

THE MODEST KNIGHT
Kesatria yang Rendah Hati

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THE MODEST KNIGHT

The Journey with Bambang Widyaka

Once upon a time, in East Java, lived a youth, named Bambang Widyaka, the son of an invulnerable *resi* (ascetic), Resi Jati Pitutur. Being a *resi*'s son, Bambang Widyaka was unquestionably skilfull in martial art and knowledgeable in asceticism. His father brought him up in asceticism, so he frequently and regularly secluded himself as a hermit for his spiritual enlightenment. One early morning, accompanied by Lega and Legi, two servants he considered his own brothers, he went to a mountain within Alis-Alis kingdom. They found an ideal place for seclusion, a cave at the foot of a mountain, where Bambang Widyaka started his ascetic ritual. As the master started his ritual, Lega and Legi went hunting for deers and gathered fruits from the forest around the cave. Their journey took them to the palace of the kingdom, and they involuntarily entered the *keputren* (the female section within the palace) of Alis-Alis kingdom. Keputren was a special place for the royal female members, forbidden for unauthorised men. As the shady trees around the keputren resembled those in the forest, Lega and Legi entered the backyard, unaware of trespassing restricted precincts.

Under a shady tree, a very beautiful princess was sitting alone. The soft breeze gently caressed her long unbraided hair. She was engrossed in her embroidery, knitting a shawl. A spool of white thread was lying beside her. The beautiful princess was none other than Dewi Kadarningrum, the younger sister of the reigning king of Alis-Alis kingdom. Being a royal princess, she lived in the keputren. The princess was so engrossed in her activity that she was not aware of the coming of Lega and Legi. The rustling of leaves caressed by the winds disguised the sounds of their steps, but they could see the princess from the distance. They were surprised to see a beautiful woman sitting by herself in the forest. They were somewhat frightened, lest the woman they saw was not a human, but some kind of wandering spirit. They thought it was impossible for a beautiful and finely dressed woman to be sitting in that manner in the forest. They stalked and sneaked approaching the princess to make sure it was a human they were seeing. If it was really a human, they wanted to ask what she was doing alone in the forest.

Unfortunately, before they could get near the princess, the princess suddenly turned her head towards them. The coming of two strangers startled her, and she screamed while running in fear, while Lega and Legi were confused by her reaction. All her knitting tools were left scattered under the tree.

“Brother, Brother!” said Dewi Kadarningrum hurriedly, almost out of breath.

Obviously, Dewi Kadarningrum ran into the *balairung* (the royal reception hall). The king of Alis-Alis kingdom, King Jaya Widarba, and his consort, the queen, were sitting on the throne. The coming of Dewi Kadarningrum in such a manner startled the king and the queen.

“What’s up, dear sister, Dewi Kadarningrum? Why did you run in such a hurry like that?” asked the queen.

“I beg your pardon!” replied Dewi Kadarningrum panting, and continued, “I would like to report something!”

“Tell me what it is,” urged the king.

“I... I was knitting under a tree behind the keputren when suddenly two men stood before me,” said Dewi Kadarningrum interruptedly and still panting.

“Men?” said the king with a frown. He exchanged look with the queen.

“That’s true, Your Majesty. Two men from nowhere,” repeated Dewi Kadarningrum trying to convince the king and the queen.

The king and the queen were unquestionably surprised. The keputren was a special chamber for female members only: the

king's daughters, the king's female relatives, and the maids. None was male, all were female. How could male persons appear in the keputren as had been told by his sister?

In his surprise and to prevent the two men from escaping, the king immediately ordered the guards to check the keputren and arrest the two male strangers.

“Guard!” the king summoned one of the guards. One of them rushed to the king's presence, paying royal salute, and sat before the king.

“At your service, Your Majesty!” said the guard.

“Quickly go to the keputren. Ask one of the maids to accompany you checking the backyard. If you find two strangers, two men, arrest them and bring them to me!”

“As you order, Your Majesty!” replied the guard and immediately left.

Getting Lost in the Keputren

“Where are we now, Legi?” asked Lega.

Behind the keputren, Lega and Legi were sitting in bewilderment under the tree where Dewi Kadarninrum had sat earlier. They did not follow her, nor try to get away from the palace immediately.

“I have no idea, either. Have we got lost and entered a palace?” replied Legi with another question. They looked around but could not figure out where they were.

“It looks like we have entered a palace,” replied Lega. Legi looked at Lega with a worried look.

“I’m afraid we’ve been lost in a palace of ghosts,” said Legi. Hearing the word ‘ghost’, Lega turned his head towards Legi.

“Don’t talk nonsense,” said Lega angrily, “How could it be a palace of ghost?”

“Didn’t you see the beautiful woman? How could a beautiful woman be in a forest if she were not a ghost?” Legi insisted.

“Heh? But didn’t you also see she ran away? She didn’t disappear like a ghost, did she? She is a human, and now looking for help,” said Lega.

“Moreover, these are her knitting tools!” said Lega pointing at the scattered knitting tools under the tree, “Where on earth would you find a ghost knitting? What I’m worrying about is that the woman ran to find some help. So we are going to be arrested.” Hearing Lega’s words, Legi only nodded his head in bewilderment as well as in fear.

“Hey, what’s up with you? Do you want to follow the woman? Then, come on! Let’s find out where she ran to!” said Lega, but Legi shook his head in disagreement.

“No ... No need. I... I just feel that we are in a place which ... which,” Legi looked around. He was frightened.

“Hey, it’s still daylight, night hasn’t come yet, you know! Look, the sunlight goes through those leaves. So what are you scared of?” Lega looked annoyed with his brother’s fear.

“Come on! Let’s find a way out of here!” said Lega.

“All right, let’s get out of here at once,” replied Legi. They stood up and were about to leave the place through where they came when suddenly they heard footsteps of people running and the voices telling them to stop.

“Hey, stop! Stop!” Lega and Legi turned around. They saw a man in a soldier uniform running towards them, followed by two women wearing palace maid clothes.

“What did I say?” whispered Lega to Legi.

“It’s we who are getting arrested. The woman we saw must have reported to some authority!” Lega sounded annoyed. He regretted that they had stayed longer under the tree and did not leave immediately.

“Are we going to be arrested?” asked Legi surprised, “Let’s run away!”

Legi was about to run, but Lega pulled his clothes which made him stop.

“Don’t!” said Lega, “Let’s just face them, Legi. We aren’t bad people anyway,” said Lega faithfully. The guard and the two maids arrived at the spot. The soldier greeted them and told them firmly, “Sires! His Majesty King Jaya Widarba summons you two to appear before him at once!”

“King Jaya Widarba?” Lega and Legi looked at each other. Before they could say anything else, the guard had forced them to walk towards the palace of Alis-Alis kingdom. Before long, they had stood up before the king. They knelt, paying royal salute, and sat with heads bent.

“Who are you two? And what made you trespass the keputren?” the king asked Lega and Legi.

“We beg your pardon, Your Majesty! My name is Lega, and this is my brother, Legi. We are the servants of our master, Gusti Bambang Widyaka.”

“Gusti Bambang Widyaka?”

“Indeed, Your majesty!” replied Lega and Legi almost simultaneously.

“Who is he, Lega and Legi? I have never heard of him,” said the king.

“He is the son of a resi, Resi Jati Pitutur, Your Majesty,” replied Lega.

Hearing the word ‘resi,’ the king nodded his head, thinking that the two men could not have been evil persons. They were only servants of a certain Gusti Bambang Widyaka, who could have a great personality, being the son of a certain resi.

“Hmm ..., so how did you get here?” continued the king, “Don’t you know that in any kingdom, the keputren is the female chamber where an unauthorised person may not enter, let alone men?”

“Please forgive our insolence, Your Majesty. We really had no intention to trespass a keputren. Initially, we had accompanied our master, Gusti Bambang Widyaka on a seclusion journey. As he started his seclusion and contemplation in a cave at the foot of the mount, we continued our activity by hunting deers and picking forest fruits for our provision. We never expected to get lost and came to a forbidden territory,” Lega defended themselves.

“So you had no evil intention to infiltrate our keputren?” asked the king, pretending to be incredulous despite his certainty that they had no evil intention.

“No, not at all, Your Majesty!” said Legi convincingly.

“All right, but you have to know that as you have trespassed, we cannot just release you easily. Moreover, where your master secludes himself is a part of our territory, and he does what he does within our territory without our permission,” explained the king. Lega and Legi looked at each other. They did not expect that the king would not release them easily.

“I have several requirements that your master has to fulfill. If he fails, then we’ll finish you off!” threatened the king who was well known for his atrocity. Lega and Legi could not hide their bewilderment as they heard they would be killed if Gusti Bambang Widyaka could not fulfill the king’s requirements.

However, to show their good intention, both of Bambang Widyaka and themselves, Lega and Legi expressed their willingness to submit to the king’s requirements.

“All right, Your Majesty! What could your requirements be?” asked Lega.

The king was silent for a while, then said, “Hmmm... The first requirement is that your master, Bambang Widyaka, has to hand over a white tiger to me, a faithful white tiger which only obeys me and none others,” said the king. The king thought that he needed to maintain his prestige and authoritativeness by showing

that he had the power over his subjects, not only human, but also animal.

“A white tiger, Your Majesty?” asked Legi incredulously. Lega nudged his elbow at Legi as a sign that he should wait until the king finished explaining his requirements. Legi nodded his head.

“The second one, Bambang Widyaka has to build an underground tunnel which connects Alis-Alis kingdom and Sendang Beji within the territory of Ngrawa kingdom,” the king continued. The second requirement dealt with the king’s concern to develop his kingdom and help his people by connecting his kingdom and the neighbouring kingdom. Hearing the two difficult requirements, Lega and Legi were almost sure that their master would find it difficult to fulfill them. Finding a white tiger would be very difficult. They imagined their master entering thick forests and facing all dangers to accomplish the mission, not to mention of the difficulty in taming the tiger and training it to obey only the king. Furthermore, Bambang Widyaka had to devote his energy to build such a long tunnel to connect Alis-Alis kingdom and Sendang Beji. And who will assist Bambang Widyaka to accomplish his mission? Actually they did not doubt their master’s ability, but what worried them was that if Bambang Widyaka chose not to fulfill the requirements, what would happen to them? However, thinking about how close their relationship

was with their master, Lega and Legi believed that their master would not stay idle, let alone letting them die in vain.

“All right, Your Majesty! But how will we inform Gusti Bambang Widyaka of the requirements?” asked Legi. The king frowned for a while, trying to figure out what was in Lega and Legi’s mind. Did they propose of conveying the message themselves? If they did, it was just possible that they would use the opportunity to escape. The king thought hard.

“Hmmm I will write the message and my guards will go to the cave where Bambang Widyaka is secluding himself and contemplating and convey the message to him.

As for you two, you will stay here in the palace until Bambang Widyaka succeeds in fulfilling the requirements,” said the king finally.

Lega and Legi did not resist when two guards took them to the prison and locked them from outside.

The Palace ‘Prison’

“Hey, Legi. Do you perceive something unusual?” Lega asked Legi, breaking the silence. Legi also felt there was something unusual.

“So, you also feel it. I feel this room unusual....,” said Legi

The dungeon of the palace of Alis-Alis kingdom where Lega and Legi were imprisoned was more like a luxurious suite than a prison. On the front part was a room to entertain guests with cozy chairs, and inside was a room with two beds which were no less cozy than the chairs in the front room. To clean oneself, there was a shower in a room with a partition. Such a room was surprising to Lega and Legi. They had expected to be imprisoned in a dark, cold, and dirty room locked from outside and heavily guarded to prevent prisoners from escaping, but this prison was just contradictory to their expectation.

“I thought we would be imprisoned in a bad jail, but this is a luxurious suite,” said Lega. Both of them walked around the room while observing the furniture in the room. Besides the luxurious and comfortable chairs and beds, the decorations of the room were also exquisite. Some were made of crystals, and some others were of finely carved wood.

“Hmmm.... I’m smelling The aroma... The aroma ...,” said Lega while sniffing.

“Fragrant aroma?” ensured Lega, “I have smellt it from the time we entered this room,” said Legi.

But Lega negated, “Not the fragrant aroma,” whispered Lega a bit loudly, “I also smell the fragrant aroma, but that’s not what I mean!”

The room was indeed fragrant with fresh flowers in the vase on the corners of the room. The flowers freshened the room aroma. Legi looked at Lega and sniffed.

“Hmmm... So what aroma? Hmmm... Ah... Yes! I can also smell it. The aroma of roasted deer,” said Legi.

Suddenly the door handle was unwinded. A man in a uniform like a chef entered the room.

“I bring your lunch, Sirs! Please enjoy it,” said the man placing a basket full of rice and the dishes, one of which was roasted deer. Not only were they imprisoned in a luxurious room, but they were also treated like honourable guests with palace meal.

“Roasted deer?” whispered Legi.

“It seemed that the king knew we were hunting deers, so he had us served roasted deer,” replied Lega also in whisper.

They looked at the meal. There were appetizers, main course and desserts. All looked delicious.

“Have a good appetite, Sirs,” said the man after placing the plates and bowls. When the man was about to leave, Lega stopped him.

“Wait! Don’t leave yet!” said Lega. The man stopped. He turned to Lega and Legi.

“Why do you prepare such a delicious meal for us? Are we not the king’s prisoners? We aren’t the king’s guests!” said Lega to the man.

The man replied, “Sorry, Sir. I’m just carrying out the king’s order. Excuse me,” said the man leaving the room. Lega and Legi were all the more bewildered. How could the king who was famous for his atrocity treat them that way? Suspicion arose in their mind.

“I am afraid that we’re served this delicacy because we will be offered as the prey for the white tiger brought by our master, Gusti Bambang Widyaka,” Legi asked Lega. Lega turned to Legi. His younger brother often had negative thinking.

“It doesn’t make sense!”

“Aren’t you surprised? Aren’t we prisoners? Isn’t this an underground prison, but why are we treated like special guests?”

“Listen up! I am also surprised, but you shouldn’t think negatively. You know well how our master, Gusti Bambang Widyaka is. He won’t leave us in this situation, let alone leave a white tiger prey on us like your imagination.”

“Well! I hope you’re right,” said Legi eventually.

“All right, let’s eat! I’ve been hungry since we came here,” said Lega. Lega and Legi devoured the delicious meal provided for them quickly and finished without leaving anything.

The Message of King Jaya Widarba

King Jaya Widarba sent four messengers to carry his message to Bambang Widyaka who was secluding himself and contemplating in the cave. He was deep in his seclusion and contemplation when the four messengers arrived at his seclusion place. The sound of the horse hoofs had actually been heard before the messengers arrived. The quietness of the forest made the sound even more distinct. However, Bambang Widyaka had not been in the least perturbed by anything in his contemplation, nor the sound of horse hoofs which was getting nearer. Finally the four messengers arrived at the cave entrance. After a brief discussion, one of them dismounted his horse and walked slowly to the entrance of the cave. He saw the posture of Bambang Widaya sitting cross-legged on a big rock inside the cave, not far from the entrance. From where he was observing, he saw him with his head bent, his eyes closed and both his hands on both thighs, holding his knees. When he was at a distance from which he could be heard clearly by Bambang Widyaka, the messenger greeted him and said, “Excuse me, Mister Gusti Bambang Widyaka. I am one of the messengers of King Jaya Widarba, the king of Alis-Alis kingdom, to which where we are now belong.”

He hesitated as Bambang Widyaka did not respond in any way. He was still contemplating with his eyes closed and breathing normally, so the messenger said, “I am coming with a message for you from our king.”

The messenger hesitated again, but Bambang Widyaka opened his eyes, took a deep breath, and looked straight in front and turned his head towards the messenger. Still in his cross-legged position, he asked the messenger with his echoed voice, “Who are you?”

“I beg your pardon. We are the messengers of King Jaya Widarba, the king of Alis-Alis kingdom. We are here with message for you from him.”

“What message?” asked he in surprise. No one knew about his seclusion but Lega and Legi. Now that there were messengers from the king with a message for him really made him surprised.

What could have happened out there? He was wondering and surprised when he read the message from the king that Lega and Legi had insolently trespassed the keputren of Alis-Alis kingdom.

Their insolence made them prisoners of the king of Alis-Alis kingdom, King Jaya Widarba. They would be released if Bambang Widyaka could fulfill two requirements. He wondered, why his two servants could trespass the keputren. Was keputren not a special chamber for female royal members and their maids? He was even more surprised that to release Lega and Legi he had

to fulfill two requirements which sounded almost impossible. Had his two servants committed grave offenses that they could only be released after fulfilling the two very difficult conditions? However, thinking of the uncomfortable situation of his two servants whom he had regarded as his own brothers made him willing to fulfill them, no matter however impossible they might sound.

“All right! Tell your king that I have read his message and that I, Bambang Widyaka, will fulfill the requirements of King Jaya Widarba for the release of my two servants,” he told the messenger. He started wondering how he would fulfill them, but he had promised, and the promise of a knight had to be kept.

Resi Jati Pitutur and the Rooster Doll

After the messengers left, Bambang Widyaka continued his contemplation and thought hard to find a solution to the problem he was facing. For several days he found it hard to concentrate. Suddenly, as if to answer his anxiety, his father, Resi Jati Pitutur appeared. Bambang Widyaka was unaware when his father suddenly stood before him. And when he was, he as very surprised.

“Oh, dear father, thank you for your coming,” Bambang Widyaka was trembling due to his reverence for his father. With all respects, he solemnly saluted his father. His voice showed that he

could not hide his happiness and gratefulness. His father came at the time when he really needed someone very capable for help.

The wise resi knew at once that his son had something troubling his mind, “My dear son, I know what worries you, and I come here to help you.”

So saying, the resi handed over a rooster doll. Bambang Widyaka took the doll, but he wondered what that would mean.

“A rooster doll! This is a rooster doll ...! Why did my father give me a rooster doll?” Bambang Widyaka asked himself while looking at the rooster doll which his father just gave him.

“My son! Your intention to release Lega and Legi is indeed a noble intention. I am very proud of you that you have the feeling of mercy for them. That’s why I gave you that doll as a provision,” said Resi Jati Pitutur.

“A provision?” Bambang Widyaka still could not understand, “Do you mean a provision to face King Jaya Widarba?” The resi smiled while nodding his head.

“But King Jaya Widarba did not ask for a rooster doll, father,” argued Bambang Widyaka softly. Hearing Bambang Widyaka’s words, Resi Jati Pitutur could see that his son had not understood why he gave him the rooster doll. However, he thought that Bambang Widyaka’s problem was not that he did not understand;

rather, it was because he was still worrying that he could not think clearly.

“I know that King Jaya Widarba set two requirements for you to fulfill, didn’t he?” asked Resi Jati Pitutur softly, trying to remove doubt from his son’s mind so that he could think clearly. Bambang Widyaka nodded his head in agreement.

“So, that’s why I gave you that rooster doll, because it will help you later,” continued he, “Believe me!”

Bambang Widyaka was still wondering and he still wanted to ask another question, and when he turned his head to talk, his father had disappeared just as he had come all of a sudden. He had not even thanked his father.

“Father? Father?” called Bambang Widyaka turning his head to all directions, but his father had really gone. Now, Bambang Widyaka was alone once again.

“Rama,” muttered he to himself, “This is only a doll. How can a doll like this help me accomplish my difficult mission?” complained he silently. For a moment he was silent. He was thinking what he should do with the doll which, according to his father, would help him face King Jaya Widarba. After a few more moments of uncertainty what to do, finally he made up his mind to pack up and get ready to look for the white tiger in the forest outside the cave. He decided to end his contemplation.

He packed up all his belongings and wrapped them in a piece of cloth which he used to carry on his shoulder. He did not forget to take the rooster doll and put it into the cloth wrapping when suddenly the rooster doll fell from its place and suddenly turned into a real rooster. Its hard body which was made from something like clay, and its colour which came from artificial colouring now turned into a live rooster with natural contours.

It was alive and breathing. Its feathers were shiny with black and bright red colours. The rooster crowed loudly breaking the silence in the forest. After crowing several times, suddenly the rooster flew quickly into the deeper part of the forest. Seeing his rooster turning alive and flying away into the forest, Bambang Widyaka was very surprised. He wanted to follow the rooster, thinking that the rooster would lead his way towards the place where he could find a white tiger. When he was about to leave, suddenly a piece of discoloured white cloth fell in front of him. He had no idea where the piece of cloth came from. He stooped to pick up the cloth when it suddenly turned into a white crocodile. He stepped backwards seeing the big white crocodile.

“Don’t be surprised, Bambang Widyaka,” said the white crocodile suddenly. Apparently it could speak like human with the voice of a middle aged man.

“Who ... Who are you?” asked Bambang Widyaka hesitatingly due to the great surprise. He trembled and his eyes were wide

open. He kept stepping backwards until he got quite a distance from the crocodile.

“Come closer here,” said the white crocodile.

“No ... No... I have to be careful, I shouldn't easily trust you, the speaking white crocodile!”

“All right, I am the white crocodile who will help you solve your problem,” said the crocodile.

“You are going to help me?” asked Bambang Widyaka incredulously, “How?”

“Take it easy, Bambang Widyaka. Tell me your problems first, then I'll tell you how I'll help you,” said the crocodile.

“All right,” said Bambang Widyaka. Then he told his problems, and the white crocodile listened attentively.

He related all about what happened to his two servants, how they got lost and trespassed the keputren, how they were imprisoned for that and the conditions for their release. After listening to Bambang Widyaka's story, the white crocodile said, “O Bambang Widyaka, what you're worrying about is no big deal to me. Hopefully I can help you fulfill the requirements from King Jaya Widarba.”

“But how will you do that, White Crocodile?”

The white crocodile did not reply Bambang Widyaka's question with words, but with a loud roar like the roaring of a tiger. The roar was replied by another roar from a distance inside the forest. A few moments afterwards, a big white tiger appeared. The tiger walked slowly towards them. Seeing a big white tiger approaching him, Bambang Widyaka was surprised. He did not expect the white crocodile would help him that quick by inviting a white tiger as required by King Jaya Widarba.

“O White Crocodile, is that the white tiger that you have promised me?” asked Bambang Widyaka.

“Exactly!” said the white crocodile.

“Wow, how big and handsome!” admired Bambang Widyaka while looking at the white tiger from a distance.

“Is it dangerous?” asked Bambang Widyaka as the tiger was getting nearer. He was a little nervous just like when he first saw the white crocodile earlier.

“Don't worry. The white tiger is my friend. He is very kind and won't harm you,” said the white crocodile trying to comfort Bambang Widyaka.

“For me?” asked Bambang Widyaka.

“Yes, of course for you and for King Jaya Widarba. For other people, he might be wild and even attack if King Jaya Widarba

orders him,” explained the white crocodile. When the tiger with his steady but sure steps finally came to them, the real look of the tiger became clearer to Bambang Widyaka. Thick furs covered his big, tall, and handsome body. Around his ears and neck, white furs grew like soft but thick hairs. His eyes were fierce, especially when he grimaced and roared, showing his big, sharp, and strong canine teeth, as if ready to tatter his prey.

His claws also looked long and very sharp to pounce, scratch, and tear his prey. The white tiger then sat next to the white crocodile. The crocodile told the tiger the purpose they called him that he would be sent to serve King Jaya Widarba and to obey only him, all with the sole purpose to release Lega and Legi who were imprisoned in the palace prison. The white tiger showed his readiness and willingness to obey.

“All right, White Crocodile, to help your friend, Bambang Widyaka, I promise to be loyal and to obey only King Jaya Widarba.”

Hearing the white tiger’s promise, Bambang Widyaka was very pleased because one of the requirements to release his two servants was already fulfilled.

“I thank you, White Tiger, for your willingness to fulfill one of the requirements required by the king,” said Bambang Widyaka.

“Yes. But remember, we still have one more requirement which we have to fulfill yet. So let’s take the white tiger to the king and continue to fulfill the second requirement,” said the white crocodile.

The three of them were ready to leave for Alis-Alis kingdom, but the white crocodile said, “My fellows! The journey from this forest to Alis-Alis kingdom will take a long time if we walk.”

“That’s true. We have to go through several hills and rocky paths, up and down,” confirmed Bambang Widyaka, “So, how will we go faster? We only have legs, we don’t have wings to fly.”

“Get mounted on my back, both of you. We will reach the palace very soon,” ordered the white crocodile. So Bambang Widyaka and the white tiger mounted the back of the white crocodile and in a very short time, they had already reached the palace of Alis-Alis kingdom. What a miraculous journey they took! Bambang Widyaka was very grateful that he had got good and helpful friends to accomplish his mission to release his two servants, Lega and Legi, from the king’s imprisonment.

The Matching Plan

“What do you think about Sister Dewi Kadarningrum’s future, dear?” the queen asked the king one midday.

Her soft hands skilfully set the dining table for her husband. Although the cooks and servants had prepared the meal, yet as a faithful and loyal wife, the queen still took action to set the dining table for her husband, at least she prepared herself to pass which food her husband preferred to have.

“Hmmm... What do you mean, Honey?” asked the king furrowing his forehead trying to figure out his wife’s intention. “I think it’s a high time for Sister Dewi Kadarningrum to end her maiden period ...,” explained the queen.

The king did not comment. Instead, he continued putting morsel by morsel of food to his mouth and the queen did likewise. Both of them ate silently while thinking about who would be a suitable match for Dewi Kadarningrum.

Although Dewi Kadarningrum was the younger sister of King Jaya Widarba, as the age gap between her and the king was quite big, she had always been treated like a daughter by the king and the queen, especially since the parents of the king and his sister passed away when Dewi Kadarningrum was still at her tender age.

“Although I am a real brother of hers, I’ve never inquired about that from her, Honey. Perhaps, she could be more open to you than to me, since this issue is easier to discuss between women than between a woman and a man,” said the king.

“As far as I know, she hasn’t shown any inclination towards a man,” said the queen.

“I know she is a bit covert. So it may be rather difficult to know her attitude towards men,” added the king. After a long while, the queen broke the silence in whisper, “What do you think about the resi’s son, dear?”

“Bambang Widyaka?” replied the king with another question. He muttered, “Bambang Widyaka, the son of Resi Jati Pitutur”

They exchanged look, as if they had agreed on something.

The White Tiger and Sendang Beji Tunnel

“Gusti Bambang Widyaka?” inquired the guards who hurriedly welcomed Bambang Widyaka along with the white crocodile and the white tiger as they arrived at the gate of the palace of Alis-Alis kingdom.

“Yes, that’s right. I am here to meet your king, King Jaya Widarba,” said Bambang Widyaka with dignity.

“All right, Sir. Would you please wait here? I’ll report your arrival to the king,” said one of the guards. The guard immediately went into the palace to inform the king about Bambang Widyaka and his friends’ arrival which had been expected by the king for the last few days. After giving a royal salute, the guards reported, “I beg your pardon, Your Majesty.

Bambang Widyaka and his company, a white tiger and a white crocodile, have arrived and are waiting outside!”

The king was very surprised to hear the report. “A white tiger? So Bambang Widyaka has been successful in getting and taming a white tiger for me?” said the king silently to himself.

“Bambang Widyaka has arrived with a white tiger for me?” asked the king.

“Indeed, Your Majesty!” replied the guard.

“Then invite them to appear before me,” ordered the king.

“As you order, Your Majesty!” said the guard and left hurriedly to meet Bambang Widyaka and his two companions.

“Gusti! Gusti Bambang Widyaka, His Majesty is expecting you!” said the guard. Bambang Widyaka and his two companions followed the guard who had led the way to the royal reception hall to meet King Jaya Widarba.

“I beg your pardon, Your Majesty. These are our esteemed guests!” the guard presented Bambang Widyaka and his two companions to the king. The king nodded his head smilingly while hiding his admiration for Bambang Widyaka who had brought him what he had previously required.

“Welcome, Bambang Widyaka. So you have come to our kingdom bringing the white tiger,” said the King Jaya Widarba opening the conversation. Bambang Widyaka was somewhat awed by the soft yet thundering voice of King Jaya Widarba. But he tried to maintain his feeling to protect his own dignity.

“I beg your pardon, Your Majesty, King Jaya Widarba. As I have promised you through your messengers several days ago that I was willing to fulfill your requirements in a few days and that I requested Your Majesty to wait. And here I am today with the white tiger as I have promised to fulfill the first requirement to release my two brothers,” said Bambang Widyaka slowly but very well said. His manner of speaking had made the king curious to find out more of his charisma. How far had the son of the resi fulfilled his requirements? So the king intended to test him whether he had really tamed the tiger as was required and whether the white tiger would really obey only the king.

“I appreciate your serious efforts,” said the king, “But is the tiger really tame and obedient only to me?”

“I guarantee it, Your Majesty, that this white tiger is not an ordinary tiger. He had promised to be ready to serve you and obey only you, Your Majesty,” said Bambang Widyaka faithfully.

“You sound very faithful, but I need to see the truth of your words, sonny!” said the king.

“With all due respect, please order the tiger to do whatever you wish, Your Majesty. I hope you will not be disappointed,” said Bambang Widyaka wisely.

“All right!” said the king and stood from the throne and spoke to the tiger, “Hey White Tiger. I don’t know if you understand human talk, but I will tell you with my words. Will you walk to me, come close to me slowly, and sit here next to me?”

Hearing the king’s order, the white tiger who understood and could even speak, obeyed the king and started to walk slowly towards the king. His awesome appearance and sharp eyes made everyone awed, even the guards were ready with their weapons to protect the king should anything unexpected turned out. But the white tiger very obediently approached the king and as he came next to the king, he sat before the throne next to the king’s feet. The king then caressed the tiger’s head and said, “Well, this tiger seems to obey me, but wait ...,” said the king as if he suddenly had remembered something previously forgotten, “I don’t know whether he would obey only me or he would obey other people as well!”

Apparently, King Jaya Widarba had not been certain that the white tiger would obey only him.

“Guard!” the king summoned one of the guards who stood by the door. The guard immediately came before the king and gave a royal salute.

“I beg your pardon, Your Majesty! I am at your service, Your Majesty!”

“Now tell this white tiger to run around this reception hall,” ordered the king.

The guard followed the king’s order. He shouted ordering the white tiger to run around the reception hall, but the tiger not only disobeyed the guard to run, but he also refused to stand.

“Hmmm.... All right, Bambang Widyaka. What you said about this white tiger that he would not obey anyone but me is apparently true. So I accept this white tiger to serve me,” said the king with pleasure. He could not hide his admiration for Bambang Widyaka who had successfully accomplished a very difficult task to bring him an obedient white tiger who obeyed only his master, King Jaya Widarba.

“I thank you, sonny, but remember that you still have to fulfill another requirement,” continued the king reminding Bambang Widyaka.

“I do remember it, Your Majesty. I have to make an underground tunnel connecting Alis-Alis kingdom and Sendang Beji within

Ngrawa kingdom,” said Bambang Widyaka. King Jaya Widarba nodded his head smilingly.

“Yes, sonny. You have to make a tunnel connecting Alis-Alis kingdom and Sendang Beji within Ngrawa kingdom,” repeated the king, “However, I want you to know the reason why we need the tunnel,” the king continued. Bambang Widyaka looked at the king curiously as a sign that he wanted to hear the reason. The king was silent for a moment, then he explained.

“Let me tell you, sonny. Before I started to reign, during the sovereignty of my late father, the making of the tunnel had been tried several times, but they had never been successful. We had not only failed to accomplish the making, but we also could not complete even just a half of the work,” said the king.

“What had hampered the accomplishment of the project, Your Majesty?” asked Bambang Widyaka curiously.

“The difficult topography of the area, I reckon,” replied the king.

“The difficult topography?” repeated Bambang Widyaka. He remembered the journey from the cave where he had seclusion and contemplation to Alis-Alis kingdom would have taken a long time had it not been for the help of the white crocodile.

“Yes. Rocky grounds and thick forests are everywhere. Rocky grounds have to be dealt with by a large number and powerful

men, but this was not a big problem since we had many people, but the thick forests posed us more difficult problems. Many gangs of robbers made the forests their hiding places from where they ambushed and robbed the guards who brought the logistics for the workers.”

“Hmmm... So that’s why the work has never been accomplished,” muttered Bambang Widyaka.

The king nodded, “And the folks often complained about water shortage during the dry season. If there is a tunnel connecting this kingdom with Sendang Beji, the problem of water can be solved, because we will make ditches along the tunnel for the people’s need. Besides, a tunnel can facilitate trading between the two kingdoms.”

Hearing the king’s explanation, Bambang Widyaka nodded. In his heart he admitted that although King Jaya Widarba was famous for his atrocity, especially towards wrongdoers, he had a great concern about his people’s welfare.

“Your Majesty shouldn’t worry, because I am going to help you in accomplishing this beneficial project,” said Bambang Widyaka trying to convince the king.

“Are you really going to do it?” asked the king.

With full of respect, the modest Bambang Widyaka stated his willingness, “I am going to give it a try, Your Majesty. I hope I will be able to accomplish it because fulfilling your requirement means fulfilling the people’s needs.”

“Hmmm ... You are such a noble and determined young man! You don’t even carry any tool and any people with you for the great work,” said the king. Obviously, the king was curious to know how Bambang Widyaka would carry out such a great task. He knew Bambang Widyaka did not have any people at all with him but a white crocodile which stood faithfully beside him. The king suddenly looked at the white crocodile with suspicion.

“Bambang Widyaka! Is that white crocodile going to help you?” asked the king. Bambang Widyaka nodded his head affirmatively.

“Indeed, Your Majesty,” replied Bambang Widyaka, “This white crocodile is my friend who will assist us in carrying out the task.”

King Jaya Widarba became more convinced of Bambang Widyaka invulnerability.

“All right, Bambang Widyaka. The sooner you complete the work, the sooner Lega and Legi will be released. You should start your work from here,” said the king while pointing at a certain spot not far from where he was standing. The white crocodile who had attentively listened to the conversation between King Jaya Widarba and Bambang Widarba from the beginning

immediately left his place towards the spot which the king had pointed earlier without waiting for any command. He dug the ground and soon disappeared from sight. This surprised everyone, except Bambang Widyaka, who knew that the white crocodile understood what they talked about and could even communicate in human language. The king, who saw what the crocodile did, could not hide his surprise and asked, "Bambang Widyaka, you haven't even told him to start digging, but your friend has started it," said the king, "Did he understand my order?"

Bambang Widyaka seemed to hesitate to answer the king's question, whether or not to tell king the origin of the white crocodile and his invulnerability.

"Errr... The white crocodile is not an ordinary crocodile, Your Majesty. He is a manifestation of a piece of white cloth from a rooster doll which my father gave to me," said Bambang Widyaka.

"Resi Jati Pitutur?" asked the king. Bambang Widyaka was surprised to hear the king mention his father's name.

"Eh, do you know my father, Your Majesty?" asked Bambang Widyaka in surprise.

"I haven't met him yet, although I have heard of him," replied the king.

“Yes, Your Majesty. Resi Jati Pitutur is my beloved father who has helped me from the beginning,” said Bambang Widyaka.

“No wonder,” said the king.

“What do you mean, Your Majesty?”

“I’ve already had this assumption since the first time I heard of your father some time ago,” said the king.

“I beg your pardon, Your Majesty, but who has told you about my origin?” asked Bambang Widyaka.

“None others than your two servants, Lega and Legi, when they were arrested,” replied the king, “So, you don’t have to worry about your two servants. They are in a very good care. If the the tunnel is successful, I will call them here, and you will hear from them how well they are treated,” said the king.

In the meantime, everyone around the entrance of the hole made by the white crocodile was wondering, what was happening under the ground. Some of the guards remembered how difficult it had been when they were involved in the making of the tunnel. Many of the workers were their own relatives, who had to bear the hardships of being robbed by the robbers. Many of them had turned crippled for the rest of their lives, and many of them even lost their lives in the hands of the merciless robbers. It was a tragedy to many people of Alis-Alis kingdom. Many of the

families had seen their members turning crippled, many children had lost their fathers, and many women had lost their husbands. So now their hopes were rested on the shoulder of Bambang Widyaka. After some time waiting, a thunderous sound was heard from inside the tunnel. They looked at one another. The king looked at Bambang Widyaka who kept watching the mouth of the tunnel.

After some time, the thundering sound got nearer, and finally they saw water gushing from the mouth of the tunnel as a sign of the success of the crocodile's work to drain the water from Sendang Beji in Ngrawa kingdom to Alis-Alis kingdom. The king and everyone who saw the gushing water were surprised as well as happy to see it. What had been waited for tens of years had now been a reality in less than a day due to the effort of the white crocodile, Bambang Widyaka's friend.

"Excuse me, Your majesty," said Bambang Widyaka to King Jaya Widarba.

"Yes ..., sonny?" replied the king.

"You have seen it yourself, Your Majesty. The gushing water is the sign that the tunnel has reached Sendang Beji in Ngrawa kingdom," said Bambang Widyaka, "That means that the second requirement has also been fulfilled."

“You’re right, Bambang Widyaka. I am certain that your white crocodile has reached Sendang Beji in Ngrawa kingdom. So the tunnel which I have required has been made,” said the king. His face looked radiant and relieved witnessing the great event. He was grateful that the tunnel was finally realized through the help of a strong and noble young man who was now standing before him.

“Then, would you release my two brothers, Lega and Legi now?” asked Bambang Widyaka.

“Of course, Bambang Widyaka. I’ll send a guard to pick them up now and bring them here,” said the king, and turning to the guards, “Guard!”

“At your service, Your Majesty!” said the guard as he came and gave a royal salute.

“Go to the underground chamber, and bring our two prisoners, Lega and Legi here!”

“As you wish, Your Majesty” said the guard.

“Tell them that their master, Gusti Bambang Widyaka, has come here to pick them up,” said the king. The guard gave a royal salute and left.

The Release of Lega and Legi

In the meantime, in the underground chamber, different kinds of fruits were available on the table. The king really paid attention to the welfare of the two prisoners. Although the king himself had never visited them, Lega and Legi's impression of the king was very good. The atrocious king was a very kind king after all, and they could see how kind the king was from the way they were treated.

That afternoon, Lega and Legi were sitting in the luxurious living room. They were discussing something.

“Do you hear that sound?” asked Lega.

“What sound?” asked Legi in reply.

“That thundering sound!” replied Lega.

“Yes, but what sound is that?” asked Legi again.

“How can we know? We cannot see outside through the window of this room,” said Lega.

“But it cannot be the sound of a disaster,” commented Legi.

“How can you be sure?”

“Of course! Because the thundering sound, although it sounds so strong, doesn't cause a tremor here in this room...,” Lega had not

finished his words when suddenly they heard the sound of a lock being unlocked, and two guards entered their room.

“Mister Lega and Mister Legi! Please be ready. The king summoned you,” said one of them.

Lega and Legi looked at each other. This was surprising, because they had been imprisoned with a very good service for days without any order that they had to do something. And now when the two guards told them to be ready, they were very surprised.

Their hearts beat faster. They were anxious and tried to guess what had happened. Frightening ideas came into their minds. Was it true, as Legi had suggested earlier, that they were treated so well because they would be offered as the prey for the white tiger? Was this the time? Despite their anxiety, they tried to appear calm before the guards.

“Would you mind telling us, why King Jaya Widarba wants us to appear before him?” asked Lega.

“Sure!” said one of the guards, “You are summoned because today is the day of your release!”

“Release?” said Lega and Legi almost simultaneously and incredulously. A feeling of relief suddenly overcame them replacing the feeling of anxiety.

“Does it mean ...?” Legi wanted to say something but lost his words.

“Eh ... Does that mean Gusti Bambang Widyaka has succeeded in fulfilling the king’s requirements?” interrupted Lega.

The guard nodded his head before replying, “Yes, Sir!”

“Is ... Is Gusti Bambang Widyaka here now?” asked Legi.

“Yes. He is now with His Majesty, King Jaya Widarba,” replied the guard with certainty.

Words could not describe how the two felt as they heard that their master had indeed come and helped them. They kept asking questions.

“So What was the thundering sound? What’s happened? Why was the thundering sound so loud that this chamber trembled?”

“The tunnel connecting this kingdom and Sendang Beji has been accomplished, Sir. And that was one of the signs,” explained one of the guards. Lega and Legi still had many questions in their heads.

“Really?” Legi asked in surprise. “What about the white tiger?” asked Lega.

“Yes, the white tiger who obeys only the king ...,” repeated Legi.

“Gusti Bambang Widyaka has fulfilled all the requirements to release you, Sir. Ehm ... Excuse me, please pack up because His Majesty has waited for you,” said the guards to remind Lega and Legi to pack up as the king had awaited them.

“That is true, Sir. Please pack up now. If you have any more questions, you can ask Gusti Bambang Widyaka himself or His Majesty King Jaya Widarba directly,” confirmed the other guard. Lega and Legi regained their awareness that they were being awaited by the king, and more importantly, by Bambang Widyaka. “Eh ..., okey, we’ll get ready at once,” said Lega.

“Come on, Legi. Let’s get ready and hurry up to the reception hall,” said he inviting Legi. So they packed up all their belongings into the bag they had carried with them when they accompanied Bambang Widyaka to his seclusion. After they had been ready, they went to the reception hall, followed by the guards.

The Meeting and Matching

As Lega and Legi stood on the door of the royal reception hall, and on the guards’ invitation to enter, they walked steadily towards the king and Gusti Bambang Widyaka with radiant, happy face. The long waiting days had ended with a relief release. After the usual royal salute, they sat cross-legged before the king.

“Well, Lega and Legi! Your master, Bambang Widyaka has come here,” said the king welcoming Lega and Legi. “Look! He doesn’t come empty handed, he’s fulfilled the requirements that I have stated last time.”

Lega and Legi could not contain their feelings anymore.

“I beg your pardon, Your Majesty ...,” said Lega and Legi simultaneously, so they looked at each other. They were so happy they spoke in chorus. Looking at their facial expressions, the king and Bambang Widyaka sitting next to him smiled. The smile was a sign that they knew well how they felt.

“I beg your pardon, Your Majesty, we are soo surprised and too happy to hear that our master, Gusti Bambang Widyaka, has come and fulfilled the requirements for our release,” Lega expressed his reason why they were so eager to speak together.

“Hmm No problem. Your master and I really understand your feeling shown through your faces,” said the king. “Now tell me what you wish to say here.”

“We would like to thank you for keeping your promise to release us, Your Majesty. We are really thankful for that,” said Legi.

“Lega and Legi, I don’t deserve your gratitude, but the credit goes to your master, Gusti Bambang Widyaka,” said the king. Apparently, the king who was famous for his atrocity had a

golden heart. He acknowledged that the credit for their release should go to Bambang Widyaka, not to him. Lega and Legi nodded their heads respectfully.

“I beg your pardon, Your Majesty. Allow us, then, to extend our gratitude to our master, Gusti Bambang Widyaka. We are not his brothers, we are his servants, but he has scarificed so much to help us,” said Lega in length.

“I beg your pardon, too, Your Majesty. Like my brother, I also want to express thousands of thanks to our master, Gusti Bambang Widyaka, for all his efforts to release us,” said Legi.

“Sure, good fellows! Your master is no ordinary person. From the beginning, I have thought that I have set appropriate requirements to a person of his standing,” said the king looking at Bambang Widyaka.

“Even my requiremets were a form of request to maintain my dignity in the eyes of my people, and through the tunnel my people would get water easily during the dry season,” the king explained.

The king’s conversation with Lega and Legi was joined in by Bambang Widyaka.

“I beg your pardon, Your Majesty. Although they aren’t my real brothers, I have regarded them as my own. My noble father has

taught me not to treat people from different castes differently,” said Bambang Widyaka. “That’s why, helping others is my duty. Moreover, I don’t do it by myself, but my father also assists me.”

When Bambang Widyaka mentioned ‘father’, the king remembered the invulnerability of the resi. The king said, “Yes, that’s right, Bambang Widyaka. Your father, Resi Jati Pitutur, also deserves my gratitude.”

After finishing his words, the king restated the release of Lega and Legi, “Well, Lega and Legi, as Bambang Widyaka has fulfilled my requirements, it is my duty to fulfill my promise to release you, so today I set you free.”

Lega and Legi remembered that they were imprisoned in all comforts, so Legi added, “We would like to express our gratitude to you, Your Majesty, because initially, we had expected to be imprisoned in a dark and cold cell ...”

The king interrupted, “It’s okay. I knew well what kind of prisoners you were. If my prisoners aren’t evil people, I won’t treat them cruelly.”

In the happy situation, suddenly a guard approached the throne and paid royal salute.

“What’s up, guard? Why are you coming all of a sudden and interrupting our conversation?”

The guard replied carefully, “I beg your pardon, Your Majesty. I got a message from the guards on the main gate that there is an old man outside who wishes to see you, Your Majesty.”

The king furrowed his brow and closed his eyes, trying to figure out, who could have wanted to see him at such a time.

The king did not want his happiness and the happiness of the people around him disturbed by the coming of someone who might have a bad intention. Was he a messenger from other kingdom who disguised and wanted to spy on them?

“Guard, can you describe the old man to me?”

“I beg your pardon, Your Majesty. According to the guard on the main gate, the man has a long white beard, and he wears a white headcloth. All his clothes are long and white. He has a medium figure, not too fat, nor too thin. That’s how he looks like, Your Majesty...,” the guard described the physical condition of the old man.

Hearing the description, Bambang Widyaka, Lega, and Legi looked at one another. They seemed to know the old man on the gate.

“I beg your pardon, Your Majesty. If that’s the description of the old man, I think I know him,” said Bambang Widyaka at once.

“Oh, you know him? Who is he?” asked the king curiously.

“I beg your pardon, Your Majesty. I am certain that he is my dear father, Resi Jati Pitutur.”

“What?” asked the king with a start, “It’s really a miracle if what you say is true, sonny!”

The king ordered that the guards open the main gate and let the guest come to the royal reception hall. After a short time, there appeared an old man who was none other than Resi Jati Pitutur. As he saw his father, Bambang Widyaka welcomed him and kissed his feet.

“Father,” whispered Bambang Widyaka. Being welcomed in such a manner, Resi Jati Pitutur made Bambang Widyaka stand up. Seeing that, the king and everybody in the hall stood up to welcome the wise resi. Although he had not been acquainted with the resi personally, the king and everybody else in the hall, except Bambang Widyaka and his two servants, were overawed by the resi. Moreover, Bambang Widyaka had just recounted that his success was also credited to the resi.

“Welcome to Alis-Alis kingdom, Your Eminence Resi Jati Pitutur,” said the king welcoming his guest.

“Thank you, Your Majesty,” replied the resi paying royal salute. As the king requested the resi to be seated, everybody else was seated.

“Your Eminence Resi! Without further ado, I would like to extend my gratitude to you,” said King Jaya Widarba. “Because of your son, I have owned a white tiger who obeys only me. Now, our kingdom also has a tunnel going all the way to Sendang Beji, which will support the economy and irrigation in our kingdom.”

“Your Majesty, my support to what Bambang Widyaka has done was a matter of course because I realized that the requirements which Bambang Widyaka had to fulfill were not mere requirements; rather, they were a necessity to maintain your dignity and your people’s welfare,” said Resi Jati Pitutur politely and wisely.

“You know well of my intention, Your Eminence,” said the king, “and for the success of your son, I would like to present something to him.”

King Jaya Widarba ordered one of the guards to go to the keputren to call for the queen.

After a short while, the queen appeared on the hall and took a seat beside the king.

“My dear wife,” greeted the king.

“Your Majesty,” replied the queen.

“In front of us is Bambang Widyaka”

The queen nodded her head and looked at Bambang Widyaka, Resi Jati Pitutur, Lega, and Legi with a friendly smile.

“Bambang Widyaka has successfully fulfilled my requirements to bring a white tiger who obeys only me and make a tunnel connecting our kingdom with Sendang Beji in Ngrawa kingdom,” said the king.

“Yes, Your Majesty. I have heard of that a while ago, even I heard the roaring of water from Sendang Beji from the keputren,” replied the queen.

“Well, so you came from the keputren. Did you see Dewi Kadarningrum?”

“As a matter of fact, I was with Dewi Kadarningrum in the keputren. We heard the roaring water together,” replied the queen. She understood the king’s intention to inquire about Dewi Kadarningrum.

“Your Majesty, shouldn’t we send for the maids to accompany Dewi Kadarningrum here?” asked the queen.

On the king’s approval, the queen ordered some maids to call for Dewi Kadarningrum. As the maids went to the keputren, the king expressed his intention in front of everyone in the hall, including Resi Jati Pitutur.

“Bambang Widyaka, I esteem you as not only an invulnerable knight, but also as a noble-hearted one.

I really appreciate and thank you for your efforts to fulfill my difficult requirements,” began the king.

Bambang Widyaka just nodded his head respectfully.

“It was my intention to carry out my duty to release my brothers ...,” said he.

“I know and was aware of that from the beginning. For that reason, I would like to present you with a gift,” said the king.

“My brothers’ release was already a precious gift to me, Your Majesty,” replied Bambang Widyaka humbly.

“Wait a moment. What I am going to present you is not only a gift, but also a mandate,” said the king. Bambang Widyaka was bewildered by the king’s words. He looked at Resi Jati Pitutur and at Lega and Legi who were equally bewildered. However, Resi Jati Pitutur responded to his son’s look with a facial expression and gesture to accept the king’s mandate willingly. Responding to his father’s gesture, Bambang Widyaka agreed.

“Well, Your Majesty. If it is a mandate for goodness, I am willing to accept it,” said Bambang Widyaka.

His reply was responded by the king with a smile and nods.

Everyone was silent when a beautiful woman entered the hall. Her slim figure was neither thin nor fat, her skin soft and yellow-white, cheeks bright red, nose aquiline, eyebrows like being carefully carved, eyes clear, and lips genuinely red. Her hair was black and unbraided. With golden royal clothes, she was a real beauty, perfect and natural. She was the woman whom Lega and Legi saw under the tree on the backyard of the keputren. She was none other than Dewi Kadarningrum, King Jaya Widarba's younger sister. Lega and Legi still remembered her. The two servants immediately nudged Bambang Widyaka who sat next to them.

Her coming took him by surprise. Dewi Kadarningrum nodded and smiled politely at everyone in the hall. After paying royal salute to the king, she sat with legs folded back to side next to the queen.

“Well, Bambang Widyaka. This is Dewi Kadarningrum, my younger sister,” said the king introducing her to him. Bambang Widyaka's heart beat faster as he saw Dewi Kadarningrum. Not only was he impressed by the beauty of Dewi Kadarningrum, but he also felt that the king's mandate would be a great one.

“This Dewi Kadarningrum is the woman seen by Lega and Legi the first time they came here. She was frightened by their sudden

appearance. That was the incident which motivated the requirements for their release which were successfully accomplished,” King Jaya Widarba explained.

Lega and Legi nodded their heads confirming the king’s words. They still vividly remembered how they were surprised to see a beautiful woman sitting under a tree. Then the woman ran away helter-skelter when she saw them.

“And now my mandate to you is that you should marry this younger sister of mine,” the King Jaya Widarba requested, “I hope you’re willing, Bambang Widyaka!”

As soon as the king said his words, the two of them exchanged look unintentionally which made both of them embarrassed. Dewi Kadarningrum bent her head immediately. Her cheeks turned red and her heart beat faster. Meanwhile, Bambang Widyaka who had never expected to have his match all of such a sudden, a really beautiful woman appearing before his eyes, was no less nervous, yet he could handle his feeling better and said to the king, “I beg your pardon, Your Majesty. Frankly, I am surprised to hear that you wish to match me with Dewi Kadarningrum. However, let me consult my father first.”

“By all means, sonny! Do consult your father,” said the king. On the other hand, the wise resi did not see it necessary to have a special consultation regarding the matter, as he could perceive

with his knowledge and experience that Dewi Kadarningrum was a worthy woman, kind and obedient, who could maintain the family reputation. Therefore, no sooner than his son expressed his intention to consult him, he responded positively.

“My son, I give you my consent to marry Dewi Kadarningrum. You don’t need to worry, my prayer will always be for the happiness of you two,” said Resi Jati Pitutur.

Heaing his father’s words, Bambang Widyaka wisely said, “All right, Your Majesty, since that is a mandate from a king, as your subject, I am ready to full-heartedly accept and take the mandate,” said Bambang Widyaka confidently.

Bambang Widyaka’s reply gave a relief to King Jaya Widarba and the queen. They were happy because Dewi Kadarningrum would get a perfect match. Dewi Kadarningrum herself smiled happily because she would marry a brave and noble-mannered son of a resi. To cut a long story short, Bambang Widyaka and Dewi Kadarnngrum were married and lived happily. Due to his skill and ability, Bambang Widyaka was appointed the prime minister of Alis-Alis kingdom.