

The Legend of Malin Kundang

Once upon a time, there was a poor woman and her only son who lived in a small village near the beach in west Sumatra. They were Mande Rubayah and her son Malin Kundang. Mande Rubayah was an independent widow who always held firmly to her principle and had to live hard with her son Malin Kundang. Mande Rubayah loved Malin Kundang. Malin Kundang grew into a man who was diligent and obedient.

Mande Rubayah was getting older, she was just able to work as a merchant to satisfy their need. But one day, when Malin Kundang grew mature, he asked his mother to allow Malin Kundang to wander, because at that moment there was a big ship which was at a dock near Air Manis beach.

“Do not go, Malin!” I was afraid that something would happen to you when you wander. Just stay here and accompany me.” Said Mande Rubayah who was sad after hearing Malin Kundang wanted to wander.

“Do not worry Mom, nothing will happen to me.” Said Malin while holding his mother's hands.

“This is my only chance, because I don't know if the ship will come back again next year.” Malin begged.

“Alright, I allow you. But come back home quickly, I will always be here waiting for you, my son.” Said Mande Rubayah sadly.

Even though Mande Rubayah was unwilling to let Malin Kundang to go, finally Mande Rubayah gave Malin Kundang permission to wander.

Day after day, time passed away. Malin Kundang never forgot to send a letter and monthly allowance to support his mother's finances at home. Mande Rubayah was happy with the message and always prayed for Malin Kundang even though Mande Rubayah had never met her beloved son for years. Malin Kundang wandered and became rich.

One day Malin Kundang got married with a nobleman's daughter. Malin Kundang did not tell his mother because he was insecure. He was not sure how his wife and in-laws would react if they knew his mother and background. Thus, he decided not to tell her yet about his past, his family, his home and his social status. Not this time. Even though his wife always asks him about his mother. He needs to find the right time later.

Someday when Mande Rubayah came to market to buy something, she got news about Malin Kundang from a man who had sailed.

“Mande Rubayah, don't you know that Malin has become a rich man and got married with a nobleman's daughter?” said the man.

“Are you serious?” said Mande Rubayah curiously.

Mande Rubayah was speechless. She wondered why Malin Kundang did not tell her anything about his wedding and his wife. Day after day Mande Rubayah always thinks about that information. She decided to go and meet Malin Kundang. Then, Mande Rubayah came to the man.

“Do you know where Malin is? Would you mind taking me to Malin?” said Mande Rubayah sadly.

“Yeah sure, the next ship will go tomorrow.” said the man.

Mande Rubayah prepared anything that she would need. She had been thinking about what will she wear because she was worried about his son's wife if she come like a poor old woman, Mande Rubayah did not want to be looked down by Malin Kundang's wife as she knew from the man that Malin Kundang's wife is a nobleman's daughter. She used the money from Malin Kundang to buy presentable clothes. After Mande Rubayah had prepared, she came to the man and went to Malin Kundang.

Malin Kudang and his wife were around the beach doing his job as a merchant. From a distance he saw an old lady coming closer while calling his name loudly. Malin's wife recognized the old lady and asked Malin Kundang.

“My husband, who is an old lady over there? Don't you want to approach her?” said Malin's wife.

Malin Kundang was shocked. He recognized that an old woman who was trying to come closer while calling his name was his mother, but Malin Kundang was speechless because his mother looks very different and she did not look like a poor old woman. Mande Rubayah hugged Malin Kundang while crying and saying Malin Kundang's several times.

“Malin, am I bothering you?” said Mande Rubayah carefully, she knows that Malin Kundang might feel insecure about his past so Mande Rubayah tries to understand her son's feelings well.

Malin Kundang was shocked and felt sad at the same time. He realized that his mother knows about what he feels right now.

“My husband? Are you okay?” said Malin's wife when she found out her husband's face was pale.

“Ehh, I am fine darling.” said Malin.

“No mom, you are not bothering me.” answered Malin Kundang to his mother.

“Darling, let me introduce her to you, she is my mother. I am sorry for not telling you earlier about her.” said Malin worriedly.

“And mom, she is my wife.” said Malin, introducing his wife.

“Hello mom, it is a pleasure to meet you, I am Malin’s wife.” said Malin’s wife politely.

“Hello dear, nice to meet you too. What a beautiful face you have.” said Mande Rubayah amazedly.

“Thank you mom,” said Malin’s wife blushfully.

“Can I have a moment with my mother for a while?” said Malin.

“Sure please. Then join me if you are done with your mother.” said Malin’s Wife politely while leaving her husband and her mother in law.

Then, there were only Malin Kundang and his mother there.

“I am sorry, mom. I didn't mean to let you down. I am sorry for not telling you about my wife. I really love you and I am proud of you, but I felt insecure and afraid so I did a stupid thing for not telling you the truth. ” said Malin sadly while kneeling to his mother.

“I know Malin, I know. It is okay, I am not angry with you. But you have to remember that I am not that weak. You can always communicate everything to me. You can always count on me. I am your mother, I will always help and support you.” said Mande Rubayah while hugging and calming her son down.

“Now let’s go, I cannot wait to get to know my daughter in law better. Bring me to her. She is such a beautiful lady.” said Mande Rubayah.

The End.