

Bawang Merah Bawang Putih

Moral of the story: If you decide to help someone, help them with all your heart

Once upon a time, there lived a beautiful and kind girl named Bawang Putih. Bawang Putih lived along with his father that she loved so much in a village, somewhere in Yogyakarta. Bawang Putih's biological mother was long dead as a result of serious illness that she suffered. Bawang Putih lived in a very modest family; his father was an only small trader. In spite of the fact, they were always grateful for the blessings that had been given by God.

Since she was left by his mother, Bawang Putih felt very lonely, moreover, if her father went to the market to trade all day. Having the same feeling as his daughter, her father intends to marry Mbok Rondo, a widow with one daughter who lived in the same village. Her father hoped that Bawang Putih would no longer felt lonely because there would be someone accompany her at home. As a wise father, he asked Bawang Putih about his plan and she agreed.

After marriage, Mbok Rondo and her daughter lived together with Bawang Putih and her father. Initially, Mbok Rondo and Bawang Merah were nice to her. Time went by, their true nature began to appear. When her father went to trades, Mbok Rondo and Bawang Merah often scolded and told Bawang Putih to do heavy work such as cleaning the house, washing, and cooking, while they were just relaxed.

A few months later her beloved father died from illness which he suffered. Since then, Bawang Putih's life was even more miserable. One morning, Bawang Putih went to the river to wash Mbok Rondo and Bawang Merah's dirty clothes. One by one, the clothes were washed. Bawang Putih was surprised when one of the clothes drifted along the river stream. Bawang Putih could not reach the scarf.

Obviously, Rondo Mbok was mad to hear her favorite scarf was lost in the river. Bawang Putih was also threatened to be evicted from their homes if she could not find the scarf. Rushing, Bawang Putih went to the river to look for the clothes.

Bawang Putih asked everyone she met, but they did not see any clothes washed away in the river.

After several hours, she met an old lady who was washing rice in the river. Bawang Putih was afraid to ask the old lady about the scarf. It was because her performance which was very creepy. However, Bawang Putih needed to find the scarf. She found no other options except asking it to the old lady.

"Sorry grandma, Did you see any clothes washed away in this river?" she asked.

"Mmmm.. clothes? Is it the scarf with rose's motif?" The old lady asked.

"Yes.. yes.. Grandma. It's the scarf I was looking for." She answered.

"Come to my house, dear. It's getting dark. Come.. come.." The old lady invited.

Bawang Putih nodded and went to her house. Bawang Putih was surprised seeing the house was dirty and messy. She decided to stay some days with the old lady to do the daily works. Diligently, Bawang Putih cleaned house, washed the old lady's clothes and even cooked for her. The old lady was happy, there was still someone who wanted to help her. After a few days, Bawang Putih decided to go home.

"Granny, I do really want to stay here longer, but I must go home. I must bring back the scarf to my stepmother. I am afraid she is angry." Bawang Putih said.

"Well dear, I understand. As you have helped me, please take one of these yellow pumpkins as a gift." she said.

Initially, Bawang Putih wanted to refuse what the old lady offered as Bawang Putih thought the pumpkins were the stored food. Bawang Putih finally accepted it and took the smallest pumpkin from two. She said good bye to the lady and went home.

Arriving at home, Bawang Putih gave the scarf to Mbok Rondo. Mbok Rondo was still angry. Perhaps, it was because Bawang Putih did not return for several days. The stepmother was immediately sent her to the kitchen to prepare food. Remembering the pumpkin from the lady, Bawang Putih planned to cook it. She was surprised when she spilt the pumpkin a half. Bawang Putih found gold, diamonds,

and gems inside the pumpkin. Mbok Rondo and Bawang Merah who saw it immediately seized the jewelry from Bawang Putih.

"Hey, Bawang Putih! Tell me where you got this jewelry!" Mbok Rondo asked.

Bawang Putih told everything to Mbok Rondo and Bawang Merah. Hearing the story, Mbok Rondo asked Bawang Merah to do the same thing with Bawang Putih. The next day, Bawang Merah went to the old lady's house. Similar with Bawang Putih, Bawang Merah was asked to accompany the old lady for a week. Unlike Bawang Putih who worked diligently, Bawang Merah was lazy. If she did something, the results were never good because Bawang Merah did it carelessly. Finally, after a week, Bawang Merah asked for leaving.

"Hey old lady, I have helped you. I want to go home now. Can you give me the big yellow pumpkin over there as a gift?" Asked Bawang Merah.

The old lady then gave the pumpkin to Bawang Merah. Quickly she took it and without saying good bye, Bawang Merah left and went home. When she arrived at home, Bawang Merah immediately showed the pumpkin to her mother. They were so happy. Immediately, they cut the pumpkin a half hoping there were more jewelries found in this pumpkin than in the previous one. They were very surprised; there were no gold, no diamond, nor gems. Instead, venomous animals such as snakes and scorpions sprouted out from the inside. The animals attacked them with no mercy to death.

Finally, Bawang Putih managed to get back all the gold, diamonds and gems that had been taken by Mbok Rondo. Bawang Putih used those jewelries to make a living. At the end Bawang Putih lived happily ever after.