

**THE FRIENDSHIP OF KINGFISH BIRD AND  
TOMAN FISH**

*Kisah Burung Udang dengan Ikan Toman*

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## THE FRIENDSHIP OF KINGFISH BIRD AND IKAN TOMAN

The local people of Sungai Silam (Silam River) narrate that the river is a forbidden fishing spot for a certain period. They may catch the fish in the river only with the consent of the *adat* leaders and the elders of the community. This tradition is named *maawuo*.

*Maawuo* is one of the unique traditions of Melayu people in Riau. In the beginning, the prohibition by community leaders to catch fish is announced through loudspeakers in the big mosques as well as the small ones around the river or the lake. The prohibition lasts for five to six months to give ample time for the fish to grow big and ready to harvest. On the day of harvest, all people would go in crowds to the river or the lake. The function starts with a prayer. *Maawuo* normally takes place in the beginning of dry season.

In an abyss of Sungai Silam lived a large *ikan toman* (snakehead fish). All fish around the spot feared Toman as it liked to eat other kinds of fish around. A toman has a long and round body like a torpedo as well as a big head and mouth. It also has a row of sharp teeth and a strong jaw. A toman breathes with both gills and lungs; hence it can survive in water with little oxygen. One of its unique features is it can breathe directly in the open air by

emerging to the water surface to inhale oxygen. A toman has beautiful dark blue body colours and a white abdomen.

At a distance from the abyss where Toman lived, there was a hollow in the slope where a couple of *Kingfish Bird* (kingfish bird) lived. The birds preyed on small fish in Sungai Silam as Toman did. A *Kingfish Bird* has beautiful feathers, green wings and red breast. Their distinctive feathers can be easily spotted by the fish living there, so their preys often escaped from them due to their conspicuous feathers. During the incubation period, while the female bird brooded on the eggs, everyday, the male searched for food in Sungai Silam. Toman did likewise. The two different creatures with different habitats had different ways to catch their preys. Toman would quietly spy on its prey and when the prey got inattentive, Toman would then swim quickly and snatch it.

On the other hand, *Kingfish Bird* would quietly perch on a tree branch or under the protection of tree leaves above water. When a school of fish emerged on the water surface, then it would quickly fly and dive to catch them. Despite their skilfull hunting, Toman and *Kingfish Bird* found it difficult to catch fish in Sungai Silam.

It so happened that one day, Toman and *Kingfish Bird* were on their hunting at the same time. Toman spied on fish from downstream, while *Kingfish Bird* hunted from upstream. What a peculiarity! Unlike the days when the hunting had been difficult, it was unusually easy that day. Fish came in schools towards

Toman and Kingfish Bird. Toman, who had spied from downstream, was like hitting the jackpot due to the rush of fish from upstream, and those which escaped swam back to the upstream where Kingfish Bird had waited. Flying quickly, Kingfish Bird seized a big *ikan pantau* (small freshwater fish) and took it to its nest to share with his spouse. The unusual happening brought surprise to both Toman and Kingfish Bird.

The following day, Toman and Kingfish Bird did the same thing from the same spots. They were no less surprised than the day before as they saw the fish' behaviour, coming to them in groups. However, both Toman and Kingfish Bird had no idea why it happened that way.

Toman asked himself, "How strange! Why do the wild fish suddenly turn tame? They even come in groups to me?!"

Kingfish Bird had the same amazement, why the small fish came to him willingly. "How nice if fish come to me this way every day," he muttered happily.

Feeling curious, both Toman and Kingfish Bird observed the strange behaviour of the fish in the river. They found out that the fish swam in bewilderment. The fish downstream swam upstream due to the fear of Toman without knowing that Kingfish Bird was awaiting them. Likewise, those which escaped from Kingfish Bird's capture swam downstream to avoid the bird. That was how

it happened again and again. As it continuously happened, Toman and Kingfish Bird started to think.

‘Oh, the fish seem to come to me because they are afraid of Kingfish Bird awaiting upstream,’ thought Toman.

‘Now I know. The fish swim to me to avoid being caught by Toman downstream,’ muttered Kingfish Bird.

After they knew the reason why fish came to them, they thought of having a rendezvous to talk over a mutual cooperation. And so they met one day and introduced each other.

“Hi, handsome bird. We have hunted for food at the same place but we have never got acquainted,” greeted Toman.

“Yes, I also often see you swimming hither thither hunting fish, yet we never greet each other,” replied Kingfish Bird.

“People call me Toman. I live by myself in the abyss of this river,” said Toman introducing himself.

“People around here name me Kingfish Bird. My spouse and I live in our nest inside a hollow on this river slope,” said Kingfish Bird to Toman.

Following a mutual introduction, they told each other about their hunting in the river. Their experience taught them that the most

effective way of hunting was to hunt simultaneously. Toman gave his reason.

“If I hunt downstream, the fish swim upstream to avoid me,” said Toman, “So if you are upstream, you can easily catch them. Those who escape will return swimming downstream to me, and they’re my share,” said Toman explaining to Kingfish Bird.

Kingfish Bird nodded his head in agreement. So, they made an agreement to hunt fish in Sungai Silam simultaneously.

Since then, Toman and Kingfish Bird always hunt contemporaneously, Toman downstream and Kingfish Bird upstream, or vice versa. They did it continuously, moving from place to place so they made an easy catch.

Their frequent meeting and good cooperation had developed their friendship and soon they became best friends.

### **Sungai Silam Overflew**

One day, as ill luck would have it, suddenly Sungai Silam flooded out, and flood was a frequent occurrence. The flood usually went on for days or even weeks. Among the causes of the flood was unselective or random logging. Selective logging, on the other hand, is felling only trees which have been old enough. Random logging causes deforestation, and the absence of tree roots makes the unabsorbed water flow uncontrollably, hence the flood. Mrs.

Kingfish Bird was unaware of the sudden overflow of Sungai Silam, so she was bedraggled and her eggs were soaking in water.

Creeping unsteadily from her soaking nest while water steadily filling it up, Mrs. Kingfish Bird finally managed to get out of her nest, but she could not save her eggs. Anxiety and sadness were reflected on her face for leaving her eggs which she had so far brooded on.

“My eggs, o my eggs!” said Mrs. Kingfish Bird pitifully.

Fortunately, as she got weak, Kingfish Bird came. Feeling surprised to see his spouse soaking, Kingfish Bird helped her and took her to a dry place. As the level of water was growing higher, Mrs. Kingfish Bird grew weaker, yet she kept remembering her eggs.

“Please save my eggs in the nest,” pleaded Mrs. Kingfish Bird to her spouse.

“Come on, don’t worry about them,” Kingfish Bird comforted her, “when the water ebbs, we can take them.”

### **Mrs. Kingfish Bird Fell Sick**

The flood in Sungai Silam went on for days without stopping. While the nest was submerged in water, Kingfish Bird built another nest on the river bank among the bamboo clusters. During their stay on the river bank, the condition of Mrs. Kingfish Bird

got worse. She felt guilty due to her failure to save her eggs. Carried away by her feeling of guilt, finally she fell sick. She would not eat and kept lamenting over her unsaved eggs. Her body grew weaker and thinner, and her condition got more and more pitiful.

Considering his spouse' condition, Kingfish Bird was very worried, so he looked for a *bomoh*, an old Malay term for someone who can treat all sicknesses. A *bomoh* treats sicknesses in many ways, including using *mantra* or spells and traditional medicines. According to *bomoh*, a sickness not only can be caused by visible causes but also by invisible ones. According to a narration among the birds, one such *bomoh* was a bird living around Sungai Silam. It was a *Bubut Bird* (*centropus bengalensis*). It has mainly black feathers with a mix of reddish brown wings and a long tail. It also has red eyes and black beak and legs.

Its nests are roundly shaped like a ball, commonly hidden above the ground among tall grass. Its roundly shaped nest could easily be recognized by the birds living around the river. When Kingfish Bird heard about Bubut Bird's skill in medication, he visited Bubut Bird and told him his purpose of visit.

“Gracious Bubut! My spouse is now lying sick. Would you mind having a check on her condition?” said Kingfish Bird opening the conversation.

“I will try to treat her sickness, Brother Kingfish Bird, but to cure is the authority of God the Almighty,” said Bubut Bird.

“Then, let’s go finding out her condition,” said Bubut Bird to Kingfish Bird, so the two birds flew towards Kingfish Bird’s nest. As they arrived at the nest, Bubut Bird immediately checked Mrs. Kingfish Bird’s condition. After a while, Bubut Bird said to Kingfish Bird.

“Brother! The only cure for her sickness is a chicken egg.”

“A chicken egg? Okay, I’ll try to get one as soon as possible,” said Kingfish Bird hesitatingly. His voice reflected his surprise. He realized that to get a chicken egg was almost impossible.

It was early afternoon when Bubut Bird took leave. Before he left, he said to Kingfish Bird, “If you have got the chicken egg, let me know and I’ll come again.”

“Okay, I’ll let you know as soon as I get one. Thank you, Brother Bubut Bird,” said Kingfish Bird. After Bubut Bird left, Kingfish Bird flew hither and thither, feeling restless and upset, how to get a chicken egg. His wandering took him to the place of Toman. He called him, “O my brother, Toman!”

Hearing Kingfish Bird’s voice, Toman emerged happily, but he was surprised to see his close friend’s face looking gloomy.

Toman asked him, “Ay my brother, Kingfish Bird. What makes you look so sad?”

Hesitatingly, Kingfish Bird replied, “What can make me sadder than to see my beloved spouse lying sick at home? According to Bubut Bird’s observation, nothing can cure her but a chicken egg, but to get a chicken egg is impossible for me,” lamented Kingfish Bird.

“My brother! Don’t be so sad. Nothing is impossible in this world. Haven’t our elders given us a good advice: Where there is will there is a way?” said Toman comforting Kingfish Bird.

“But how can I get one? I totally have no idea. Perhaps you can help me?” said Kingfish Bird anxiously.

Toman was silent for a while after hearing Kingfish Bird’s words, then he said, “Well, you’d better come again this late afternoon. Now look around this area to see if any human keeps chicken laying eggs!”

“Okay, my brother. I’m leaving” said Toman.

### **Toman Got a Chicken Egg**

It was close to midday, the sunshine started to scorch. Kingfish Bird flew about, wandering in the sky scouring the area around Sungai Silam. In his scouring, he saw a house inhabited by an old

woman who had a garden and a chicken farm. Her house was on a plain behind the river slope, not far from his nest.

The old woman lived by herself in a house far from the neighbours. Her daily routine was watering the garden and feeding the chicken. For the water supply, she took water from Sungai Silam every day.

As her house was isolated from the neighbourhood, it was easy to see from above. Kingfish Bird flew around over her house to see if she had chicken which laid eggs.

“Great! Obviously, the old woman has some chickens. But are they laying eggs?” cried Kingfish Bird, then mumbled.

To satisfy his curiosity, Kingfish Bird took a sharp dive while observing the chickenhouse. Carefully, he flew into the chickenhouse and was very happy to see some chicken eggs on the *sangkak* (an upside-down cone-shaped bamboo basket specially prepared for chickens to lay their eggs). Feeling sure that there were chicken eggs in the *sangkak*, Kingfish Bird flew out of the chicken house and away towards Toman’s place.

As he arrived at Toman’s place, he happily reported his finding to Toman.

“My brother, Toman! I have found a *sangkak* with several chicken eggs inside it. It belongs to an old woman living not far from my place,” reported Kingfish Bird happily.

“Perhaps she is the same old woman who takes water every day from this river,” said Toman, “I’d be very grateful, then. Come around again this afternoon. Hopefully our hope will come true.”

At midday, the old woman went to the river carrying a *perian* (water container made of bamboo). It happened that the old woman took water from the bank of the abyss where Toman lived. ‘Yes, my guess has been correct. She’s the very woman who frequently takes water near my abyss,’ muttered Toman. Toman had waited for the woman’s coming. As soon as the woman dipped her *perian* into the water, he jumped into it. After filling her *perian* fully, the old woman went home without realizing Toman was in it. When she got home, the old woman leaned her *perian* against the wall close to the *sangkak* in the chickenhouse. As usual, on arriving home, the old woman did not immediately pour the water into the pool until she had a short rest and some water to drink.

As the woman left her *perian*, Toman took an action. Toman jumped into the *sangkak* which, fortunately, was not attended by the hen. Carefully, he took one egg and kept it in his mouth. ‘I’ve got the egg. Now is the time to get back into the *perian*,’ mumbled Toman.

At an appropriate time, Toman jumped back into the *perian* and waited for the return of the old woman. After a short while, the old woman came back to the chickenhouse and poured the water in the *perian* to the pool. While the old woman was pouring the water, Toman bent his body to avoid being carried by the water out of the *perian*. The old woman emptied her *perian* into the pool and went back to the river. Well, she had to go to the river several times to take water to fill her pool. When the old woman went back to the river, she was unaware that Toman was hiding in her *perian* with a chicken egg in his mouth. As soon as she came to the river, the old woman started filling her *perian* with water, and at that precise time, Toman got out of the *perian* and swam to his abyss.

‘Finally I can get a chicken egg,’ muttered Toman feeling relief.

Toman took the egg out of his mouth and hid the egg in the mud. Feeling so tired, he soon fell asleep.

In the late afternoon, Kingfish Bird came anxiously and called Toman.

“Hi, Toman! Where are you, brother?” called Kingfish Bird, but there was no reply. Kingfish Bird repeated his call louder.

“Hi, Toman! Are you home?”

Hearing Kingfish Bird's loud call, Toman woke up and immediately replied, "Oh, my brother Kingfish Bird. Sorry, I was asleep. Today I am really tired due to lack of food. After the flood, it's getting harder to get fish. Besides, I've just returned from taking the chicken egg," said Toman.

"So you managed to get the egg?" asked Kingfish Bird cheerfully, "I am really grateful. Now my hope for my spouse's cure is greater. Thank you, my brother. But, how did you do that? I'm very impressed with your skill and wit, my brother."

Toman related how he got the egg, from the beginning until the end.

"Now, where is the egg?" asked Kingfish Bird impatiently.

"Easy, brother. I have hid the egg in the mud," said Toman, "I'll take the egg to your place."

The two friends left for Kingfish Bird's nest, Toman swam carrying the egg in his mouth, while Kingfish Bird flew up on the air.

After a while, they arrived at Kingfish Bird's place. Kingfish Bird took the egg from Toman and put it next to his nest where Mrs. Kingfish Bird was lying sick. For the time being, they built their nest among the bamboo clusters on the river bank, as their nest in the river slope was flooded.

Kingfish Bird was very relieved when he saw the egg and he thanked the kind Toman profusely for his effort to get the egg. Carried by his grateful feeling, he thanked Toman in a quatrain which said that Toman was giving him his helpful hand and he was wondering if could ever repay his kindness. Toman replied with another quatrain that he did it with sincerity without any vested interest.

After exchanging quatrains with Kingfish Bird, Toman took leave from the couple. As soon as Toman left, Kingfish Bird approached the chicken egg lying on the river bank. To secure the egg from other animals, he covered the egg with leaves scattering around. After covering the egg safely, Kingfish Bird flew to pick up Bubut Bird.

### **Bubut Bird Cured Mrs. Kingfish Bird**

Kingfish Bird thanked God the Almighty because due to Toman's help, he eventually got a chicken egg which was an essential requirement to cure Mrs. Kingfish Bird's sickness.

'I'd better inform Bubut Bird at once,' mumbled Kingfish Bird, then he flew to pick up Bubut Bird. As he arrived at Bubut Bird's place, he informed Bubut Bird that he had got the required chicken egg.

"Bubut Bird, I've got a chicken egg," said Kingfish Bird, "Now would you mind curing my spouse?"

“So you’ve got the chicken egg,” said Bubut Bird, “Alright, let’s go to your place at once.”

As soon as they arrived at Kingfish Bird’s place, Bubut Bird took the egg and recited some *mantra*. Then he broke the egg and divided it into two parts. He smeared Mrs. Kingfish Bird’s body with the egg white and the rest, the egg yolk, was to be eaten by her.

Like turmeric mixed with lime, as the medicine was applied, the sickness was gone. How efficacious! As soon as the treatment was over, Mrs. Kingfish Bird gradually recovered. Kingfish Bird’s happiness knew no bound as he saw his spouse recovering. He thanked God the Almighty and then thanked Bubut Bird for his treatment.

“Thank you for curing my spouse, my brother Bubut Bird,” said Kingfish Bird to Bubut Bird.

Bubut Bird replied, “Thank God, for it is through His mercy that your spouse has recovered.”

As his mission was accomplished, Bubut Bird took leave from Kingfish Bird.

As the flood in Sungai Silam ebbed day by day, Mrs. Kingfish Bird remembered her eggs, so she said to Kingfish Bird, “The

water has subsided. We'd better have a look at our former nest. Who knows the eggs are still there?"

"Alright, let's go there," replied Kingfish Bird. So they flew to their former nest in the hollow of the river slope to see their eggs. But they were very sad as they saw mud and only mud everywhere. Even their nest was covered with very thick mud. Seeing it, Mrs. Kingfish Bird started to scrape the mud covering their nest. As she scraped, one by one, the four eggs were uncovered. They hoped the eggs would still be intact. After the flood was over, the lives of Kingfish Bird and Toman returned to normal as they had been before the flood.

Kingfish Bird and his spouse rebuilt their nest in the hollow of the river slope. Mrs. Kingfish Bird brooded her eggs again while Kingfish Bird looked for food; likewise, Toman hunted for fish in Silam River.

One fine day, Kingfish Bird visited Toman.

"My brother, Toman. Let's hunt for fish together," shouted Kingfish Bird.

"Alright, let's go upstream," responded Toman.

The two friends repeated their cooperation in hunting for fish.

## **The Disastrous *Maawuo***

For the last few days, the air around Sungai Silam was very hot. The scorching sunshine was so intense that the water in Sungai Silam gradually reduced and the river turned shallow, leaving the inhabitants anxious.

This was a favourable condition for the villagers to catch fish. And so it was. Over midday on one day, the villagers came in crowds. The young and the old, the male and the female, all people, like ants finding a big crunch, rushed into the river carrying all sorts of tools to catch fish: basket, scoop, trawl net, seine, net, and fish trap. They moved hither and thither, forth and back, with low and loud screams and yells to catch fish.

It was a horrible sight for the inhabitants of the river, creating panic for all, including Kingfish Bird and Toman.

“What’s happening out there?” asked Kingfish Bird and hurriedly went out his nest. He was so surprised to see people rushing and filling Sungai Silam like ants on sweets that he flew away in a hurry to avoid the crowds. What about Toman? Toman was no less surprised! He, whose place was in the river, panicked. He never thought that the river which was normally quiet suddenly turned into an ocean of people. So he just kept silent while observing the behaviour of the people grabbing the fish. As the afternoon got latter, more and more people joined the crowds in

the river. Now the water in the river turned turbid and muddy. The people started spreading *tuba* or fish poison. As a result, big fish became groggy and small fish died and floated.

Toman did not want to experience the same fate as the other fish in the river, so he swam avoiding the crowded place and hid under a drowned log in the river.

There he buried himself in the mud. At about dusk, the *maawuo* was over, and the people went home with their catch. Sungai Silam returned to its silence and Kingfish Bird flew back to his nest.

Suddenly he remembered his friend, Burung Toman. Without further thought, he flew back looking for his best friend. Along the river, he shouted his friend's name.

“O my friend, Toman. How are you? How is your condition?”

Hesitatingly, Toman responded to Kingfish Bird's call, “Yes, my friend. I am safe. I'd better go home and have a rest.”

Toman awkwardly swam downstream towards his place. Seeing this, Kingfish Bird shouted, giving a warning, “Hey, Toman. Don't go downstream. The water is poisonous. Swim upstream and have a rest near my nest,” Kingfish Bird invited Toman, feeling sorry for his condition. Toman did not argue as Kingfish Bird advised him. He swam upstream while Kingfish Bird

observed him from the air until they reached the place where Kingfish Bird built his nest. Before they went to sleep, they told each other their experience, especially how Toman saved himself from the hundreds of people rushing to the river.

As the night was getting late, Kingfish Bird told his friend to have a rest.

“Should you need anything, don’t hesitate to notify us,” said Kingfish Bird.

Early next morning, Kingfish Bird and his spouse visited Toman and how surprised they were to see that Toman was badly sick. They inquired about his condition, “My friend! How do you feel? You look very weak!”

Breathing heavily, Toman told Kingfish Bird, “Last night, between sleeping and waking, I dreamt of being visited by my grandmother. In my dream, my grandmother told me to take medication at once, otherwise I’ll have a short life,” narrated Toman. After pausing for a moment, Toman continued, “In my dream, my grandmother told me the kind of medicine that I have to take: I have to drink lemon water to neutralize the effect of the poisonous water that I unintentionally drank, then I have to eat the liver of a crocodile. That’s the message of my grandmother in my dream. What do you think?” asked Toman anxiously.

Hearing Toman's narration, Kingfish Bird was moved. He remembered how hard Toman had worked when he was trying to help Mrs. Kingfish Bird.

Kingfish Bird was silent for a while, then he said, "My dear friend! As for lemon, it is nothing difficult. What I am thinking now is how to get the liver of a crocodile."

Mrs. Kingfish Bird who had been silent all the time suddenly joined in, "I've heard that in the estuary, there's a very deep abyss where several crocodiles live!"

"Yes, I know that. I often see some crocodiles sunbathing on land, on the river bank among the *pulai* clusters," said Kingfish Bird. *Pulai*, or devil's tree, is a tree with a light stem. Its skin contains sap, and its bark and foliage are often taken as medicine.

"I have often seen the crocodiles. They are always alert and, with open mouth, waiting for their preys," explained Kingfish Bird.

"But who dares to get the liver of such a gigantic and ferocious beast?" interrupted Toman.

"Take it easy, don't worry about it. The proverb goes, 'The anxious gets drowned, dares to get lost yet gets lost not, dares to die yet dies not.' When we do something, we must do it with certainty, we shouldn't hesitate. Otherwise, we'll never succeed!" said Kingfish Bird encouragingly.

“Alright, now I’m going to find a lemon to neutralize the poison,” said Kingfish Bird, and off he flew. After a few moments, he returned with a lemon which he gave to Toman at once.

“My dear friend, take the water of this lemon as a neutralizer for the poison,” he told Toman.

“Alright, I’ll take your advice,” said Toman.

After taking the lemon, Toman was getting better. When he saw that Toman’s condition was getting better, Kingfish Bird took leave from his spouse and Toman to find the liver of a crocodile.

“My dear friend, Toman. Now I’m going to find the liver of a crocodile. I hope I’ll get it,” said he. Before leaving, he told his spouse to take care of Toman. After flying for some time, he arrived at the estuary of Sungai Silam. Suddenly he saw a crocodile lying while enjoying the sunshine near a mangrove tree on the river bank. Its mouth was wide open.

It was said that an estuary crocodile has the biggest and the longest body among all types of crocodiles in the world. The length of its body can reach 7-12 metres, while the common male crocodile is between 4-5 metres and female 3-4 metres. It can weigh up to 1 tonne.

Its skin is greyish dark green with dark spots or dark brown and yellowish on its back and white or yellowish on the abdomen. Its tail has black spots forming a complete streak.

A crocodile is an assaulting predator which waits for its prey to come closer and suddenly pounces upon the prey, which includes fish, birds and mammals. The crocodile which Kingfish Bird saw was a big one. He realized that if he was not vigilant, he could end up a prey to the crocodile. To approach the crocodile, he sneaked among the branches of the mangrove tree near the crocodile. He then waited patiently for the right moment to approach the crocodile, when it was yawning.

When the crocodile yawned, as quickly as an arrow, he flew into its mouth. With a swift movement, he entered its mouth until he reached its thorax. There he saw its liver. Without wasting time, he pecked the liver repeatedly until he stripped some part of the liver. As a result, the crocodile screamed in pain and tossed itself vehemently. Inside the thorax, Kingfish Bird was in such a great turbulent that he suffocated and almost fainted. Fortunately he could survive until he saw a bright light. Obviously, the crocodile opened its mouth, and Kingfish Bird did not waste the chance, so quickly as a lightning he flew out of the crocodile's mouth carrying with him a part of the crocodile's liver.

For a moment he could not believe that he actually had taken a part of the gigantic crocodile's liver. Before leaving the suffering

crocodile, he perched on a mangrove branch to relax. When he regained his energy, he flew to his place to cure Toman. Along the journey back, Kingfish Bird prayed in his heart, ‘May God heal Toman’s sickness through this liver of crocodile!’

It was over midday when Kingfish Bird reached his nest where his spouse and Toman had been waiting. Carefully, Kingfish Bird fed the crocodile’s liver into Toman’s mouth which he slowly swallowed. It did not take long before Toman regained his health due to the potent medicine. Toman was very grateful and said, “Thank you, my dear friend. You really have cured me.”

Kingfish Bird replied, “I’m only a mediator and medicine is only a requirement, but the real curer is God the Almighty.”

The friendship between the two creatures from different origins and habitats had become closer ever since.

Both of them had proved the benefits and goodness of their friendship. They kept their friendship until the end of their lives.

## **Conclusion**

From the experience of Toman and Burung Toman we can learn the importance of faithful and harmonious friendship. No work is too hard if it is done together; in fact, so many difficulties in life have no solution but through a mutual cooperation with a good

friend. Therefore, we need to make myriads of friends and promote the spirit for helping others.