

THE MISTERY OF THE BLACK BULL
Misteri Banteng Wulung

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Language Development and Cultivation Agency
Ministry of Education and Culture
Republic of Indonesia
2018

THE MYSTERY OF THE BLACK BULL

Translated from
Misteri Banteng Wulung
adapted by Puji Santosa
based on the work of Varida Ariyani
published by
Language Development and Cultivation Agency
Ministry of Education and Culture
in 2016

This translation has been published as the result of the translation program organized
by The Center for Language Strategy and Diplomacy Development,
Language Development and Cultivation Agency, Ministry of Education and Culture
in 2018

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Diterbitkan ulang pada tahun 2016 oleh:
Badan Pengembangan dan Pembinaan Bahasa
Jalan Daksinapati Barat IV
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Jakarta Timur

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PB 398.209 598 2 ARI m	Katalog Dalam Terbitan (KDT) Ariyani, Varida Misteri Banteng Wulung/ Varida Ariyani: Puji Santosa [Penyadur]; Kity Karenisa [Penyunting]. Jakarta: Badan Pengembangan dan Pembinaan Bahasa, 2016 53 hlm; 28 cm ISBN 978-979-069-276-3
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. KESUSASTERAAAN RAKYAT – JAWA BARAT2. CERITA RAKYAT – JAWA BARAT

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

Our country, Indonesia, has many different tribes Nations and regional language of diverse cultures. One of them is folklores who have passed on to next younger generations. In addition, this effort was carried out as a basic so that the local culture does not increasingly eroded by foreign cultures that seep through various media nowadays. With that in mind, documentation must be staged gradually and continuously.

For that reason, free adaptation of folklore from Pasundan, West Java, *Mystery of The Black Bull*, sourced from Wawacan Jaya Purnama (edited by Rusman s., 1982 and retold by the Varida Ariyani, 2009) hopefully will be useful for the reader, especially junior high school students.

All critics, opinions, suggestions, and input will be happily received by the author for future improvement.

Puji Santosa

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THE MISTERY OF THE BLACK BULL

A Dream of King Mahesa Gangga

Once upon a time in Pasundan land, there was a country so fertile and prosperous that everything planted on its ground would surely grow, even rocks and wood, so they said. The land's fertility was sufficient to support the life of all people in Sumberkarang country where nobody lived under the poverty line.

In addition to its fertile land, the Kingdom of Sumberkarang had also a just, honest, and wise king named King Mahesa Gangga. Had he not reigned justly, honestly, and wisely, their prosperity would have been only for the benefits of the royal family and their faithful followers, while the commoners would have lived in poverty and misery. Hence, the justice, honesty, and wisdom of the leaders of the kingdom were the main keys to its people's welfare and prosperity.

It had to be started from the king as the kingdom's highest leader. Since their king always acted justly, honestly, and wisely, the Kingdom of Sumberkarang was highly respected by all of the people with sincere admiration from their deepest heart. Whatever he ordered would be supported by the people gladly. There was rarely any violation against the regulation of the kingdom. If

anyone did violate it or committed an error, he would give him an appropriate sanction.

Likewise, if there were people who did a good service to the kingdom, the King would not hold back his reward. Thus, the Kingdom of Sumberkarang was justly called a kingdom with great values.

One day, unlike any other day, the King summoned the royal courtiers in his palace. Surely he had an important matter to inform them and to be discussed with them. Had it been a trivial issue, he would have called only the royal governors to listen to their consideration. There was an extraordinary and complicated issue the King found it difficult to solve alone. What had actually happened?

Two royal governors, i.e. Jaya Santanu and Jaya Santana, arrived the first, followed by the ministers, regents, and commanders-in-chief.

They sat cross-legged in front of the King, who was seated on his throne with such a gallant charisma. His kind eyes observed the whole room intently, staring at his inferiors in front of him one by one.

“Grace and blessings might be upon you all,” he started his speech with a deep voice. “I thank you for having come here to

see me as I have requested. This shows your loyalty and high respect towards this kingdom.”

“Please accept our respect, Your Majesty. It is our duty to always be loyal and to do what you order. We would be willing to even fight against a powerful enemy for you, let alone to come and see you only,” said Governor Patih Jaya Santanu and Governor Jaya Santana in unison.

King Mahesa Gangga smiled when he witnessed the faithfulness of his two governors. Jaya Santanu and Jaya Santana were twin brothers who possessed extraordinary magical powers. Despite being only 25 years old, they already had a broad knowledge and insights. As the sons of the powerful and intelligent Governor Sepuh, both had inherited the skills of their father. Therefore, when Governor Sepuh passed away, the twins were inaugurated at the same time as the governors of Sumberkarang Kingdom.

“Is there an important matter that you would like to inform us about, Your Majesty?” asked Governor Jaya Santana, voicing the question of all the invitees in the royal hall. In the meantime, Governor Jaya Santanu and all the ministers, regents, and commanders-in-chief nodded, confirming the question. They also wanted to know what the important matter was, which would surely require their involvement.

“That is true, Governor. Know that last night I had a dream.” King Mahesa Gangga paused for a while, as if he were trying to remember his dream again.

“A dream, Your Majesty? What did you dream about?” asked Governor Jaya surprised. All of the other people in the room were also stunned. If it was only for a dream, why did the King bother to summon the royal courtiers to see him? What is so special about his dream? they wondered in their hearts.

“This dream of mine is not just an ordinary dream, Governor. It was not a trivial one, but rather a divine cue regarding what I have to do.

In my dream, I believe I have received a supernatural sign from the Gods. According to it, in order to maintain the prosperity of Sumberkarang from generation to generation, the Kingdom should own the Black Bull.”

“Black Bull?”

All of the people in the room repeated the last two words of King Mahesa Gangga with a surprised tone. How could they not be? The Black Bull is a wild cow covered with thick dark fur that lived in the woods. Did such a bull truly exist in this world? For them, it was no more than a mere myth in some fairy tales.

According to the fairy tales, the Black Bull had extraordinary magical powers. Its skin was immune to any sharp weapon and it could run as fast as a raging wind. And when it got mad, burning flames came out of its two nostrils. In addition to it, the animal could also understand human desires. Those were the magical powers of the Black Bull they had heard from the tales of the elders. Now, according to the divine cue from the gods, King Mahesa Gangga had to own the Black Bull for the sake of Sumberkarang Kingdom's prosperity.

“What do you think, Governors and my all faithful servants?” asked King Mahesa Gangga to all of his audience.

The attendees remained silent with bowed heads, not knowing that to say regarding the dream of King Mahesa Gangga. Governor Jaya Santanu was mustering the right words to be said to the King.

“According to my opinion,” replied Governor Jaya Santanu calmly, breaking the stunned silence, “your dream is truly a sign from the Gods, Your Majesty. It is because the Gods love you deeply, since you are very wise. By obtaining the Black Bull, the prosperity of this Kingdom will last forever. Therefore, you have to get the Black Bull, Your Majesty.”

“I am of the same opinion with Governor Jaya Santanu, Your Majesty. The Black Bull does exist and is not merely a legend,”



continued Regent Arya Dwija, supporting the opinion of Governor Jaya Santanu.

“Governor Patih Jaya Santanu and Regent Arya Dwija, who would you propose to get me the Black Bull which has many extraordinary magical powers?”

“With your permission, Your Majesty, I am able and willing to carry out your order,” Governor Jaya Santanu proposed himself with an unwavering confidence.

Meanwhile, an elderly commander-in-chief, who was sitting in the front row, spoke up. “First of all forgive me for having to say my opinion, Your Majesty. I do not mean to be insolent, but I believe firmly that the person who will be able to execute your instruction is me, a war commander.”

The room grew silent. Many other court servants actually would like to propose themselves as candidates for the task. However, they were doubtful about their own capability to be able to tame the magical Black Bull. And now, there were already two people willing to carry out the order of King Mahesa Gangga. In the meantime, the King was absorbed in his thoughts, trying to figure out who the right person to whom he would delegate his authority to obtain the Black Bull for him. The person should have formidable magical powers and extraordinary courage.

“Forgive me, Your Majesty. I truly believe to be the right one to accomplish your order,” all of a sudden, Governor Jaya Santana, who was sitting next to Governor Jaya Santanu, proposed himself for the task.

“Hmm...,” mumbled King Mahesa Gangga. Actually, he approved the last candidacy in his heart, since Governor Patih Jaya Santana was the one with unbeatable magical powers in the whole area of Sumberkarang Kingdom. The task to find and bring the Black Bull to the palace of Sumberkarang was not like an ordinary battle against the enemies of the Kingdom. Therefore, it was deemed appropriate to appoint Governor Jaya Santana who was still young, robust, and equipped with magical powers, since he was likely to be able to make the King’s dream come true.

“Alright, I agree with the proposal of Governor Jaya Santana,” said King Mahesa Gangga. “I hereby order Governor Jaya Santana to get me the Black Bull. But will you need some selected soldiers? That way, your task shall be easier with the some collaboration from them?” asked King Mahesa Gangga.

“I thank you, Your Majesty. But I do not wish to bother and risk the lives of those good soldiers, since I know very well that this is such a heavy task. Let me handle this alone since I do not have a family yet.

I promise that I will not return to this Kingdom before I get the Black Bull for you. Therefore, I would like to ask for your prayer and blessings,” said Governor Jaya Santana, humbling himself in front of the King.

The present regents, ministers, and commanders-in-chief admired the courage and sincerity of Governor Patih Jaya Santana. So did King Mahesa Gangga, who was impressed and proud of Governor Jaya Santana, whose bravery encouraged his heart a lot.

“If you wish so, Governor, I approve it. I am also convinced of your ability to get me the Black Bull. I hope you will be able to find it immediately without any harm. Finally, I would like to thank all of you for being present today to help me solve this issue,” said King Mahesa Gangga while waving his right hand slowly, a signal to the court servants to leave the palace hall.

After taking a bow in reverence to the King, the guests left the room one by one, leaving King Mahesa Gangga alone, still sitting on his throne. He felt reassured that his dream would soon come true. He would own the Black Bull so that the Kingdom Sumberkarang would remain prosperous from generation to generation.

A Quest for The Black Bull

The following day, Governor Jaya Santana sat straight on the back of his robust black horse. His favorite horse was ready to take his master across jungles and mountains far away from the Kingdom of Sumberkarang in a quest to find the Black Bull. In the meantime, the leaders and soldiers of the Kingdom marched to bid their farewells to him. King Mahesa Gangga and Governor Jaya Santanu sighed at the same time when they saw the horse of Patih Jaya Santana disappeared behind a small hill. A moment later, the palace yard was already empty and quiet again except for several on duty soldiers who were pacing back and forth.

Governor Jaya Santana spurred his horse towards the direction of the sunrise. He would like to try his luck in finding the Black Bull at the eastern part of Sumberkarang Kingdom. When the sun was about to set, Governor Jaya Santana arrived at the edge of the woods. Not wanting to spend the night in the jungle, he stopped his horse from galloping and then hopped off the animal's back effortlessly. He tied his horse's bridle around a tree trunk near a river with swift currents before taking down his provisions from the back of the horse.

Governor Jaya Santana made a bonfire to ward off the cold and wild animals' attacks. The bonfire was also used to roast a partridge he had just hunted. He was indeed famous for his

extraordinary hunting skills with his dagger that never failed to hit the target. Governor Jaya Santana passed his first night with a full stomach without any disturbance. Though his sleep was not too sound, it was a sufficient rest for his weary body.

The roosters crowed loudly one after another at dawn, creating such a noise in the jungle. Governor Jaya Santana rose up with just one agile jump. Having washed himself in the river, he continued his trip by entering a vast deep jungle which spread out before him. The black horse started to walk slowly, treading each inch of the ground, commencing again an unimaginable long journey.

Governor Jaya Santana had spent seven years roaming in dense jungles, descending into valleys and going up various hills. He had walked to the east, turned to the south, gone the long way round to the west, and traced the valleys to the north.

He had passed by almost all of the areas outside the Kingdom of Sumberkarang. However, he had not seen the slightest clue that he would find the Black Bull anytime soon. Each person he had asked about the Black Bull only laughed in surprise. They believed that this horse-rider had gone crazy. How could he ask about an animal that only existed in fairy tales? They wondered while shaking their heads in disbelief.

Nevertheless, Governor Jaya Santana would not give up yet. On the contrary, his heart was burned with a determination to pick one out of the two options: finding the Black Bull or never returning again to the Kingdom of Sumberkarang. Then one afternoon, Governor Jaya Santana arrived in a cave at the foot of a southern hill. It's not-too-wide opening was facing the southern sea. Governor Jaya Santana stopped his horse, got off from its back, and let the animal graze around the cave. With steady steps, Governor Jaya Santana entered the cave to meditate there and ask the directions from the Gods to be able to find the Black Bull soon.

Having meditated for four days and four nights inside the cave, he at last obtained a clue from the Gods in form of a loud voice heard by his heart. The voice explained that the Black Bull he had been looking for could be found in the land of Malwagiri. The land was located not far from the cave, to the east. In the land of Malwagiri ruled a giant named King Kalaboja.

Despite being a giant, the King was very patient and was also fond of meditating. He was powerful but never fought against weaker enemies. He liked to get to know people with magical powers and high morals. Therefore, Governor Jaya Santana wanted to go there to get the Black Bull.

“Blacky, come here quickly!” Governor Jaya Santana called out his favorite horse, soon after he came out of the cave’s opening. The horse walked towards him as if it had understood his master’s words. The Governor then swiftly hopped on its back and spurred the animal to the east, towards the Kingdom of Malwagiri. The southern sea wind blew harshly, as if wanted to race against the galloping hooves of the black horse.

Around midday, the black horse ridden by Governor Jaya Santana arrived at the border of Malwagiri Kingdom. Now the black horse walked towards the center of the kingdom. Even though the people of Malwagiri Kingdom were giants, they were very friendly and did not show hostility against outsiders.

Governor Jaya Santana was deeply impressed and murmured to himself, “When a kingdom is led by a wise leader, its people will also behave likewise. This will also result in a tranquil and prosperous life of the people within the kingdom.”

In the meantime, inside the Kingdom of Malwagiri, Governor Gringsing Pati was in the presence of King Kalaboja. The King was indeed had scary looks, with his gigantic stature and hair strands jumbled in unkempt dreadlocks. His canines looked like elephant’s tusks. However, he had a heart of gold, and was honest, just, patient, and wise. He was also fond of meditating to heighten his mind’s awareness and refine his good nature.

Besides being good at governing the kingdom, King Kalabaja was also a war expert with formidable magical powers.

“Listen, Brother Governor,” said King Kalabaja to Governor Gringsing Pati, “in a moment we will be receiving an honorable guest, a powerful governor from the Kingdom of Sumberkarang.”

“Why is he coming here, Your Majesty? Is he going to spy on Malwagiri Kingdom or plunder our treasure?” asked Governor Gringsing Pati suspiciously.

“Hmm..., it looks like he’s looking for my pet, the Black Bull. Brother Governor, please welcome him as an honorable guest. And then, I would like to test him,” ordered King Kalabaja. Governor Gringsing Pati took a bow in reverence, ready to execute his King’s order. Governor Gringsing Pati knew very well that King Kalabaja liked to test the guests with his magical powers, not out of an intention to show off or to look down on others, but more like a token of friendship. King Kalabaja never hesitated to ask his opponent to teach him new supernatural knowledge when he lost the battle. It seemed that this time King Kalabaja wanted to test the magical powers of Governor Jaya Santana from the Kingdom of Sumberkarang.

Governor Jaya Santana was taken aback when he was intercepted by a spear armed troop. He thought the troop would capture and put him in a prison. Therefore, he stopped his black horse and his

right hand automatically went to the handle of Curuk Sakti dagger, a weapon which had been given to him by Master Anggajali.

“Welcome to the Kingdom of Malwagiri, Your Highness Governor Jaya Santana. King Kalaboja has been waiting for your arrival,” greeted Governor Gringsing Pati amicably. The members of the armed troop also took a reverent bow.

Governor Jaya Santana felt embarrassed for having thought negatively about them. Having gotten off from his horse’s back, he returned the respectful greeting of the Governor of Malwagiri Kingdom.

Governor Jaya Santana was so impressed when he saw the palace of King Kalaboja. It was luxurious and outstandingly beautiful. Governor Gringsing Pati accompanied Governor Jaya Santana entering the palace, which turned out to be even more luxurious and beautiful inside. However, Governor Jaya Santana did not have much time to enjoy the luxury and beauty of the palace since King Kalaboja soon appeared to welcome him warmly with an ear to ear smile. “Hahaha... welcome to my palace, Mister Governor Jaya Santana. I have been waiting for your visit for quite some time. Please have a seat, Mister Governor of the prosperous Sumberkarang Kingdom,” King Kalaboja allowed his guest to take a seat on his fancy rug.

“Please accept my respectful greeting for you, Your Majesty. I apologize if my coming here disturbs your heart’s peace,” said Governor Jaya Santana while kneeling down in reverence.

He truly admired the supernatural ability of King Kalabaja who had found out about his arrival beforehand. The King had even known his name and position as a governor of Sumberkarang Kingdom.

“Your Majesty, allow me now to explain my purpose in coming here. I have been assigned by Mahesa Gangga to accomplish a task to look for the Black Bull and to take it to Sumberkarang palace. If you are willing to help me, could you please help me find it?” asked Governor Jaya Santana, trying to dig some information.

“Mister Governor, the Black Bull is not an easy matter. Now I would like to welcome you properly to my palace. Come with me, Mister Governor. Please enjoy a simple meal in Malwagiri palace,” said King Kalabaja while standing up. Governor Jaya Santana was then invited to follow Governor Gringsing Pati to the dining room on the right side of the kingdom’s main hall.

Inside the vast dining room, various exquisite foods were already served. Different fruits were available on a big table. Governor Jaya Santana’s hungry stomach was in fact rumbling but out of their courtesy, King Kalabaja and Governor Gringsing Pati

pretended to not hear it. Despite his hunger, Governor Jaya Santana only took a moderate amount of food while King Kalabaja ate almost half of the whole foods. It suited his name quiet well, since *kala* means giant and *boja* means food.

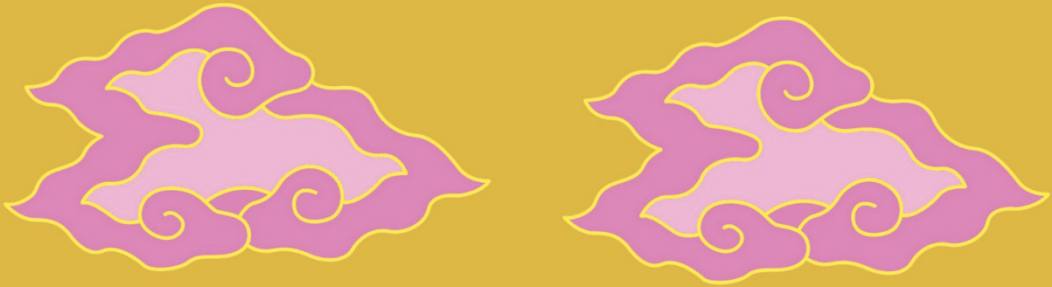
Having rested for some time, in the afternoon, accompanied by Governor Gringsing Pati, King Kalabaja invited Governor Jaya Santana to come with them to an extremely large field. Governor Jaya Santana had no idea about the purpose of King Kalabaja in taking him there.

“Mister Governor, let’s just play for a little while,” said King Kalabaja to Governor Jaya Santana, when they arrived at the vast field. Meanwhile, Governor Gringsing Pati, who knew the intention of King Kalabaja, stopped at the side of the vast field.

“What... do you mean, Your Majesty?” asked Governor Jaya Santana, surprised. He indeed did not really get what King Kalabaja had meant with the word “play”.

“Let us compete against each other with our magical powers. If you can defeat me, I will give you my favorite Black Bull.”

Upon hearing the word Black Bull coming out of King Kalabaja’s mouth, Governor Jaya Santana was shaken to the bone. “It’s time for me to get the Black Bull, after my efforts all these years,” Governor Jaya Santana mumbled to himself.



“Very well, then, if that is your wish, Your Majesty. However, I would like to first apologize if I end up disappointing you, since my powers are far below yours.”

“Don’t humble yourself that much, Mister Governor. Your magical powers have been famous all over the world. Please, you may start, Mister Governor,” said King Kalabojja while taking up a fighting stance. He was standing in front of Governor Jaya Santana with his two gigantic legs standing widely apart.

“No, Your Majesty, you start first,” replied Governor Jaya Santana with a polite, soft voice. But actually he had also prepared himself well. Despite feeling a bit reluctant, Governor Jaya Santana had made up his mind to exert all of his magical powers in order to win the fight.

Without further ado, King Kalabojja immediately sent a formidable blow with his right hand. It was so tremendous that the powerful strike created a thundering sound. Just imagine such a blow made by a giant like King Kalabojja. Nobody would dare to think of its consequences against a human body, which for sure would have been broken in pieces.

Governor Jaya Santana, who had anticipated that great danger, did not want to be the victim of such a lethal blow. He stooped down as low as possible to avoid it, feeling a harsh wind blowing

on top of his body. Had he been an ordinary man, he would have been swept away by the raging wind.

In such a low position, almost touching the ground with his body, Governor Jaya Santana attacked the feet of King Kalaboja. That right hand blow contained enough force to make a big trunk of hardwood tree collapse to the ground. Now in turn, the feet of King Kalaboja were in great danger. However, King Kalaboja lifted his left foot effortlessly to avoid the strike of Governor Jaya Santana.

Since his first attack had failed, Governor Jaya Santana aimed his left hand to hit his opponent's right foot. King Kalaboja, who had lifted his left foot, could not do the same with the other foot. Therefore he quickly jumped into the air to avoid the threatening blow.

While diving to the ground, King Kalaboja launched another lethal blow but Governor Jaya Santana wouldn't let his head be thumped in pieces. He had to roll over several times to dodge it out, before finally bounced to the air and stood straight again. The first movement of both fighters had shown their respective power.

The fight between both of them got heated up and faster as time ticked by. Hurricanes were swirling all around ferociously like a storm in the southern sea which were beating hard and splashing against the hills of rock. Both hurricanes were now pounding and

hurling against each other. The slender figure of Governor Jaya Santana darted in all directions to avoid King Kalabaja, who kept lunging at him. While avoiding the attacks, Governor Jaya Santana continued to thrust his deadly blows at his opponent. Those powerful blows contained cold air and hot steam alternately. They had been fighting for five hours, exerting all of their magical powers. However, it seemed that both still had equal strength and powers.

Governor Gringsing Pati who was watching the fight from a distance clicked his tongue in amazement. He had not expected that the slender Governor Jaya Santana could turn out as a tough opponent for King Kalabaja. He also started to compare his own magical powers and felt that they were far below those of Governor Jaya Santana.

“Hohoho... rumors about your magical powers are apparently true. Today I feel truly lucky to be able to witness it myself, Mister Governor,” praised King Kalabaja when both were bounced due to a great collision. King Kalabaja would have toppled backward had he not quickly performed several somersaults in the air.

“Ah... don’t flatter me too much, Your Majesty. Yours are still above mine,” replied Governor Jaya Santana humbly.

“What if we both use our heirloom weapons, Mister Governor?” asked King Kalabaja while wiping the drops of sweat from his forehead.

“I don’t think it would be necessary, Your Majesty. Your heirloom weapon will destroy me for sure,” replied Jaya Santana politely. He indeed did not wish to compete in a deadly fight.

“Hohoho... we are no longer little kids, Mister Governor. We are able to measure our own ability without having to harm each other. Do start now, Mister Governor,” insisted King Kalabaja convincingly while taking out his heirloom dagger from behind his clothes.

Being urged continuously by the curious King Kalabaja, Governor Jaya Santana had no other choice but to accept the challenge. Then he also took out the magical Curuk Sakti dagger from its sheath behind his clothes. An eerie burst of air soon dispersed from the magical dagger that had been given to him by Master Anggajati. When he saw it, King Kalabaja trembled. It was as if the magical dagger were alive and ready to pounce on him.

“Incredible! This is the first time that I saw an heirloom dagger with such terrific power,” praised King Kalabaja in awe. Since he knew he would not be able to beat the heirloom dagger of

Governor Jaya Santana, King Kalaboja then sincerely admitted his defeat.

“Very well..., Mister Governor. I have to acknowledge the incomparable power of your heirloom dagger. As I have promised, I will give the Black Bull to you,” said King Kalaboja.

“Thank you for your kindness, Your Majesty,” replied Governor Jaya Santana while kneeling in reverence to show his respect to King Kalaboja. He was truly relieved because he finally had found the Black Bull he had been searching for so long. In fact, the bull would be given to him soon. However, he decided to suppress his contentment.

King Kalaboja and Governor Jaya Santana were accompanied by Governor Gringsing Pati to go back to the palace. Again, King Kalaboja invited his guest to enjoy delicious meals. Eating those foods recovered their depleted energy after such a fight. Governor Jaya Santana was truly satisfied with the service shown by the friendly King Kalaboja who had shown him such a genuine and sincere kindness.

As King Kalaboja had previously promised, the Black Bull would be given to Governor Jaya Santana. For that purpose, he himself accompanied the guest who had proven to possess stronger magical powers than his own. He invited Governor Jaya Santana to the stable of the Black Bull. The stable did not look like



ordinary pens of other animals, but looked more like a small palace. Carved wood decorated its door and windows, showing clearly that it must've been such a privileged animal.

“Mister Governor, this is the Black Bull you have been looking for,” said King Kalaboja after they had entered the bull stable.

The Black Bull was exactly like what people had described. The animal showed docile temperament when Governor Jaya Santana stroked its head with affection, as if knowing that the man would become his new master. Governor Jaya Santana whispered something near the ear of the Black Bull. Strangely, the animal snorted and looked like nodding its head. Governor Jaya Santana was content with the Black Bull's ability in understanding his words.

Now Governor Jaya Santana fixed his attention to the size of the Black Bull. The animal was huge, and for sure it would be difficult to travel with it. Therefore, he took out a small box from the hair knot on his head. Miraculously, when the small box was opened, the big bull was like being sucked inside it. The Black Bull was kept inside the small box of Governor Jaya Santana.

The following day, a black horse-rider was leaving the Kingdom Malwagiri. The horse galloped at breakneck speed towards the west. It looked like its rider wanted to reach his destination as

soon as possible, accompanied by Governor Patih Gringsing Pati and the Malwagiri soldiers until the border of the kingdom.

A Misunderstanding

Upon his arrival at the foot of the mountain, Raden Jaya Purnama spurred his horse to gallop faster. Despite its old age, the maroonish black horse was still agile and could move quickly. However, when his horse looked tired, Raden Jaya Purnama gave it an opportunity to rest.

During his one month journey, he had not seen a single soul but only saw wild animals while going in and out various jungles. Therefore, Raden Jaya Purnama felt lonely as his only company was his beloved horse.

But all of a sudden Raden Jaya Purnama flashed a happy smile, when he could see from a distance a shepherd of a bull and a horse sitting below a big shady tree. The shepherd looked sleepy, caressed by the soft wind at dusk. His face was covered by thick beard and sideburns which made him look threatening. His bull and horse were let loose to graze.

Raden Jaya Purnama's heart leapt up when he saw the grazing bull of the shepherd. Its color was pitch-black. Yes, it was the Black Bull! Raden Jaya Purnama said to himself in excitement. But, was that massive animal really the Black Bull he had been looking for? The Black Bull was the pet of King Kalaboja, right? In order to seek answers to the questions which were torturing his

heart, Raden Jaya Purnama approached the shepherd who was sitting there drowsily.

“Excuse me, Sir,” greeted Raden Jaya Purnama with a friendly tone.

The bearded man reluctantly turned his head to stare at the young horse-rider who had greeted him.

“Is that animal the Black Bull?” asked Raden Jaya Purnama hesitantly.

Upon hearing a stranger asking a question about his Black Bull, the bearded man looked alarmed. In a reflex movement, he groped for something behind his clothes. Raden Jaya Purnama, who understood the notion well, only smiled.

“Forgive me, Sir. I was only asking,” he quickly added.

“You’re right. It is the Black Bull. What do you want?” said the bearded man, suspicious.

Since he obtained the Black Bull a week earlier, the bearded man, who turned out to be Governor Jaya Santana, had already been ambushed twice by some strangers. However, thanks to his magical powers, the attackers ended up running helter-skelter from him. None of them had been able to win against the deadly blows and kicks of the powerful Governor Jaya Santana. And

now, for the third time, there was a stranger who wanted to snatch his Black Bull. Governor Jaya Santana was determined to put his life at stake to keep his Black Bull!

Having obtained the confirmation that the animal was indeed the Black Bull, Raden Jaya Purnama got off from the saddle of his horse. He suspected that the bearded shepherd must have stolen the animal from King Kalaboja. He would not hesitate to take the Black Bull from a thief's hands.

“Sir, give the Black Bull to me. I will forgive your sins,” said Raden Jaya Purnama. Such a weird young man, thought Governor Jaya Santana.

He came and asked for the Black Bull just like that. As if it were not enough, now he also wanted to forgive sins! He was nothing but a weird, arrogant, haughty, and insolent young man.

“Giving it to you? Fine, but first you have to walk over my dead body, then you can take my Black Bull with you,” replied Governor Jaya Santana ferociously.

Seeing such a handsome and tender-looking young man in front of him, Governor Jaya Santana heightened his awareness. A young man like that must have possessed extraordinary magical powers. If not, it would have been impossible for him to behave in such a calm and confident way like that. He immediately

grabbed his Curuk Sakti, not wanting to look down on his opponent who was standing straight before him.

“Are you going to show off the power of that ugly dagger?” sneered Raden Jaya Purnama when he saw his rival had taken out the golden weapon. “Fine, I will make you happy by accepting your challenge. Go on and attack me with your ugly knife!”

“Do not blame me later if this Curuk Sakti, my heirloom weapon, will scar your handsome and perfectly shaped face, Young Man,” growled Governor Jaya Santana while starting to launch his attacks. Anger boiled up inside his heart because someone was brazen enough to insult and underestimate the magical power of Curuk Sakti dagger.

In the hand of someone like Governor Jaya Santana, Curuk Sakti dagger became a deadly threat. The sound of the swirling dagger was like the thundering roar of a hungry tiger. Raden Jaya Purnama was startled to face a lethal attack like that. Fortunately, he had been trained so hard by the powerful master named Begawan Grendana and so he could effortlessly dodge the fiery blow of Curuk Sakti dagger. Raden Jaya Purnama could even send a counterblow which created a scorching steam. His blow skidded and hit a large trunk of a tree, which immediately collapsed and turned into burning coals.



Governor Jaya Santana was surprised to discover that the young man in front of him indeed possessed incredible magical powers. In several rounds of attacks, he felt that his powers were several levels lower compared to those of the handsome young man. His Curuk Sakti dagger, who had clobbered King Kalaboja, was useless in front of the good-looking lad. The weapon was not even strong enough to pierce through the young man's skin. Governor Jaya Santana was at his wits' end.

He got more cornered each passing second, until at a certain point, a spinning kick from his opponent landed right on his side stomach. Governor Jaya Santana fell and rolled over on the ground. With rivulets of blood running down his mouth, he tried to get back on his feet, willing to even risk his life to keep his Black Bull.

“Young Man, do not be so quick to gloat over your victory against me. I, Governor Jaya Santana from the great Sumberkarang Kingdom, will...”

Governor Jaya Santana did not have time to finish his words, since the powerful young man had rushed towards him. Startled, at first he thought the young man would attack him again, and so he quickly put a fighting stance one more time, bracing himself to face another dangerous blow!

“Uncle!” cried the mighty young man. Governor Jaya Santana was shocked to hear the young man call him that way.

“Who is this peculiar man?” Governor Jaya Santana wondered. He could not avoid the tight embrace of the young man. Had this young man intended to attack him, he would have been lifeless on the ground by now.

“So you are Uncle Jaya Santana. Forgive me for having not recognized you. We had not seen each other for seven long years, Uncle, since you went away to look for the Black Bull.”

“Eeh, excuse me, Young Man. Who in the world are you?” asked Governor Jaya Santana with growing curiosity.

“You don’t remember me, Uncle? It’s me, Jaya Purnama!”

“Jaya Purnama? Raden Jaya Purnama, my highly esteemed Crown Prince?”

“Exactly, Uncle,” replied Raden Jaya Purnama briefly.

Government Jaya Santana immediately knelt down in front of Raden Jaya Purnama who had not recognized him at all. When he left the palace of Sumberkarang Kingdom, his nephew was still a small boy. Now the Crown Prince had turned into a handsome and mighty young man with even magical powers far above his own.

“Please forgive me for I have not recognized you and even dared to fight against you, Your Highness,” said Governor Jaya Santana among his bittersweet sobs.

“Don’t worry about it, Uncle. I also apologize for having fought against you,” replied Raden Jaya Purnama humbly. He did not want to be thought too highly by the right-hand man of the King, the same person who someday would also be his right-hand man as a governor of Sumberkarang Kingdom, along with Governor Jaya Santanu.

Finally, the two mighty men from the Kingdom of Sumberkarang shared their respective life experiences during the years in which they had been separated from each other.

“No wonder you possess such high level skills, Your Highness. If the Old Master had passed all of his skills to you, it means you are now as powerful as him. And you are still so young! I am sure that the Kingdom of Sumberkarang will not only become more prosperous, but will also be more peaceful. Not to mention the existence of Black Bull, which is yours now.”

“I truly admire your efforts in obtaining the Black Bull,” continued Raden Jaya Purnama while starting at the grazing Black Bull. “You have fought for it for the last seven years, Uncle, without even caring about your own safety. I think you are a role model of a royal servant who shows great dedication to his

responsibility. And at last, you have made it through all of those trials.”

“Ah, that is my obligation as a royal servant, Your Highness. Even if the kingdom assigned me to look for a sea dragon, I would still do it, let alone if it is only about this Black Bull,” said Governor Jaya Santana boldly, without any intention to boast.

“I believe in your loyalty, Uncle. Very well, then, now let’s go home to the Kingdom of Sumberkarang. My father and mother must have been waiting for me since I have been gone for quiet some time,” said Raden Jaya Purnama while getting up. Then he walked to his maroonish black horse which he had let loose to graze with the black horse and the Black Bull.

“Excuse me, Your Highness. Before we head home, I’d like to tell you about the news of King Komara Alam of Giri Kencana Kingdom who has announced a contest.”

“A contest?” asked Raden Jaya Purnama nonchalantly. He was not too interested in such contests.

“Yes, Your Highness. This contest is held to find a winner who will marry a sweet and lovely princess named Dewi Lengcaya, the daughter of King Komara Alam!” replied Governor Jaya Santana enthusiastically.

Having heard about the special contest, the grown-up Raden Jaya Purnama could not stifle his interest. Timidly he asked Governor Jaya Santana, “Really, Uncle? What is this contest about? Where is this Giri Kancana Kingdom located?”

Governor Jaya Santana smiled happily. It looked like his effort in persuading Raden Jaya Purnama to participate in the contest would prevail. He wanted the Crown Prince to find his soulmate soon. And now the perfect match for him was already there. He was very sure that the powerful Raden Jaya Purnama would win the contest.

“We will find out, Your Highness. Now, the important thing is that we have to arrive in Giri Kancana Kingdom as soon as possible.”

Governor Jaya Santana took the small box from his hair knot. He then put the Black Bull inside the small box and inserted it back inside his hair knot.

“Let’s hit the road, Your Highness,” suggested Governor Jaya Santana, then he and Raden Jaya Purnama rode on their respective horses. They spurred the horses to gallop fast towards Giri Kancana Kingdom. They did not want to arrive there late. There was only one goal in their heads, namely winning the contest to get Dewi Lengkaya.

The Disappearance of the Black Bull

A month later there was a great fanfare in the Kingdom of Giri Kancana. On that day, the royal wedding of Dewi Lengkaya and the Crown Prince of Sumberkarang Kingdom took place. The beauty of the bride was far above that of the fairies in the heavens. Likewise, the handsomeness of Raden Jaya Purnama made him resemble Dewa Kamajaya, a figure in *wayang* story.

People hurried to watch the royal wedding, which usually happened once in a blue moon. They flocked on both sides of the road along the Kingdom's fortress where the bride and bridegroom would pass by. When the golden chariot with the couple was passing by, the people cheered for them.

Behind them, there were another chariot with King Komara Alam and his Queen inside, followed by the one which carried King Mahesa Gangga and his Queen. The royal courtiers from both kingdoms accompanied their respective leaders while a cavalry guarded the parade of chariots behind.

The wedding party was held for seven days and seven nights. The people of Giri Kancana kingdom hailed the happy day with a great joy. Various folk performances were presented to celebrate the wedding of Dewi Lengkaya.

When the newlyweds and their entourage had returned to the palace, two soldiers were seen on their horses which were galloping rapidly to the palace gate. Both were the guards of the border of Giri Kancana Kingdom. They looked so pale as if they had just seen a ghost.

They both reported to the soldiers who were guarding the palace gate. Now, the face of the gate guards turned pale as well. Accompanied by one of them, the reporting guards continued to spur their horses again towards the palace hall where the party was being held. The three of them directly went to see Commander Suryaganda who had received the news about their coming.

“Forgive us, Mister Commander,” said one of the guards of the border with a pale face, “a huge army is heading here. It looks like they’re going to attack our kingdom. From the flag they’re hoisting, they are the troop of King Jonggring. Now they are still outside the border of our kingdom, Mister Commander.”

Commander Suryaganda immediately ordered other young commanders to prepare all of their soldiers. Shortly afterwards, all of the soldiers of Giri Kancana kingdom were ready to brace themselves for a big battle. The soldiers of Sumberkarang Kingdom were also ready under the leadership of Governor Jaya

Santana. Together they hurried to the border, leaving only several guards around the palace to be prepared for the worst scenario.

Thousands of soldiers led by King Jonggring arrived at the border at the same time as the troops of Giri Kancana and Sumberkarang. Without waiting for any command from their respective commanders-in-chief, the two opponent big troops were directly involved in a heated battle. That's what happened when greed possessed someone's heart, forcing many innocent people to pay for the consequences.

The thundering noise of clashing weapons was heard amidst heart-wrenching moans of dying people every now and then. In a span of just few minutes, hundreds of dead bodies were sprawled all over. Rivulets of fresh blood were flowing everywhere, flooding the ground and creating such a gruesome sight. The skies seemed to be mourning as well. The sun looked reluctant to shine and hid behind thick layers of clouds. This made the atmosphere become extremely tense. In the meantime, a life or death battle kept going on ferociously.

On the back of a huge horse, King Jonggring was on the rampage. His sharp sword was swung around, killing dozens of fighters. His face was scarlet with rage as he was determined to exterminate the whole troops of Giri Kancana and Sumberkarang. His heart was still full of resentment for having been beaten by

the groom, aka Raden Jaya Purnama. Therefore, he went berserk and what he was doing was truly frightening.

In the meantime, Governor Jaya Santana and Commander Suryaganda's ire was also provoked. The swords on their hands were swooshing to all directions looking for prey with each swoop resulted in somebody's death. The horses they were riding on kept running here and there to chase the enemies.

Amidst the hustle bustle of the battle, the Black Bull appeared, rampaging like a wounded animal. Its hind legs kicked out wildly and its head rammed whoever dared to come near. Amazingly, the animal seemed to be able to distinguish the enemies from its allies. Several soldiers of King Jonggring tried to stab it with spears and to shoot at it with arrows from a distance. But apparently the Black Bull was very powerful. Its pitch-dark skin was immune to the sharp edge of the spears and arrowheads. Not far from the Black Bull, a handsome young man was sitting on the saddle of his maroonish black horse. Unlike others, he was not running amuck. His piercing gaze was like looking for a particular person among thousands of soldiers who were fighting against each other with their weapons.

“Hmm... apparently King Jonggring has not learned his lesson after I clobbered him some time ago,” mumbled Raden Jaya

Purnama when he saw King Jonggring raging in the middle of the battlefield.

“Listen, Jaya Purnama. How unfortunate are you that today I won’t refrain from destroying you. Go ahead and show me what you have,” said King Jonggring with a contemptuous smile.

Having uttered those words, King Jonggring swung his sharp sword towards the neck of Raden Jaya Purnama. He exerted his supernatural powers along with the swoop of the sword, which glided in a deadly pace creating an extremely hot steam. Raden Jaya Purnama who had anticipated the coming danger, immediately hopped off the back of his horse. Now he was standing on the ground, ready for the next move of King Jonggring.

Seeing his opponent waiting for him on the ground, King Jonggring sent his lethal kick while jumping off his horse. The rapid attack was very dangerous, but Raden Jaya Purnama could dodge it out easily. Just as the right foot of King Jonggring was above Raden Jaya Purnama’s head, the young man flipped his left hand to pummel the foot with its palm. Raden Jaya Purnama, who did not want to take his powerful enemy lightly, exerted all of his supernatural powers through the side of his left hand’s palm. King Jonggring, who had no time to pull his leg, exerted his immunity skill to cover his right foot. “Plakkk!!!”

The knock did not seem too hard and yet it created a tremendous effect. The body of King Jonggring bounced high in the air and then plummeted to the ground. He tottered, trying to stand up with great efforts, with a more frighteningly scarlet face. His eyes were glaring as if he were about to swallow Raden Jaya Purnama. While groaning in pain, he started to attack again furiously.

Raden Jaya Purnama could easily dodge each of his opponent's uncontrollable attacks. Several smacks and kicks of Raden Jaya Purnama even landed right on King Jonggring's body. However, King Jonggring did not want to throw in the towel yet. He kept attacking relentlessly, until at a certain point, a long distance blow from Raden Jaya Purnama landed right on his chest. "Ughhh..."

Raja Jonggring's body was thrown down forcefully. His mouth was bleeding. King Jonggring met his death right away in the hands of Raden Jaya Purnama.

The troops of Sumberkarang and Giri Kencana who had been watching the battle between King Jonggring and Raden Jaya Purnama erupted in a loud cheer. In an instant, the news about the death of King Jonggring was spread throughout the battlefield. This news demoralized the soldiers of King Jonggring. The King with the supernatural powers they had been very proud of was defeated by Raden Jaya Purnama. Therefore, there was no other way for them but to give in to their opponents.

“Listen, Soldiers of Jonggring. Go back to your land and take with you the body of your King. From now on, there is no enmity between us,” said Raden Jaya Purnama.

Thousands of Jonggring soldiers knelt down in reverence. They were grateful of not being made war prisoners. The body of King Jonggring was immediately carried on a stretcher, so were hundreds of other dead soldiers. They were taken home to be buried in the land of the kingdom as the war heroes of Jonggring Kingdom.

Now thousands of soldiers of Sumberkarang and Giri Kancana were also busy attended to the wounded ones. They were carried on stretchers back to the Kingdom Giri Kancana, while hundreds of dead soldiers were buried on the spot.

When they arrived at the downtown of Giri Kancana, the soldiers who were led by Commander Suryaganda and Governor Jaya Santana were welcomed by the loud cheer of all Giri Kancana people, so was the groom, Raden Jaya Purnama. They were proud of having such a powerful leader. They also hoped that the son-in-law of King Komara Alam, who was also the Crown King of Sumberkarang Kingdom, would be just and wise as well.

After almost a month staying at Giri Kancana palace, King Mahesa Gangga and his Queen, along with all of their entourage, would like to say goodbye to go back to their land. Raden Jaya

Purnama and his wife Dewi Lengkaya also came along with the entourage. The parade of golden chariots was guarded by hundreds of Sumberkarang soldiers.

It looked like King Mahesa Gangga would also like to hold a wedding party in the Kingdom of Sumberkarang as well as to crown Raden Jaya Purnama and Dewi Lengkaya as the King and the Queen of Sumberkarang Kingdom.

On their way, all of a sudden Raden Jaya Purnama felt a moment of sheer panic. When the small box where he had put the Black Bull was unintentionally opened, the animal was no longer there. It had gone mysteriously, though he remembered well of having put it inside the small box which he then inserted behind his hair knot when he was about to head home.

“Woe to us!” shouted Raden Jaya Purnama.

“What’s the matter, Husband?” asked Dewi Lengkaya sweetly. But she too was then startled to see her husband’s face grow pale instantly.

“My Wife, the Black Bull has disappeared from this small box,” replied Raden Jaya Purnama while showing her his empty box.

Raden Jaya Purnama and Dewi Lengkaya were not the only ones taken aback. King Mahesa Gangga also wondered at it.



Several questions were raised on their minds. Why did the Black Bull disappear so suddenly? Had the animal gone back to the Kingdom of Malwagiri? Or was it because it did not want to be the pet of Raden Jaya Purnama?

Out of the blue, a mysterious voice was heard out of nowhere. The entourage of Sumberkarang Kingdom listened to the mysterious voice with mouths visibly agape.

“Listen, Raden Jaya Purnama. I cannot follow you in my current physical embodiment. However, trust me that I will always protect the Kingdom of Sumberkarang from any threatening danger. Therefore, you shall not worry about me.”

Having heard the voice of the Black Bull, Raden Jaya Purnama knelt down towards the direction where the voice came from. His respectful gesture was soon followed by the whole entourage, including King Mahesa Gangga.

“Apparently the clue I have gotten in that dream was true. The Black Bull will keep the Kingdom of Sumberkarang prosperous from generation to generation,” said King Mahesa Gangga deep in his heart.

Finally, the royal entourage continued their journey towards the capital of Sumberkarang Kingdom.

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