?” greeted Ujang whilst reaching out.

The monkeys did not verbally reply, but they touch Ujang's hand and a moment later they moved away. They climbed the mangrove tree and a moment later they were gone and disappeared from Ujang's sight leaving Ujang who was happy to continue his journey.



Ujang finally arrived at the foot of Mount Masmas. Before climbing the mountain, Ujang prayed to God and asked permission to the forest guardian. Ujang walked quickly and reached the mountain top in a short time. He did not find difficulty in discovering a cluster of buluh perindu. Having found what he was looking for, Ujang did not forget to prostrate in gratitude to God and thank the forest guardian. He then took one reed and left the mountain. Meanwhile, in the palace pavilion, King Kasmidun sat together with the courtiers, soldiers, and maids. They discussed about the buluh perindu—of how difficult it was to get one. King Kasmidun believed in the greatness of the Creator. Everything happened is of His will.

“Your Majesty, I hope one of the people manages to take the buluh perindu for the sake of your daughter’s recovery,” wished a courtier.

“May the Most Merciful answers your prayers.”

Shortly after, a handsome young man showed up. Before the young man spoke, the king had greeted him.

“Hey, young man. Who are you? Where are you from? Do you take part in the competition? What are you doing here?”

“Forgive me, Your Majesty. My name is Ujang. I lived within you kingdom territory. I participated in the contest. I come here to present to you buluh perindu for the princess.”



“Do you? Good, then. Let me have it,” inquired King Kasmidun. Ujang submitted buluh perindu to the king who gladly accepted it. Without wasting time longer, King Kasmidun then asked his maid to make a decoction of it and give it to the princess.

Miraculously, after having the decoction, Princess Kumalasari gained consciousness and recovery from her illness. King Kasmidun was glad now that the illness of his daughter had been cured. The king, Ujang, and all the people in the palace then prostrated to glorify the greatness of the Creator.

“Ujang, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I declare you as the winner. As I have promised, you will marry my beloved daughter, Princess Kumalasari. Get ready.”

“Thank you, Your Majesty.”

The commanders, soldiers, and all maids of the palace witnessed Ujang’s victory in the competition.

5. The Prize of the Contest

The commanders and soldiers had gathered in the great hall from early morning. They were waiting for the king's order about the wedding plan of Princess Kumalasari and Ujang. At the specified time, the king came to the great hall followed with Princess Kumalasari who came with her trusted maid.

“Commanders and soldiers, thank you for coming. As you all know, Ujang is the winner of the competition. He is a handsome young man who lives on his own. It is said that he is an orphan. Do you have any suggestions for how to hold the wedding?”

“Forgive me, Your Majesty. For the wedding ceremony, Ujang should have a best man.”

“You're right. Who do you suggest?”

“Forgive me, Your Majesty. I am waiting for your order.”

“I have an idea, how about one of you becomes his best man?”

“Forgive me, Your Highness. If that is your decision, we could not agree more.”

“That is fixed then—and because Ujang is an orphan, I also want to share happiness with all orphans in this kingdom. After all it is our responsibility to take care of their future.”

“Yes, Your Majesty. I agree with you.”



“What do you think if we also give charity donation to all orphans in this country?”

“That is an excellent idea, Your Majesty.”

“Alright, then, starting from tomorrow I want every orphan in this country to be counted. They all should be invited to the wedding. Let them feel the happiness as well.”

“Your Majesty, I could not agree more with you.”

“Before we move on to another discussion, do you have any suggestion, princess?” asked the king to Princess Kumalasari. “Those are excellent plans, father. It is our responsibility to take care of them.”

“Very well, my daughter. Do you have any suggestions for how to entertain our guests?”

“I think we should bring up traditional art performances, father.”

“Well, Courtiers, now you all know what we want. I hope you can give full support. Bring all the orphans and contact every traditional art performer in this kingdom! Every orphan should be invited. Every traditional art should be performed during the wedding party.”

“Yes, Your Majesty. Your word is my command.”

“For the wedding ceremony choose ten commanders and ten soldiers as the ushers. I also want all orphans in this kingdom as the bridesmaids.”

“Yes, Your Majesty.”

The time finally came for the wedding day of Princess Kumalasari dan Ujang. It started with a groom who came with a long convoy entering the palace yard.

They were greeted with Tidung welcoming dance. The groom, the bride, and the ushers entered the great hall for the wedding ceremony.

Outside the hall, the people were entertained with dances and various traditional arts performances. After all the performances, a charity was held as the highlight of the event. There were orphans sitting in a place that had been prepared.

They came forward one by one to receive charitable donation from King Kasmidun. Next to the king, his beloved daughter, Princess Kumalasari, and his son in law, Ujang, were also there to distribute the charitable donation. Everyone who was watching was deeply moved.

The onlookers were also amazed at the close connection between King Kasmidun and his people. The king held the event for seven days and seven nights to entertain his people. He wanted to share

happiness with all of his people regardless of class, age and gender.

The Author

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Riwayat pekerjaan/profesi

Pegawai Pusat Pengembangan dan Pelindungan, Badan Pengembangan dan Pembinaan Bahasa sebagai Peneliti Sastra.

Riwayat Pendidikan Tinggi dan Tahun Belajar

1. S-2: Ilmu Manajemen, Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Manajemen (STIM), LPMI, Jakarta (2005--2007)
2. S-1: Bahasa dan Sastra Indonesia, Fakultra Bahasa dan Sastra Indonesia, Universitas Nasional, Jakarta (1983--1987)

Judul Penelitian dan Tahun Terbit

Hasil penelitian sendiri dan sudah diterbitkan adalah sebagai berikut.

1. *Nilai Kemanusiaan dalam Puisi Pamphlet Karya Rendra* (2007)
2. *Cerita Pendek A.A. Navis: Tinjauan Sosiologi* (2007)

3. *Kecenderungan Tema Cinta dalam Cerpen dan Novel Populer Indonesia* (2008)
4. *Analisis Struktur Cerpen Remaja dalam Kupu-Kupu di Bantimurung* (2008)
5. *Pola Struktur Cerita Pendek dalam Majalah Sastra: Analisis Struktur dan Tema* (2009)
6. *Perkembangan Struktur dan Tema Cerita Pendek Majalah Tahun 1950-an* (2009)

Hasil penelitian bersama (tim) dan sudah diterbitkan adalah sebagai berikut.

1. *Manusia, Puisi, dan Kesadaran Lingkungan* (2011)
2. *Merajut Kearifan Budaya: Analisis Kepenyairan Darmanto Jatman* (2012)
3. *Struktur Tematik Puisi-Puisi Mimbar Indonesia* (2012)
4. *Dunia Kepenyairan Sapardi Djoko Damono* (2013)
5. *Peran Horison Sebagai Majalah Sastra* (2013)
6. *Strategi Pembelajaran Sastra pada Era Globalisasi* (2014)

Informasi Lain

Lahir di Yogyakarta, 20 Agustus 1953. Menikah dan dikaruniai tiga orang anak. Saat ini tinggal di Ciledug Indah, Blok E 24 No. 24; RT 001, RW 08, Kelurahan Pedurenan, Kecamatan Karang Tengah, Kota Tangerang, Provinsi Banten.

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Bidang Keahlian : Penyuntingan

Riwayat Pekerjaan

Tenaga fungsional umum Badan Pengembangan dan Pembinaan Bahasa. (2001—sekarang)

Riwayat Pendidikan

1. S-1 Sarjana sastra dari Universitas Negeri Jember (1993—2001)
2. S-2 TESOL and FLT dari University of Canberra (2008—2009)

Informasi Lain

Lahir di Padang pada tanggal 7 Oktober 1974. Aktif dalam berbagai kegiatan dan aktivitas kebahasaan, di antaranya penyuntingan bahasa, penyuluhan bahasa, dan pengajaran Bahasa Indonesia bagi Orang Asing (BIPA). Ia telah menyunting naskah dinas di beberapa instansi seperti Mahkamah Konstitusi dan Kementerian Luar Negeri.