

## Timun Mas

### *Moral of the story: fight for the love ones*

Once upon a time, there was an old widow named Mbok Sirni. She lived alone in her hut which was located near a forest. She was so lonely. She had not been blessed with any children until her husband left her forever. Although her husband was gone long ago, Mbok Sirni still hoped for a child. Day by day she prayed that one day someone would give her a child. So she would not feel lonely anymore.

One day, a big-scary giant heard Mbok Sirni's prayer to ask for a child. The giant decided to grant her wish by giving her what she wanted. The giant gave her a child not because of his compassion to the old lonely widow. The giant just wanted to take an advantage of Mbok Sirni to raise the child for him. So when the child got older, the giant would come back and took the child back for his meal.

"Heyy,, you lonely old widow." Said the giant in loud voice.

"Ahhhhh... Please.. Please don't hurt me.. Please don't eat me." Screamed Mbok Sirni frightened.

"I come here not to hurt you nor eat you. Instead, I come here because I want to help you." Said the giant.

"I come here to grant your wish. I want to give you a child." The giant continued.

"Is.. Is it true?" Asked Mbok Sirni frightened.

"Yes, it is. Take this cucumber seed and plant it in the yard. From this seed you will have a child." Answered the giant.

"Thanks.. Thank you, giant. Thank you for granting my wish." Said Mbok Sirni.

“However, I will give you this seed under one condition. You have to give the child back to me when she is 17.”

Thinking shortly, Mbok Sirni agreed. With full of joy, she received the cucumber seed. She then planted it in the yard. The next day, the seed grew. It grew bigger and faster day by day. However, not like any other cucumber plant, it only had one cucumber, a golden cucumber. The cucumber was big and heavy. When the cucumber was huge enough, Mbok Sirni harvested it. Mbok Sirni did not know what she should do with the cucumber. So she decided to cut it in a half. How shocked she was when she found out there was a cute baby girl inside the cucumber. She wept happily. She had a daughter finally. She named the baby girl ‘Timun Mas’ (golden cucumber).

Mbok Sirni had never been that happy before. She took care Timun Mas with all her love. Timun Mas grew up to be a beautiful girl. She was also so kind and loved to help Mbok Sirni. Timun Mas was 16 at that time. There was only couple of days left before she turned to 17. Remembering her agreement with the giant made Mbok Sirni depressed. Timun Mas noticed there was something wrong with Mbok Sirni. Then she asked Mbok Sirni about what actually happened. Mbok Sirni told Timun Mas everything, about the giant, their agreement, and Timun Mas’ origin. Mbok Sirni did not want Timun Mas leave; neither did Timun Mas.

Two days before the giant came; Mbok Sirni still did not know what to do. However, when she looked at the forest, Mbok Sirni remembered there was old hermit who lived in the middle of the forest. Mbok Sirni wanted to go there to ask the solution to her problems. She then hurried to the old hermit place and met him. Mbok Sirni told everything to the hermit. The hermit understood the situation and decided to help Mbok Sirni. He gave Mbok Sinri four things; a cucumber seed, a needle, salt, and shrimp paste or ‘terasi’ (fermented shrimp). The hermit suggested her daughter to use those things to defeat the giant.

As she arrived at home, Mbok Sirni gave the four things to Timun Mas and explained how to use them. Timun Mas was now ready to face the giant. The next day, the giant came to Mbok Sirni as it was promised. The giant came to take Timun Mas back. When Mbok Sirni came out to see the giant, Timun Mas quietly ran to escape through the back yard. Unfortunately, the giant saw her and then run after Timun Mas.

Timun Mas ran as fast as she could, but the giant ran faster. Remembering the four things Mbok Sirni gave, Timun Mas threw the first thing, a cucumber seed. Magically, the cucumber seed turned to very dense cucumber plants with lot of cucumbers. The cucumbers looked fresh and juicy and they attracted the giant's attention. The giant stopped at that moment and ate those cucumbers greedily. However, those cucumbers did not make the giant satisfied. Knowing he was being fooled, the giant ran and tried to chase Timun Mas over again.

Even though Timun Mas had made long gap with the giant, with wide step, the giant got closer and closer. And when the giant reached her hand, the second thing, the needle, was thrown. Magically, the needle turned to be tall-sharp bamboo forest. The bamboos are very sharp; they injured the giant really bad especially in his food. Bamboo forest was also thick which blocked the giant to reach Timun Mas. However, with huge desires to eat Timun Mas, the giant cut all the bamboos and then ran to chase Timun Mas once more.

Timun Mas had made long distance with the giant because of the bamboo forest. Without wasting time to see the giant got closer to her again, Timun Mas threw the third thing, the salt. Suddenly, the distance between Timun Mas and the giant turned to be a vast sea. The giant was shocked, yet he still wanted to eat Timun Mas. Thus, the giant swam across the sea to chase Timun Mas. The injury he got from bamboo forest was getting worse because of the salty water of the sea. Yet, the giant kept swimming and succeed to reach the shore finally.

With all his remaining strength, the giant ran to chase Timun Mas all over again. The giant kept running although it was not as fast as before. It might be because of the

injury he got. However, the giant could reach the distance with Timun Mas. Seeing the giant was getting closer, Timun Mas decided to throw the last thing, the shrimp paste (terasi). Mysteriously, the shrimp paste turned to be big swamp. The giant was sucked into the swamp. This time, the giant could not escape. He had no strength anymore. His body kept sinking sucked by the swamp till the giant completely disappeared.

Timun Mas wept happily, now the giant did not chase her anymore. She was so grateful. Timun Mas then went back to Mbok Sirni. Mbok Sirni was so happy to see Timun Mas again. They both cried, tears of joyful. Timun Mas told everything to Mbok Sirni; about the magical things she gave and about the giant. Now, both Mbok Sirni and Timun Mas was not afraid of the giant that would disturb them again. They now lived happily ever after.