

**TOMANURUN**  
*Tomanurun*

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**Language Development and Cultivation Agency**  
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# TOMANURUN

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# Tomanurun



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## Tomanurun

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## Foreword

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

The literature works that dealing with life utilizes language as medium of deliverance and imaginative art as its *cultural land*. On the basis of the language medium and imaginative art, literature is multidimensional and multi-interpretative. Using language medium, imginative 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

The story entitled *Tomanurun* is a story that adapted from oral literature of Tana Toraja, South Sulawesi entitled "Polo Pasture" which is taken from the book of oral literature Structure of Tana Toraja published by Ministry of education and Culture, Jakarta, in 1986.

Tomanurun is full of moral values that can be imitated by children such as hard work, patience, honesty, and love. In addition, the reader also introduced to the world of fairy tales about heaven, angels, as well as residents of the heaven and Earth can speak like a human being.

The author would like to convey a sincere gratitude especially to Dr. Firman Hadiansyah, who has given feedback to the author in rewriting the story for Junior High School students. Hopefully this little work is useful to develop next generations character.

Dewi Khairiah

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## TOMANURUN

The young man was stunned. He watched the watermelons, oranges, tomatoes, spinach, chili trees, and other plants were crumbled and scattered on the ground. It was as if a bunch of wild animals had been partying all night long there.

"This is too much!" He said irritably. His face wrinkled with displeasure. Unconsciously he clenched his hands. He had lost patience with the destroyer. A few weeks ago he found his garden repeatedly disturbed, but not so badly. He guessed maybe someone had entered his garden and stolen the ripe fruit. At that time he only made the fence taller and locked it to avoid the same incident. However, the intruder's behavior became worse and worse.

"I can't let it happen again," he said. "Huh, I have to act!" The young man thought furiously. He immediately picked up the remains of the mess, then headed to a small hut located in the middle of the garden. There, he sat thoughtfully plotting.

Polo Padang was surprised. He had been gardening for years in the woods, but this was the first time his garden was destroyed. Looking at the damage, he could conclude that this damage was not caused by wild animals. He believed this was the deed of one or more people.

He recalled that he had no enemies in this village, or was there anyone who was jealous of his abundant garden produce?

Polo Padang was lost in thought and he did not realize that the sun had shifted above his head. He wiped sweat that began dripping on his forehead. He was determined to be on guard in his garden tonight to arrest the perpetrator of the destruction.

As night approached, Polo Padang waited inside his cabin while sipping a cup of coffee. The small hut in the middle of the garden was not walled, consisting of only four wooden poles covered with a roof made from sagopalm leaves. The hut was sheltered by a large tree which made the hut suitable for a hiding place. All that night Polo Padang did not squint a bit, though the cold tempted him to go to bed.

The full moon shined brightly. Polo Padang enjoyed the beauty of the night goddess, while yawning against the drowsiness that began to disturb him.

The night air was piercing the bones, and starving mosquitoes were crashing through his skin more and more fiercely. He began to wait impatiently. "I wonder if they're not coming tonight," said Polo Padang indignantly.

Suddenly three shadows flashed across the sky. Under the moonlight, the three shadows seemed to descend into the middle of his garden. Polo Padang rubbed his eyes and went straight out

of the cabin. Soon some people were talking. Polo Padang immediately headed toward the source of the sounds.

From behind the leafy grove, the young man saw three very beautiful women joking while picking up the fruits that were near them.

"Who are they? Are they angels from heaven or *kuntilanaks* (kinds of female ghosts) who are wandering around?" Asked Polo Padang in his heart. "Their backs are not hollow, and their feet tread on the ground. That means they're not *kuntilanaks*."

He was not a cowardly young man, but he believed that spirits did exist. He looked carefully at the three women. Their faces were beautiful. Their long black hair was shaved neatly with a hairpin from a gem. Their skin was white without spot. Their bodies were tall, adorned with beautiful jewelry and diamond-studded clothing. All three looked shiny because of their beauty and jewelry.

For not so long, they had looted all fruits and vegetables that were ready to harvest. The three uninvited guests ate and picked up whatever was in the garden with a giggling laugh. Their actions were in sharp contrast with their beautiful and charming appearance. Polo Padang became furious. He had taken care of his garden with great effort to make it fertile and fruitful. However, they arbitrarily destroyed his toil.

They were certainly not human because they could fly without wings. Polo Padang hesitated to catch the intruders as he had planned before. He had no supernatural knowledge or powers to confront them.

So absorbed in joking, one of the women did not realize that her shawl fell to the ground. After tasting good fruits, they went to the well to wash their hands. Polo Padang immediately approached the fallen shawl and picked it up. The shawl was very fragrant. Never had Polo Padang smelled such a sweet scent. He quickly slid the shawl under his clothes.

One of the women said, "My sisters, we must get back to heaven soon because the sun will rise."

"Apparently they are three sisters of the land of heaven," said Polo Padang in his heart. Both sisters nodded in agreement.

The three heaven women were getting ready to fly back to the land of heaven. Suddenly the youngest sister screamed.

"My shawl! My shawl is gone!" She shouted in panic.

They searched for the shawl everywhere. Unfortunately, until the sky on the eastern horizon began to light they could not find it. The youngest sister sobbed because her sisters had to get back to heaven. The eldest and the middle sisters embraced the youngest sister tightly and tearfully.

"Forgive us, sister. We have to leave you here. You cannot fly into the sky without your shawl," said the eldest sister.

Then her two sisters soon flew to the sky and disappeared from view. The youngest sister bemoaned their departure and her unfortunate fate. She worried that their father would punish her two sisters when they arrived at the palace.

"My dear sisters, I will miss you very much," whispered the youngest sister, staring up at the sky.

She sat on a damp ground and wept. Polo Padang approached her secretly. Overcome by her sadness, the angel was unaware that a handsome young man had stood before her. When she lifted her face, she realized the young man's presence. The angel was surprised. By reflex, she shrank and frowned in fear.

"Who are you?" She cried in panic. "Please do not hurt me!"

"I should have asked you," replied Polo Padang calmly. "What are you doing in my garden?"

The young man stood some distance away from the Youngest Princess. It was clear the princess's body was trembling with fear.

Polo Padang wanted to calm her but he did not dare to approach. He worried that the beautiful woman would increasingly panic.

"I'm Polo Padang, the owner of this garden," said Polo Padang in

a soft voice. "Why did you come into my garden?"

"I ... I ... just want to play ...," replied the Youngest Princess haltingly.

She started crying again. Her pitiful voice made Polo Padang compassionate, so he tried to be slightly softer toward the princess.

"Because of your act, my garden is broken," said Polo Padang.

The Youngest Princess cupped her hands in front of her chest as a sign of apology.

"I'm really sorry, please forgive me."

Polo Padang sighed. He thought for a moment then said, "Well, I will not catch you." The Youngest Princess was very relieved to hear it.

"But you have to help me work in the garden. It's the punishment for your act of entering and destroying my garden," said Polo Padang.

The Youngest Princess was very surprised. She was a princess who lived in a beautiful palace. Since her infancy, she had never been doing housework. But this young man even asked her to work in the garden.

"No way!" Cried the Youngest Princess.

Polo Padang frowned. "Why is not that possible?" He asked.

"I'm a princess of heaven, I've never done a job like that," said the Youngest Princess.

Polo Padang was stunned for a moment. Then his laughter exploded.

"Are you a princess? Ha ha ha! I cannot believe it!" He said with a giggle.

The Youngest Princess was offended by Polo Padang's reaction. She wanted to prove that she was a princess from the land of heaven but she did not know how.

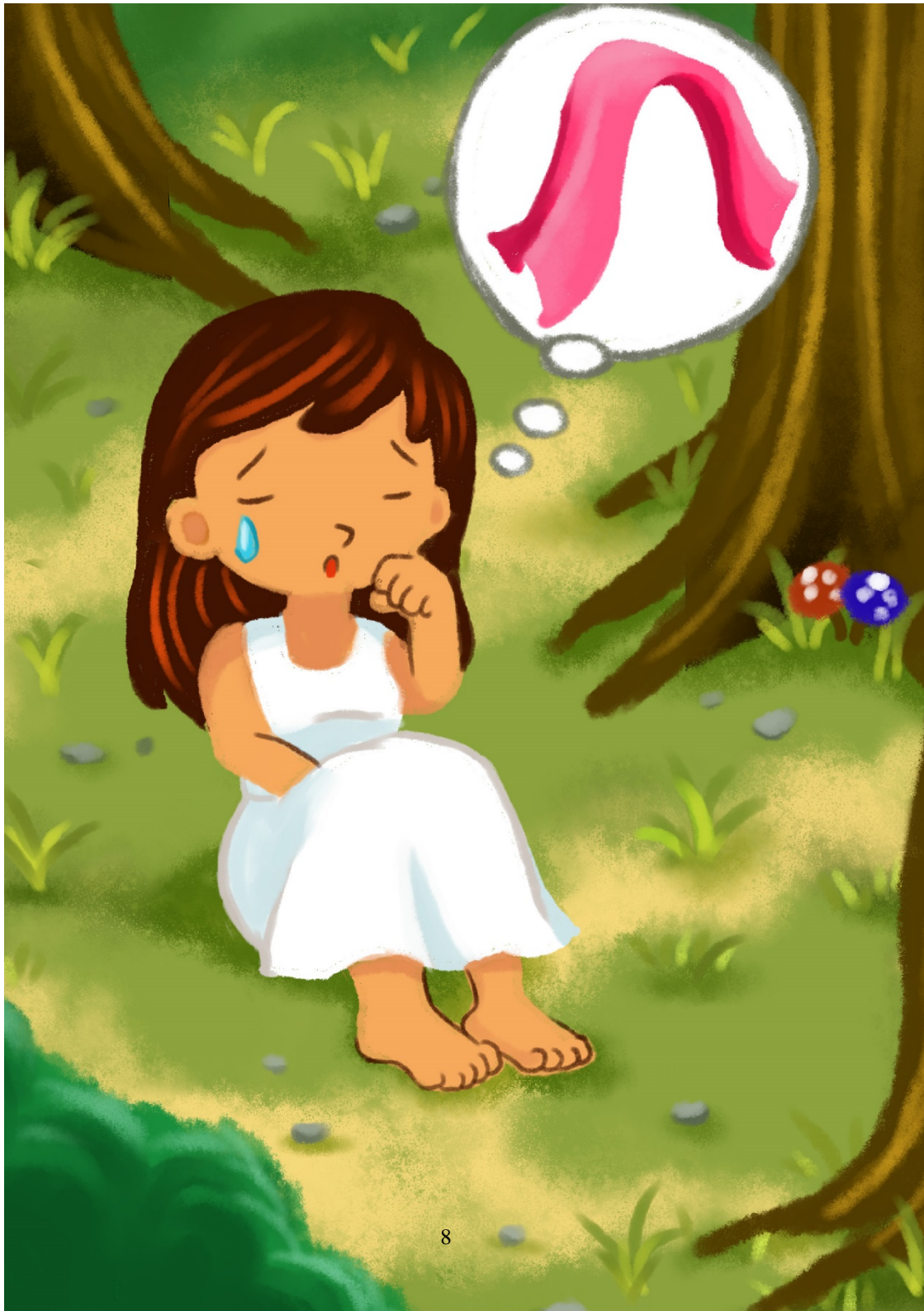
"You may not believe it, but I'm telling the truth!" Said the Youngest Princess angrily. "Do not you see my clothes?"

Polo Padang clutched his stomach to suppress his laughter.

"All right, I believe you're a princess," he said. "But how did you get here?" He asked again.

The Youngest Princess explained patiently, "My sisters and I slipped out of the palace. We played in your garden. However, I have lost my shawl, so I could not go back to heaven."

Hearing the princess's explanation, Polo Padang immediately





issued a green shawl from behind his shirt. The Youngest Princess was surprised to see a shawl in Polo Padang's hands.

"That's my shawl!" She cried cheerfully.

She ran up to Polo Padang to take her shawl. However, the young man quickly dodged and put the shawl back under his clothes.

"Give me back my shawl! Please!" Begged the Youngest Princess. "Ask for anything, but please do not take my shawl!" She said again.

"Really?" Asked Polo Padang quickly.

The Youngest Princess nodded.

"I promise," she said seriously.

Polo Padang smiled happily. He was thinking of something. He looked at the princess's face, she immediately bowed her head. Suddenly the young man's blood rippled. He felt his body drifted by the overwhelming feeling that was ambushing him. He felt ... in love with the princess! He wanted the angel to be his companion, his lover, and his wife who gave birth to his children.

"I will return your shawl on one condition!" Polo Padang said shortly afterward.

"What is the condition?" Asked the Youngest Princess curiously.

"Marry me, then after we officially become husband and wife, I will return your shawl."

The Youngest Princess was very surprised to hear that condition.

"I ... I ..." she stammered, as if there was a burden that hung in her tongue.

"You refuse? Then you must work in this garden!"

The princess looked nervous. Polo Padang knew the requirements he asked for were equally heavy. He waited for the Youngest Princess's answer with anxious thoughts.

"OK. I'm going to marry you," she finally said. Polo Padang was relieved.

"However, you have to promise to let me go back to heaven after we get married," said the Youngest Princess with a heavy heart.

"Of course. I'm a person who never breaks a promise," said Polo Padang proudly. In his heart, he doubted his words a little.

"One more condition, you have to promise to never speak rudely to me during our marriage. We are the inhabitants of the land of heaven, never hear curses and insults which are usually uttered by humans," added the Youngest Princess.

"I swear I will not speak rudely," Polo Padang replied sincerely.

Later, he took the Youngest Princess to the village elders' houses so that they could both be married. Previously, he asked the Youngest Princess to keep all her jewelry and change her beautiful clothes with the clothes belonging to his deceased mother. Her appearance which now was similar to the common women's would not arouse the villagers' suspicion.

The village elders were surprised to see their arrival, especially seeing the beautiful Youngest Princess. Polo Padang then concocted the story that the Youngest Princess was her relative who lived in another village. The girl had just been left behind by her deceased father and had no other relatives except Polo Padang. They decided to get married so that the Youngest Princess had a life companion who could protect her.

Soon they were married by the village elders. There was no wedding party or celebration because the young man had no money to organize a party. Their wedding ceremony took place very shortly and simply, only witnessed by some villagers. After the ceremony was over, Polo Padang was willing to let his new wife return to her home.

"Now I want you to return my shawl," said the Youngest Princess to Polo Padang. "I want to get back to the land of heaven soon," she continued.

He held the hand of the lady of heaven who had now become his

life companion. His heart was crushed at her request, although Polo Padang realized that he had to keep his promise to the angel.

"We just got married," said Polo Padang sadly. "Why did not you stay here for a few days?" The Youngest Princess shook her head.

"I cannot live like a human. I want my life comfortable like the one inside the palace," she replied softly. She released Polo Padang's hand.

For a long time they fell silent, carried away by their thoughts and feelings. Then, with a heavy heart Polo Padang issued his wife's shawl. He kissed the shawl with all his feelings and handed it to his wife. The Youngest Princess wore the shawl on her white, slender neck.

"Thank you, my husband," she said slowly.

Polo Padang could not say anything. Then the princess jerked the end of her shawl, preparing to fly. However, she could not fly. Her body was not lifted into the air. Both her feet still trod on the ground. She was startled with panic.

"What's wrong? Why can't I fly?" She cried.

Polo Padang was also shocked. He was surprised to see the Youngest Princess could not fly while she was wearing her shawl.

In the midst of the confusion, the wind suddenly blew so hard,



followed by the magical voice coming from the sky.

"My daughter!" The magical voice called the princess.

The Youngest Princess was stunned. That was the voice of his father, the king of the land of heaven. "Dad!" Said the Youngest Princess.

She looked in all directions, but the voice was not tangible.

"My daughter, you cannot go back to the land of heaven," her father's voice was heard again.

"Why, Dad?" Asked the Youngest Princess surprised. "Is that because I have broken your command not to come down to earth?"

She began to shed tears.

"Not because of that, my daughter. You have just married a man, so you must stay on earth with your husband," said the king.

"But I want to go back, Dad. I do not want to live here!"

"I cannot accept that man to be my son-in-law!" Cried the king.

Polo Padang and the Youngest Princess became afraid to hear the angry tone in the magical voice. "Goodbye, my daughter!" Said the king.

The magical voice vanished into the wind. The Youngest Princess fainted.

Polo Padang swiftly grabbed his wife's body before it fell on earth. Then he picked her up and went home.

In short, the Youngest Princess finally lived on earth with her husband, Polo Padang. Although she was very sad because she could not return to the land of heaven, the Youngest Princess could accept her destiny with stoicism. She tried to familiarize herself with human life and habits. Gradually she loved Polo Padang and was happy to live with him. They were blessed with a son named Pairunan.

One day, Pairunan was busy playing in the yard. His father was splitting wood not far from where he was playing, while his mother was weaving the cloth in the room. Pairunan was very fond of the spinning top his mother gave him. The spinning top was special because it was made from his mother's gold bracelet which was smelted.

When he was spinning the top, suddenly his mother called from inside the house.

"Yes, Mom!" Said Pairunan.

He immediately ran into the house. Unintentionally, he stepped on the top which was spinning. It bounced and fell over Polo

Padang's head.

"Ouch!" Polo Padang screamed in pain. He spontaneously uttered a curse to Pairunan. The little boy was trembling with fear.

The Youngest Princess heard Polo Padang's curse to Pairunan. Instantly the Youngest Princess ran out of the house to meet her husband.

"My husband, you have broken your oath!" The Youngest Princess exclaimed.

"My wife, my head is bleeding because of Pairunan's top, but you just make me swear!" Said Polo Padang angrily.

"You forgot your vow before we got married!" Said the Youngest Princess no less fiercely. She hugged Pairunan who shook with tears.

Polo Padang paused for a moment. Suddenly he understood what his wife meant. He had broken his own oath not to utter rude words during their marriage. Suddenly his whole body trembled, his face turned deathly pale.

"My wife ... I ... I ..." said Polo Padang haltingly.

The Youngest Princess did not speak a word. Her face turned red with anger. Quickly she entered the house. Soon, she came out dressed like the first time she came down to earth, complete with



her shawl. So long, her clothes and shawl were stored neatly in a crate. Although she was not sure to be able to return to heaven, the Youngest Princess still kept well her belongings.

The Youngest Princess then held Pairunan. The little boy was confused by his mother's appearance. Meanwhile, Polo Padang was limp on the ground with his tears running down.

"Goodbye, my husband!"

The Youngest Princess waved to her husband. Instantly her body floated in the air. Polo Padang chased after them and cried.

"Pairunan! My wife!" He shouted for his son and his wife, but both were gone from sight.

Polo Padang was left sobbing, regretting his oversight and ignorance. But it was no use crying over spilled milk. His beloved wife and son had returned to the land of heaven and he would not be able to meet them again. He saw his son's golden top lying on the ground. He picked up the top and kissed it.

"My son, please forgive your father!" Polo Padang said quietly through his sobs.

Since the departure of the Youngest Princess and Pairunan, Polo Padang seemed to lose his zest for life. He never again took care of his garden. Over time the garden was overgrown with shrubs, and its fruit trees and vegetables died. Every day he just sat



dreamily on the porch of his house while looking at the sky. His body became skinny, uncared for.

After several months of living that way, he finally decided to go looking for his wife and son.

He knew that they were currently in the land of heaven. Although he did not know how to reach the land of heaven, he was still desperate to find them. Armed with his clothing he could bring, Polo Padang walked out of his house and garden to wander. He did not forget to bring Pairunan's golden top.

Days changed into weeks, and weeks changed into months. Unnoticedly, almost a year Polo Padang wandered from village to village and from forest to forest, until he finally arrived by a beach. In front of him, the sea stretched as far as the eye could see. Polo Padang was lost in thought.

He wanted to cross the ocean, but did not have a boat. To make a boat he needed equipment, but he did not bring any equipment except a few pieces of clothing and Pairunan's golden top.

When he was lost in his reverie, suddenly a white buffalo approached Polo Padang.

"Looks like you're confused," said the White Buffalo.

Polo Padang was jolted from his reverie. He was surprised and amazed because the buffalo could talk.

"Miraculously, a buffalo can talk!" Polo Padang thought.

"Yeah, I'm the mother of all white buffalo," said the beast as if she could read Polo Padang's mind. "You want to go to the land of heaven, don't you?"

Polo Padang's blood rippled. The beast before him was not an ordinary animal. Polo Padang directly respected the white fluffed buffalo.

Perhaps because the burden that in his mind was so heavy, Polo Padang finally told the whole story of his life to the magic buffalo. After the story, he felt his burden was reduced, his heart felt a little relieved.

The White Buffalo snorted. "I am deeply touched by the story of your life, Polo Padang," she said. "Now what's your plan?"

Polo Padang shook his head weakly. "I do not know, I'm really tired of finding my way to the land of heaven." They paused.

"Can you help me across the ocean?" Polo Padang asked suddenly. "Perhaps across the ocean there is someone who knows the way to the land of heaven."

"That's easy," said the White Buffalo. "I can take you in just one night."

"Is that true? Well, thank you very much for your help, White

Buffalo!" Polo Padang said pleased. "However, there is one condition," said the White Buffalo.

Polo Padang frowned. "You and your descendants should not eat my flesh and my descendants. What about that?"

The young man smiled. It turned out that the condition imposed by the White Buffalo was very easy. "All right," replied Polo Padang.

"Then go up on my back!" Ordered the White Buffalo.

Polo Padang climbed onto the back of the beast. Then the White Buffalo swam across the sea that was calm at that time. The breeze caressed softly their bodies, the waves chased and banged softly against the White Buffalo, the sea birds flew low while chattering merrily. When the evening came, Polo Padang stared at the star-studded sky. He seemed to see his son's and his wife's faces in the sky. Instantly he swallowed his saliva. It tasted bitter.

A piece of the moon appeared just above them.

"Good night, friend," greeted the Moon.

They looked up. The White Buffalo replied the greeting kindly.

"Long time I haven't seen you, where've you been?" Asked the Moon again to the White Buffalo.

"Yes, I traveled to various countries to see my grandchildren," answered the White Buffalo. Apparently both of them were old friends.

Suddenly something came to Polo Padang mind.

"Excuse me, may I ask, Moon?" The man interrupted their conversation.

The Moon looked at him. "Of course," she replied.

"Do you know the location of the gate of the land of heaven?" asked Polo Padang.

"Why do you want to go to the land of heaven?" Asked the Moon.

Polo Padang told the whole story of his life to the Moon.

"Do you really want to go to the land of heaven?" Asked the Moon. The man nodded quickly. "The land of heaven is in the seventh heaven," explained the Moon.

"Can you take me there?" Asked Polo Padang.

"Sorry, my journey does not pass through the land of heaven," replied the Moon.

Polo Padang exhaled a disappointed sigh.

"But you can ask for the stars' help," the Moon said, casting a

glance at the stars clustered nearby. "They come to the seventh heaven where the country you are headed to is located," she continued.

Polo Padang saw a group of stars flickering in the distance. The Moon called one of the stars and told Polo Padang's story to him. The Moon asks the Star if he could take Polo Padang to the seventh heaven. The Star agreed.

"All right, you hold on to my body," the Star said to Polo Padang. Then, the Star approached so that Polo Padang could reach him. Before leaving, the man delivered his farewell and thanked the White Buffalo and the Moon who had helped him. Then he clung to one of the legs of the Star who immediately darted into space toward the seventh sky. In just minutes they had reached the gate of the land of heaven. The gate was very high and sturdy, made of thick iron, and looked strong.

Polo Padang tried to push it, but the door seemed to be locked.

"Only the inhabitants of the sky can open that door," the Star smiled.

Then, the Star touched the gate. Miraculously, the gate was wide open. Polo Padang was amazed to see the scenery behind the huge gate. He saw the wonderful and beautiful land of heaven, filled with trees and blooming flowers. The air in the land of heaven was very fragrant. He immediately remembered his wife,





the Youngest Princess. The scent of her body was as sweet as the air he breathed. Suddenly his heart felt slashed by a sense of longing and sadness.

"Well, Polo Padang, come in fast, before the gate is closed again." The Star's remark interrupted his daydream.

The Star pushed his body gently.

"Thank you so much for your help, Star," said Polo Padang softly with tears in his eyes. The Star smiled.

"You are welcome. Hope you meet back soon with your family," the Star said.

Then, the Star darted back to his original place. He still had to complete his task of decorating the sky that night.

Polo Padang did not know where to look for the king's palace. Because it was still late at night, he decided to rest first. Then, he searched for a dry cave to stay. Tomorrow morning he would continue his journey again.

While lying on the cold cave floor, Polo Padang thought of the Youngest Princess and Pairunan. The king of the land of heaven did not want to accept him as his son-in-law because he was just an ordinary earth man. If the king knew his arrival to the land of heaven to pick up his wife and son, he would certainly be expelled or punished. However, whatever happened later, he

would surrender. He just wanted to meet his family he loved so much.

Polo Padang fell asleep. He dreamed of stealing the Youngest Princess's shawl.

The next day, Polo Padang changed his clothes with more appropriate clothes for the dwellers of the land of heaven. Luckily he brought one set of clothes that were pretty good.

Then, he walked indefinitely until finally met some girls who were taking water in a well. Due to exhaustion, Polo Padang rested under a tree not far from the well. His throat was dry with thirst but he waited for the water-taking girls to finish their work.

"Let's hurry, we'll be late to fill the Prince Pairunan's pool!" One of the girls exclaimed.

Hearing his son's name, Polo Padang felt as if his heart was almost dislodged, but he tried to be reasonable. He believed these water-taking girls were court ladies-in-waiting. Quickly he racked his brain. He was looking for the right way to tell his wife about his whereabouts in the land of heaven. An idea struck his mind. He reached into the bundle of cloth he was carrying. Fortunately, the object he was looking for was still safe in his bundle. He carefully gripped it.

He approached the girls.

"Excuse me, may I ask for water to drink?" Polo Padang asked politely.

The girls turned. One of the girls handed her water pot to Polo Padang.

"Of course, Sir. Here, drink as much as you want," said the girl kindly.

Polo Padang received the pot and drank. The water of the land of heaven was cool and sweet in his throat. After drinking, he returned the water pot.

"Thank you very much, lady," Polo Padang said.

The girl who had given him the water smiled. She wanted to take fresh water from the well to fill her water pot, but Polo Padang prevented her. "No, let me fill your water pot. It's my expression of gratitude," Polo Padang told the girl.

Polo Padang took the water pot in her hand. As he filled the pot with water, he quietly put the object he was holding into the pot. Then he returned the pot to its owner. After thanking him, the girls left.

Polo Padang prayed that his plan would work.

Arriving at the king's palace, the ladies spilled the water from the pots into Prince Pairunan's bath pool. Soon the prince was called



to bathe. Suddenly, the little prince's eyes were drawn to something shimmering at the bottom of the pool.

Without undressing, he went straight into the pool and took the shimmering object. Apparently, it's a golden top. Pairunan immediately recognized his favorite golden top. "My spinning top!" Shouted Pairunan excitedly.

Without thinking, he immediately came out of the pool and ran to find his mother. He did not care about the cries of his nanny ladies.

The Youngest Princess who was in her private room was very surprised to see her son came wet. Behind the prince, the nanny ladies seemed panting. Apparently they had been chasing the prince.

"What's up, my son? Why are you soaking wet like this?" Asked the Youngest Princess. Pairunan showed his golden top.

"Mom, I found my top in the pool!" He exclaimed delightedly.

The Youngest Princess took the golden top. Suddenly the Princess's face turned pale with fear. "Call the chief of the palace guard soon!" She commanded.

The ladies were confused, but did not dare to ask. One of the ladies hurried to call the chief of the palace guard. After the chief of the palace guard came, the Youngest Princess ordered him to

bring some bodyguards in search of a wandering man who roamed in the land of heaven. The Youngest Princess described the characteristics of the man. The chief of the palace guard and several of his men immediately set out to carry out the Princess's order.

Meanwhile, Polo Padang was convinced that Pairunan's golden top had been found. Then he deliberately walked back and forth around the palace gate. Polo Padang was easily found by the palace guards who were searching for him. He was then arrested and brought to the Youngest Princess.

The Youngest Princess awaited the return of the palace guards with anxious thoughts. Finally came the one she was waiting for. The chief of the palace guard brought Polo Padang to the Princess. The Youngest Princess's mouth fell open. She could not believe her husband managed to catch up with her. The Youngest Princess and Polo Padang looked at each other. Neither one of them said a word. The Youngest Princess then ordered all the ladies and the palace guards to leave the room.

After all were gone, the Youngest Princess burst into her husband's arms.



"How ... can you ... get here ...?" Asked the Youngest Princess with a stammer.

Polo Padang looked at his wife's face with feelings of longing, tears, and joy. He was happy to meet again with his beloved wife.

"I purposely followed you here because I missed you and our son very much," Polo Padang said slowly.

The Youngest Princess shook her head sadly and said, "We cannot get together like we used to. My father will not accept you."

The husband and wife embraced each other and cried together. The Youngest Princess was touched. She now realized how much his affection was to her and Pairunan. Suddenly the emotional atmosphere was broken by the cry of the king of the land of heaven. "How dare you enter my palace!" Cried the king angrily.

Polo Padang and Putri Bungsu were very surprised. Apparently the king had heard the news of Polo Padang's arrest from one of his guards.

"You cannot be united because of your different levels!" Said the king.

The Youngest Princess lay prostrate and touched the king's feet.

"Dad, we have become husband and wife. In fact we already have



a son. Allow us to reunite, Father! "The Youngest Princess begged the king.

Polo Padang followed his wife's deeds.

He lay prostrate before the king of the land of heaven with tears in his eyes.

"Your Majesty, please grant us our request. I love my wife and my son very much. I am willing to sacrifice anything to live with my family!" Polo Padang said earnestly.

Hearing Polo Padang's sincerity, the heart of the king of the land of heaven began to melt. However, he wanted to test the young man's love for his Youngest Princess.

For a long time the king fell silent. His eyebrows joined together, showing clearly that the king was thinking very hard. Moments later he said, "Okay, I'll take you as my son-in-law if you've got all my assignments done."

Polo Padang and Putri Bungsu were astonished, but they looked very happy.

The king said, "Polo Padang, listen carefully to your tasks."

The man listened carefully to the tasks assigned to him. His eyebrows and forehead seemed to be wrinkled because all the tasks assigned to him did not make much sense. However, he was

determined to finish all the tasks well. For the sake of his son and his wife, he would sacrifice anything. The Youngest Princess who also listened to felt anxious. She was not sure her husband could finish the tasks, but she did not say anything. She could only pray that her husband would succeed.

The king then ordered the guards and court ladies-in-waiting to prepare the tasks that Polo Padang had to carry out.

Polo Padang's first task was to fill the basket with a hole in it full of water. Polo Padang headed to the river and filled the basket with water.

However, the basket was not full even though he had poured buckets of water into it. Polo Padang cried desperately. Gone was his hope to be reunited with his beloved family. Annoyed, he threw the basket and sat on the edge of the river, weeping.

An eel approached and spoke to him.

"Why are you crying?" the Eel asked. Polo Padang turned.

"I am assigned by the king to fill this basket with water to the brim, but this basket is holed, so the water escapes," he explained.

"If I do not succeed in carrying out the tasks assigned by the king, I cannot see my wife and my son any more," added Polo Padang. Then he told the whole story of his life to the Eel. The Eel felt sorry for him. He volunteered to help.

"But on one condition that you and your descendants should not catch or eat me and my descendants," said the Eel.

Polo Padang agreed to the condition. Then, the Eel entered the basket and closed the hole in it with his mucus. Afterward, he told Polo Padang to fill the basket until it was full.

Polo Padang was happy because he could successfully fill the basket with water. He thanked the Eel and immediately brought a basket full of water to the king of the land of heaven.

The king was satisfied. He ordered the young man to rest, because tomorrow morning the next task was waiting.

The next day, Polo Padang prepared for the second task. His job this time was to knock down a valley of canarium trees. Armed with an ax, he worked excitedly. However, the valley was very wide. Until the late afternoon, Polo Padang only managed to knock down a few canarium trees. He felt anxious and began to cry. The Wind King heard the young man's cries.

"What happened to you?" Said the Wind King.

Polo Padang told the story of his life as well as the task given by the king of the land of heaven. The Wind King felt sorry and was willing to help. Then he blew the valley as hard as he could until all the canarium trees fell. Thus, Polo Padang successfully completed his second task.

In the third task, he had to collect a wide round tray of millet seeds spilled on a forest. He stooped all day looking for millet seeds scattered on the ground until his back and waist hurt. However, he was only able to collect a handful of millet seeds. Polo Padang sobbed under a tree. He felt he had failed. The Sparrow King who happened to perch on top of the tree heard Polo Padang's cry and immediately went down to meet him. "What is making you cry?" He asked Polo Padang.

Polo Padang again told the story of his life. The Sparrow King nodded, indicating that he understood. "Do not worry, buddy. I'll help you get the job done," he said.

The Sparrow King set out a condition that his offspring be allowed to sit in the barns and the roofs of houses. Polo Padang accepted the request.

Then the Sparrow King gathered his people and ordered them to gather all the millet seeds in the forest. Then thousands of sparrows pecked the scattered millet seeds. In an instant, all the millet seeds were collected. Polo Padang could finish the third task well.

On the fourth day, Polo Padang was confined in a tightly locked warehouse. His job was to find a way to get out of the warehouse. Polo Padang tried to find a gap in the roof and the wall of the warehouse, but to no avail. In the midst of his confusion, he saw a

rat in the corner of the warehouse. He immediately called the rat.

"Rat, I need your help!" He exclaimed. The Rat approached.

"Why should I help you?" The Rat asked.

Then, Polo Padang told his journey which led him to the land of heaven.

"If I cannot meet the requirements set out by the king, I must go down to earth and cannot see my wife anymore," Polo Padang said wistfully.

The Rat was amazed by Polo Padang's sacrifices and struggles so that he was willing to help the young man. He gnawed through the warehouse door with his sharp teeth. Shortly thereafter at the door was formed a hole big enough for Polo Padang to pass through. Polo Padang easily escaped from the warehouse. The king of the land of heaven was very impressed with the young man's seriousness in carrying out his tasks. The Youngest Princess was very happy to hear the news of her husband's success, but she still felt anxious. There was still one last task left.

The next day, the Youngest Princess and six women who had the same stature and likeness of the Princess were collected. Their eyes were covered with cloth. Each woman was placed in an open room in one large hall, and asked not to utter a sound. Then the doors and the whole windows were closed so that the hall was

pitch dark. Outside, Polo Padang waited for a signal from the King, while his heart was thumping hard in his chest. "This is your last assignment," said the king.

Polo Padang bowed and closed his eyes.

In his mind, he pictured the Youngest Princess's beautiful face and Pairunan's cute face. Soon all his hopes and dreams would come true. He prayed that he could carry out this last assignment well. He remembered the last night incident. As he was weeping over his fate, a firefly came to him. The Firefly said that he already knew Polo Padang's life story from a conversation between court ladies-in-waiting. The ladies were deeply moved by Polo Padang's struggle to get his family back. They hoped that the Youngest Princess could live peacefully with her husband and her son. "I'll help you finish the last task," said the Firefly.

Then, the Firefly approached Polo Padang's ear and told his plan. Polo Padang agreed with the Firefly's suggestion.

"Are you ready, Polo Padang?" The voice of the king of the land of heaven interrupted Polo Padang's reverie.

"I'm ready, Your Majesty!" He replied firmly.

The king gave a sign. The palace guard immediately slid a little the door of the hall where the Youngest Princess and the other women gathered. Polo Padang stepped in and closed the door.

The atmosphere in the hall was very quiet and dark. Polo Padang stepped slowly and carefully. He had been told beforehand that the hall had seven rooms.

He had to guess where his wife was and then bring his wife out of the room.

Polo Padang arrived at a room. He could not see anything. Cold sweat began to wet his body. "Where is the Firefly?" He thought in dismay. "He might have forgotten his promise."

He stepped back and reached the next room. He paused. Then, he went to the third room and then stopped, then to the fourth room and so on. Up to the sixth room, Polo Padang began to despair and tremble. However, suddenly he saw a small glow circling over the head of the woman who occupied the sixth room. Polo Padang almost jumped for joy. "Thank you!" He whispered softly.

The Firefly flew out of the room. Polo Padang immediately pulled the hand of the woman in the sixth room and left the dark room.

All the palace residents outside directly cheered gladly and welcomed Polo Padang and the Youngest Princess. Polo Padang had made it through all the tasks assigned by the king of the land of heaven. The couple cried happily. The king came to them and hugged them warmly.

"Polo Padang, you have proven how much your love for my daughter and my grandson is. Now I accept you as my son-in-law. Come back with your son and your wife to the earth as *tomanurun*\*!" Said the king.

Polo Padang lay prostrate before the king reverently.

\* *tomanurun*: a Torajan word meaning "those who were sent down to earth"



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