



SASTRAWAN INDONESIA

INDONESIAN WRITER



SUPARTO BRATA
PENERIMA HADIAH SASTRA ASIA TENGGARA
AWARDEE OF THE S.E.A. WRITE AWARDS

2007

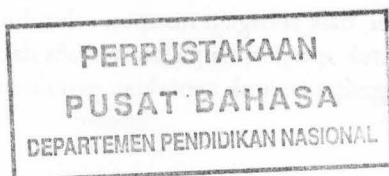


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Sastrawan Indonesia
Indonesian Writer

SUPARTO BRATA ✓

Penerima Hadiah Sastra Asia Tenggara 2007
Awardee of the S.E.A. Write Award 2007



Pusat Bahasa
Departemen Pendidikan Nasional
National Language Center
Ministry of National Education
Jakarta
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DEPARTEMEN PENDIDIKAN NASIONAL

Buku ini disusun dalam rangka penyerahan Hadiah Sastra The S.E.A. Write Award 2007 oleh Putra Mahkota Kerajaan Thailand Yang Mulia Vajiralongkorn, tanggal 8 Oktober 2007, di Bangkok.

Diterbitkan oleh
Pusat Bahasa
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KATA PENGANTAR
KEPALA PUSAT BAHASA
DEPARTEMEN PENDIDIKAN NASIONAL

Sejak tahun 1979 hadiah sastra The S.E.A Write Awards diberikan kepada sastrawan berprestasi di Asia Tenggara. Dalam hubungan itu, Pusat Bahasa, Departemen Pendidikan Nasional, setiap tahun membentuk Panitia Pemilihan Sastrawan Indonesia. Tugasnya memilih dan menentukan tiga orang sastrawan terbaik untuk tahun yang bersangkutan. Salah seorang dari mereka ditunjuk menjadi wakil sastrawan Indonesia untuk menerima The S.E.A. Write Awards dari pihak Kerajaan Thailand.

Tahun 2007 ini, Indonesia telah menetapkan sastrawan Suparto Brata untuk menerima hadiah itu. Dalam rangka penyerahan itu, Pusat Bahasa menyusun buku Sastrawan Indonesia Penerima Hadiah Sastra Asia Tenggara 2007 untuk keperluan upacara penyerahan The S.E.A. Write Awards di Bangkok, Thailand.

Kepada semua pihak yang telah mengupayakan penerbitan buku kecil ini, saya sampaikan penghargaan dan terima kasih yang tulus.

Jakarta, September 2007

Dr. Dendy Sugono

PREFACE
THE HEAD OF THE NATIONAL
LANGUAGE CENTER
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL EDUCATION

Since 1979 The S.E.A. Write Awards has been given to prolific writers in South East Asian countries. In relation to this, National Language Center, Ministry of National Education, every year sets up a committee for selection of Indonesian literary writers for the corresponding year. One of them is pointed to represent Indonesian writers to receive The S.E.A. Write Awards from the Kingdom of Thailand.

For year of 2007 Indonesia has chosen Suparto Brata as the recipient of the award. In this connection, the National Language Center has published the booklet *Sastrawan Indonesia Penerima Hadiah Sastra Asia Tenggara 2007* (Indonesian Writer: Awardee of the S.E.A. Write Award 2007) for the presentation of the award in Bangkok, Thailand.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to those who enabled this booklet to be published.

Jakarta, September 2007

Dr. Dendy Sugono

KATA SAMBUTAN PENERIMAAN SEA WRITE AWARD 2007

Paduka Yang Mulia
Putra Mahkota Kerajaan Thailand
Pangeran Maha Vajiralongkorn.

Yang terhormat para menteri,
Para duta besar,
Panitia Anugerah SEA Write Awards,
Bapak-bapak dan Ibu-ibu sekalian

Saya telah mengarang sejak tahun 1950. Ketika itu saya mengarang karena terpaksa harus mencari nafkah untuk hidup, dan mengarang sebagai pilihan saya. Ternyata karangan saya selalu ditolak oleh redaksi. Baru 1952 ada karangan saya yang diterbitkan di surat kabar, dipublikasikan kepada umum. Selanjutnya saya hidup bukan dari mengarang, melainkan mencari nafkah dari berbagai macam pekerjaan. Namun, mengarang tidak bisa saya lepaskan dari kegiatan sepanjang kehidupan saya meskipun tidak menghasilkan karangan yang handal sebagai menyangga nafkah untuk hidup. Sampai sekarang saya telah menghasilkan 125 judul buku, tetapi tidak satu pun yang pernah dicetak ulang atau maupun diterjemahkan dalam bahasa asing. Itu membuktikan bahwa karangan saya mutunya kacangan. Barangkali karena itu sampai usia saya uzur, saya belum pernah mendapat hadiah utama tingkat nasional (Indonesia) dalam bidang tulis-menulis. Memaklumi kenyataan itu, dan sampai sekarang ini masih juga menghabiskan hari tua saya untuk menulis buku, serta Insyaallah masih diberi kesehatan

dan kemampuan, maka saya geluti pekerjaan saya menulis itu sebagai *ibadah*, *amanah* dan *barkah*.

Sangat mengharukan, menggembirakan dan mengejutkan, ketika dalam usia senja berfasalah *narima ing pandum*, bahwa kegiatan menulis saya itu sebagai *ibadah*, *amanah* dan *barkah*, saya dikabari bahwa saya memperoleh penghargaan *SEA Write Award*. Sungguh, ini suatu keajaiban. Di negeri sendiri, saya tidak pernah mencapai “nama nasional”, kini saya dihargai sebagai penulis tingkat “regional S.E.A.”

Dengan ini perkenankanlah saya dengan segala hormat menyampaikan terima kasih sebesar-besarnya kepada panitia penyelenggara The S.E.A. Write Awards 2007 dan para dewan juri yang telah memilih saya sebagai sastrawan Indonesia 2007 yang mendapat kehormatan menerima hadiah ini. Saya dan keluarga saya sungguh sangat bangga dengan hadiah ini. Barangkali tidak cukup untuk bangga saja, tetapi saya juga merasa harus bertanggung jawab menjaga dan meningkatkan kepengarangan saya, baik segi mutu maupun kegiatan saya, sehingga Panitia The S.E.A. Write Awards tidak salah memilih saya sebagai penerima The S.E.A. Write Awards 2007. Meskipun merasa ajaib, saya yakin hadiah ini tidak tiba-tiba jatuh dari langit. Dewan juri memilih saya tahun ini tentu dengan alasan yang mantap: mungkin bukan mutu karya, tapi mutu kegiatan saya menjadi pertimbangan, yakni jerih payah saya bergulat menulis. Meskipun menulis seringkali gagal, tetapi saya tidak mau kalah. Memang, pada awalnya saya menulis untuk mencari nafkah, dan selanjutnya tidak berhasil sebagai nafkah pokok, namun menulis saya jadikan landasan kegiatan hidup sisa-sisa umur saya. Betapapun juga The S.E.A. Write Award 2007 ini bukan suatu kebetulan, tetapi dalam rangka kegiatan saya melakukan *ibadah*, *amanah*, dan *barkah*.

Sekian. Terima kasih

Surabaya, 27 Juni 2007.
Suparto Brata

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH OF THE S.E.A. WRITE AWARD 2007

Your Excellency,
Crown-Prince of Thailand,
Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn,
Ministers,
Ambassadors,
Committee of SEA Write Award,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have written since 1950. At that time I wrote due to earn a living, and writing became my choice. As a matter of fact, my writings were always turned down by editorial staffs. And not until 1952 one of my writings appeared on a newspaper. Furthermore I lived not by writing was instead I earned for a living through various kinds of job. However, writing was inescapable from my living activities throughout my life, although I had not resulted in reliable compositions to earn for a living. So far I have composed 125 book titles, none of them was reprinted, nor translated to foreign languages. It indicates that quality of my compositions is poor. Taking it into account, until I am old, I have never won prime prizes at national (Indonesia) level in the writing field. Being aware of it, up to now being healthy and capable, I keep on writing works as an act of devotions, mandate and blessing.

It is very touching, cheering up and surprising, when I have been in my twilight age and adhered to philosophy of *accepting the real facts*, that writing activity is an act of devotions,

mandate and blessing, I was informed that I won The S.E.A. Write Award. Really, it is miraculous. In my own country, I have never reached “national name”, now I am awarded as an author at the level of “south east Asia”

Herewith I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to executive committee of The S.E.A. Write Awards of 2007, as well as jurors that have selected me as The 2007 Man of Letters and honored to get the prize. My family and I are really proud of the prize. Perhaps it is not enough just to be proud of it, but I must be responsible to maintain and improve my authorship, both facets of quality and my activities, hence of The S.E.A. Write Awards of 2007 did not mistakenly select me recipient of The S.E.A. Write Awards of 2007. Though I felt miraculous, I am sure that the prize not just comes out of the blue. Jurors selected me this year, of course, with judicious reasons, even though not the quality of my works; instead the quality of my activities that became consideration, namely my exertions in writing struggles. Even though my writings often ended up in failures, yet I did not want to lose. Despite at the beginning I wrote to earn a living, and then unsuccessful to be my main livelihood, yet I have made writing as my living activity foundation for the rest of my life. Anyhow, Literature Prize of the S.E.A. Write Awards of 2007 is not just a coincidence, yet in terms of my activities to carry out acts of devotions, mandate, and blessing.

Thank you.

Surabaya, 27th of June, 2007
Suparto Brata

BIOGRAFI

Suparto Brata lahir di Surabaya, 27 Februari 1932. Ibunya seorang bangsawan Surakarta Hadiningrat sehingga Suparto Brata mendapat gelar kebangsawan Raden Mas (R.M). Namun, kecuali darah bangsawannya, ibunya tidak punya warisan apa-apa dari leluhurnya, dan tidak punya keterampilan kerja. Ayahnya juga bukan bangsawan. Meskipun leluhurnya juga dari Surakarta Hadiningrat, tetapi mereka lebih suka membawa keluarganya mencari kehidupan di luar Kerajaan Surakarta Hadiningrat, yaitu di Jawa Timur (daerah gupermen Belanda). Bertahun-tahun pasangan itu hidup di Jawa Timur, berganti-ganti pekerjaan, berpindah-pindah kota, dan melahirkan anak sampai 7 kali, tetapi hanya anak nomor 4 yang bertahan hidup. Karena tidak mampu dan pindah-pindah pekerjaan dan pindah kota, maka anak nomor 4 itu pun dibesarkan, disekolahkan, diasramakan selama 10 tahun di sekolah Katholik di Malang, terpisah dari orang tuanya. Yang membiayai sekolah dan asramanya adalah seorang kemenakan yang merasa berhutang budi kepada pasangan itu. Jelasnya anak di asrama itu tidak dibiayai oleh ayahnya.

Suparto Brata lahir sebagai anak ke-8 dari pasangan itu. Ketika Suparto lahir, ayahnya tidak punya pekerjaan (zaman Malaise) dan tidak punya tempat tinggal yang tetap, maka ibunya memilih membawa Suparto yang umur 6 bulan ke Surakarta Hadiningrat, ikut pamannya. Pamannya ini seorang pangeran (putera raja), rumahnya besar seperti istana, dan gaya hidupnya kental sekali sebagai halnya bangsawan istana Jawa Surakarta Hadiningrat. Suparto Brata diam di istana seperti itu hingga umur 6 tahun.

Dan selanjutnya Suparto Brata tidak pernah hidup bersama ayahnya. Suparto sejak kecil sampai remaja selalu mengikuti ibunya ke manapun pergi mencari kehidupan, yaitu berusaha berbagai pekerjaan seperti berjualan nasi, nebeng atau

menjadi pembantu rumah tangga kerabatnya yang mampu, itupun berpindah dari kerabat satu kepada yang lain, berlainan kota. Juga karena Perang Dunia II berpindah-pindah pekerjaan dan tempat tinggal terpaksa dilakukan, mencari kehidupan yang aman.

Karena perang, Suparto mengikuti ibunya berpindah-pindah tempat: Solo, Sragen, Surabaya, Probolinggo, Surabaya lagi. Pekerjaan ibunya hanya menjadi pembantu rumah tangga familinya yang kaya. Terakhir di Probolinggo dalam pengungsian karena Surabaya diduduki pasukan Inggris (1945—1947), ibunya dan Suparto ikut kakaknya yang nomor 4 yang diasramakan di Malang, yang usianya 10 tahun lebih tua dari Suparto. Yang mencari nafkah kakaknya, ibunya mengurus rumah tangganya, Suparto membantu-bantu dan sekolah. Setelah Probolinggo diserbu tentara Belanda, keluarga kecil ini pindah ke Surabaya, menempati rumah kosong milik keluarga yang ditinggal mengungsi.

Sekolah Suparto tersendat-sendat karena perang. Pada tahun 1950 ia berumur 18 tahun, tapi baru akan tamat belajar di SMP. Enam bulan sebelum tamat, kakaknya disekolahkan oleh perusahaan tempatnya bekerja (Philips) ke Eindhoven, Belanda, dan tidak memberi nafkah lagi kepada ibunya dan Suparto. Ibunya kembali ke Surakarta, ikut pada keluarga bangsawan leluhurnya. Suparto tidak mau lagi ikut ibunya karena ingin menyelesaikan sekolahnya di SMP. Karena tidak punya orang yang menanggung hidupnya, Suparto harus mencari nafkah sendiri. Pada saat itulah ia mencoba menulis-nulis karangan, tetapi karangannya selalu dikembalikan oleh redaksi penerbitan karena tidak layak dimuat. Nafkah Suparto diperoleh dari pengantar koran Djawa Pos. Ia lulus SMP tahun 1950. Karena tidak tahu hari lahirnya tahun Masehi --ibunya hanya hafal hari-bulan-tahun Jawa-- maka dikarang sendiri 16 Oktober 1932 sebagai tanggal dan tahun kelahiran. Itulah yang tertulis di ijazahnya, dan seterusnya pada KTP seumur hidupnya.

Setelah lulus SMP, Suparto menghidupi dirinya dengan bekerja di berbagai pekerjaan, yaitu Kantor Telegrap (1952—1960), di Kantor Dagang Negara Djaya Bhakti (1960—1967), berdagang kapok (1967—1969) serta wartawan *freelance* dan pengarang bebas merdeka tidak terikat oleh instansi manapun (1968—1988), menjadi pegawai negeri Pemerintah Kota Surabaya (1971—1988, pensiun).

Pada tahun 1952, ketika bekerja di Kantor Telegrap, barulah karangan-karangannya dimuat di surat kabar. Sejak itulah Suparto tidak berhenti menulis. Sejak dulu Suparto menulis apa saja, bebas-merdeka tidak terikat instansi atau penerbit tertentu, tidak bergantung jenis tulisan, atau tema apa pun. Suparto menulis berita, artikel, dan fiksi: berupa cerita pendek dan novel.

Pada awalnya (1950) Suparto menulis dalam bahasa Indonesia. Tahun 1958 ia memenangi sayembara menulis cerita sambung berbahasa Jawa di majalah *Panjebar Semangat*; sejak itulah karangannya dalam bahasa Jawa terbit bertubi-tubi. Pada tahun 2007, dari 125 judul buku yang ditulisnya, 45 judul di antaranya berbahasa Jawa. Dari kegiatan menulis dan menerbitkan karya dalam bahasa Jawa ini Suparto mendapat Hadiah Rancangan³ 3 (tiga) kali: tahun 2000 sebagai pembina bahasa dan sastra Jawa; tahun 2001 untuk buku kumpulan cerpennya *Trem* dianggap terbaik seluruh dari penerbitan buku bahasa Jawa tahun sebelumnya (2000); tahun 2005 untuk novel *Donyane Wong Culika/Negerinya orang curang* yang juga dianggap novel terbaik tahun sebelumnya (2004). Karena sampai kini ia terus menulis dalam bahasa Jawa, Suparto sering disebut sebagai pejuang pelestarian serta pengembangan atau pembangkitan kembali sastra Jawa. Sejalan dengan itu, buku bahasa Indonesianya juga tetap terbit.

Suparto Brata menulis berita, feature, ulasan, artikel dan cerita fiksi sejak 1952, dimuat di Majalah *Siasat*, *Mimbar Indonesia*, *Indonesia*, *Kisah*, *Seni*, *Buku Kita*, *Sastra*, *Aneka*, *Vista*, *Sarinah*, *Kartini*, *Putri Indonesia*, dan lain-lain. Juga di surat kabar *Surabaya*

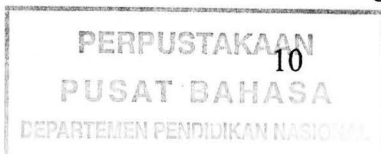
Post, Harian Umum, Suara Rakjat, Pikiran Rakjat, Trompet Masyarakat, Jawa Pos, Sinar Harapan, Indonesia Raya, Kompas, Suara Karya, dan Republika. Hampir semua karya Suparto yang dimuat di majalah/surat kabar dikliping baik.

Suparto menulis dalam bahasa Jawa sejak 1958, dimuat di *Panjebar Semangat, Mekar Sari, Jaya Baya, Djaka Lodang, Jawa Anyar, dan Dharma Nyata.* Suparto juga menulis cerita pendek, novel, drama, naskah sinetron, buku sejarah, dalam bahasa Jawa dan Indonesia.

Beberapa tulisan dikerjakan bersama dan dengan riset, antara lain risalah/proses *Hari Jadi Kota Surabaya* bersama dengan Kolonel Laut Dokter Sugiyarto Tirtoatmojo atas prakarsa dan biaya Pemerintah Kotamadya Surabaya, 1975; *Pertempuran 10 November 1945*, bersama Drs. Aminuddin Kasdi, Drs. Soedjito atas prakarsa dan biaya Panitia Pelestarian Nilai-Nilai Kepahlawanan 10 November 1945 di Surabaya, 1986 (yang diketuai Blegoh Soemarto, Ketua DPRD I Jawa Timur); *Sejarah Pers Jawa Timur*, bersama Drs. Moechtar, Drs. Anshari Thoyib, Soemijatno, Drs. Ssatriadi atas prakarsa dan biaya Serikat Penerbit Surat Kabar (SPS) Jawa Timur, 1987; *Sejarah Panglima-panglima Brawijaya (1945—1990)*, bersama Drs. Nurinhsa, Drs. Wawan Setiawan, Dr. Wuri Sudjatmiko atas prakarsa dan biaya LIPI Jakarta dan Kodam Brawijaya, 1988.

Nama Suparto Brata tercatat dalam *Five Thousand Personalities of the World*, Sixth Edition, 1998, terbitan The American Biographical Institute, Inc, 5126 Bur Oak Circle, P.O.Box 31226, Raleigh, North Carolina 27622 USA, dengan teks sebagai berikut.

BRATA, Suparto oc/Writer, ad/Jl. Rungkut Asri III/12 RL-I-C 17, Surabaya 60293 Indonesia, pa/Story Writer, Public Servant, 1971—1988, * Freelance Journalist, 1967—72, Operator Teleprinter, Government Commerce Office, PDN Djaya Bhakti 1960—67, Government Telegraph Office 1952—60,



ew/Author, *Eye Witness* 1995, *No Other Rice* 1958, Co-Author *The Histories of the Commanders Brawijaya Division* 1988, *The History of the Press in East Java* 1987, *The Battle of Surabaya on November 1945* 1986. Hon/Numerous for Publications

BIOGRAPHY

Suparto Brata was born in Surabaya, 27th of February 1932. His mother belonged to nobility of Surakarta Hadiningrat, thusly Suparto Brata got a nobility title of Raden Mas (R.M.). Yet except her nobility blood, his mother did not have any heritage from her ancestors, and did not have occupational skills. His father was not a noble man, even though his ancestors also originated from Surakarta Hadiningrat, yet he preferred to bringing his family to earn for a living outside of Surakarta Hadiningrat Kingdom, namely in East Java (territory of Dutch Dominion). For years the couple lived in East Java, changed jobs repeatedly, moved to other towns, and gave birth until seven times, yet only the 4th child survived, so the fourth child was raised, schooled, and put into dormitory at catholic school in Malang, separated from his parents. The person who financed his school and dormitory wis a nephew that felt owing kindness to the couple. Obviously, a child in the dormitory was not financed by his father.

Suparto Brata was born as the 8th child of the couple. When Suparto was born, his father did not have a job (malaise period) and did not have a permanent residence; so his mother opted to take the 6 month-old Suparto to Surakarta Hadiningrat, stayed with her uncle. Her (Suparto's mother's) uncle was a prince, his house was large like a palace, and his lifestyle was very closely related to Javanese palace nobility of Surakarta Hadiningrat. Suparto Brata stayed at the palace until he was 6 years old.

And therewith Suparto Brata never lived together with his father.

Suparto since his childhood to adolenscence always followed his mother wherever she went to earn for a living, namely strove to do various jobs such as selling cooked rice, depended on someone else or became a domestic servant for

her rich relatives, moved from one relative to another, different towns. Also due to World War II moving from one job and residence to other ones that she (Suparto's mother) had to do it, looked for a safe life.

Because of war, Suparto followed his mother moved to other places: Solo, Sragen, Surabaya, Probolinggo, and Surabaya again. Her mother livelihood was just being a servant of her rich family. Finally, in Probolinggo in refuge due to Surabaya was occupied by English troops (1945-1947), Suparto and his mother stayed with his elder brother (the 4th Suparto's elder brother, that stayed at a dormitory in Malang. He was 10 years older than Suparto). His elder brother earned for a living, their mother took care of the household, Suparto gave some assistance, and went to school. After Probolinggo was invaded by Dutch soldiers, the small family moved to Surabaya, occupied an empty house that belonged to a family who was evacuating.

Suparto's schooling was recurrently stagnated because of the war. In 1950 he was 18 years old, yet he would have just graduated from Lower Secondary School. Six months before the graduation, his elder brother was schooled by the company he worked for (Phillips) to Eindhoven (Holland), and did not give basic necessities of life again to his mother and younger brother (Suparto). Her mother moved back to Surakarta, stayed at her ancestor noble family. Suparto did not want to follow his mother; particularly he wanted to graduate from Lower Secondary School. Due to he had none to assume liability for his livelihood, Suparto had to earn for a living by himself. At the time he tried to write compositions, yet his compositions were always returned by publishing editorial staffs, improper to be contained in a publication. Suparto livelihood was obtained by delivering newspapers of Djawa Post. He graduated from Lower Secondary School in 1950, due to he did not know his birthday in Christian calendar, his mother could just memorize Javanese day-month-year, hence he made it up by himself and

determined his birthday was 16th October of 1932, written on his school certificate, and furthermore on his identity card for life. And thereupon after having graduated from Lower Secondary School, Suparto earned for a living by himself by working in various jobs, namely in Telegraph Office (1952-1960), in Government Commerce Office of Djaya Bhakti (1960-1967), buying and selling kapok (1967-1969) as well as a freelance journalist and free author untied by any institute (1968-1988), being a public servant of Surabaya City Administration (1971-1988, retired).

In 1952, when he worked in Telegraph Office, his compositions appeared on newspapers. And since at the time, up to now he has never quitted writing. Since a long time ago he has written about anything, free that's untied by any particular institute or publisher, not dependent on kinds of writing, themes, Suparto writes news/articles/photos/fictions. The fictions take form of short stories, and novels, that up to now he has kept on doing it, and published to be books.

In the beginning (1950) Suparto wrote in Indonesian language. In 1958 he won writing a serial story in magazine of *Panjebar Semangat* (in Javanese language), and since then his compositions in Javanese languages appeared repeatedly. In 2007, out of 125 titles of his books, 45 titles of them are in Javanese language. For his writing activities and his books that published in Javanese language, he was awarded Prize of Rancage 3 (three) times, namely year 2000 as Builder of Javanese Language and Literature; year 2001 for his book *Trem/Streetcar* (collection of short stories) which is considered to be best of all publications of Javanese books at the previous year (2000); year 2005 his book *Donyane Wong Culika/Land of the Deceitful People* (novel) also considered to be best at the previous year (2004). Up to now he keeps on writing in Javanese language, so he was also often called as a fighter of preservation and development of resurrection of Javanese Literature (ethnic

local language). Yet his Indonesian books keeps on being published as well.

Suparto Brata wrote news, features, reviews, articles and fiction stories since 1952, contained in publications of *Majalah Siasat*, *Mimbar Indonesia*, *Indonesia*, *Kisah*, *Seni*, *Buku Kita*, *Sastra*, *Aneka*, *Vista*, *Sarinah*, *Kartini*, *Putri Indonesia*, and others; as well as in Newspapers of *Surabaya Post*, *Harian Umum*, *Suara Rakyat*, *Pikiran Rakyat*, *Trompet Masyarakat*, *Jawa Pos*, *Sinar Harapan*, *Indonesia Raya*, *Kompas*, *Suara Karya*, *Republika*. Almost all of them that have ever been contained in magazines/newspapers have been well clipped.

Writing Javanese language since 1958 contained in *Panjebar Semangat*, *Mekar Sari*, *Jaya Baya*, *Djaka Lodang*, *Jawa Anyar*, *Dharma Nyata*.

Writing short stories, novels, drama, manuscript of electronic cinema, history books, in Javanese and Indonesia Languages.

Several writings were cooperatively done and by means of research, among others are treatise/processes of *Surabaya Anniversary*, jointly with marine colonel Doctor Sugiyarto Tirtoatmojo, team of research and book writing initiated and financed by Surabaya Municipal Administration, 1975; *The Battle of Surabaya on 10th of November 1945*, jointly with Drs. Aminuddin Kasdi, Drs. Soedjito (the team was initiated and financed by Team of heroism value preservation of 10th November 1945 in Surabaya, 1986, chaired by Blegoh Sumarto, the chairman of East-Java Provincial Representative Assembly); *History of East-Java Press*, jointly with Drs. Moechtar, Drs. Anshary Thoyib, Soemijatno, Drs. Issatriadi, initiated and financed by Newspaper Publisher Association (SPS) of East Java, 1987; *History of Brawijaya Commanders (1945-1990)* jointly with Drs. Nurinwa, Drs. Wawan Setiawan, Dr. Wuri Sudjatmiko, initiated and financed by The Indonesian Academy of Sciences of Jakarta and Brawijaya Regional Military Command, 1988.

Name of Suparto Brata has been recorded in the book of *Five Thousand Personalities of the World*, Sixth Edition, 1988, published by The American Biographical Institute, Inc., 5126 Bur Oak Circle, P.O.Box 31226, Raleigh, North Carolina 27622 USA, with text as follows:

BRATA, Suparto, oc/Writer, ad/Jl. Rungkut Asri III/12 RL-I-C 17 Surabaya 60293 Indonesia, Public Servant, 1971-1988, Freelance Journalist, 1967-72, Teleprinter Operator Government Commerce Office, PDN Djaya Bhakti 1960-1967, Government Telegraph Office 1952-1960, cw/Author, *Eye Witness*, 1995, *No Other Rice*, 1958, co-author of *The History of Brawijaya Division Commanders*, 1988, *The History of Press in East Java* 1987, *The Battle of Surabaya on November 1945*, 1986. Hon/numerous Awards for Publications.

Karya/Works

Tak Ada Nasi Lain (1958)
Si Gadis Datang (drama) (1958)
Cinta dan Pengharganya (drama) (1958)
Kaum Republik (1959)
Tanpa Tlacak (1959)
Kaum Republik (drama) (1960)
Katresnan Kang Angker (1961)
Pethite Nyai Blorong (1962)
Emprit Abuntut Bedbug (1962)
Kaduk Wani (1962)
Kena Pulut (1963)
Mulai dengan Senyum (1963)
Kadurakan ing Kidul Dringu (1963)
Titisan Sepata (1964)
Tretes Tintrim (1964)
Asmarani (1964)
Pawestri Telu (1964)
Sanja Sangu Trebela (1964)
Sala Lelimengan (1965)
Guru Sangtanu (1966)
November Abang (1965)
Jaring Kalamangga (1966)
Patriot-Patriot Kasmaran (1966)
Lintang Panjer Sore (1966)
Dinamit (1966)
Pendekar Banjaragam (1966—1967)
Gempar Djojocoroko (1967)
Clurit Bataputih (1967)
Nyawa (1967)
Gempur-Gempuran di Lereng Lawu (1968)
Asmara Terpendam (1968)
Bidadari Cemasewu (1968)

Kucing Item Tergencet (1968)
Luwih Becik Neraka (1970)
Dlemok-Dlemok Ireng (1971)
Dom Sumuruping Banyu (1971)
Bertamu (1971)
Orang Baru (1972)
Asia No Yoi Kodomo (1972)
Cover Story (1973)
Karya Sastra (1979)
Menjepret Hantu (1981)
Pasien Terakhir (1982)
Penganten Baru (1983)
Saksi dari Menara (1983)
Laki-laki Pergi Sendiri (1983)
Dendam Kesumat (1988)
Limau Walikota (1989)
Pangilon Sang Walikota (1990)
Empat (1991)
Kereta Jenazah (1992)
Paman Dobleng Vs Mbah Jambrot (1994)
Perempuan (2002)
Jemini (1972)
Jaring Kalamangga (1972)
Malam Pengantin (1972)
Fantasi (1972)
Asap Hitam (1972)
Sang Ajudan (1973)
Bibit Dimantren (1973)
Kepelet (1973)
Surabaya Tumpah Darahku (1973, 1978)
Garuda Putih (1974)
Sisa-Sisa Kemarin (1974)
Ngingu Kutuk Ing Suwakan (1974)
Hari Jadi Kota Surabaya (1975)
Gila di Abun-Abun (1975)

Harimau Mati Meninggalkan Belang (1975, 1978)
Oh, Surabaya (1975)
Damarwulan (1976)
Mata-Mata (1976)
Sayembara di Mamenang (1976, 1977)
Ali Baba (1977)
Rembulan Kasmaran (1977)
Hisaplah Maduku, Lalu Campakan (1977)
Terjerat Buih Pantai Selatan (1977)
Hancurkanlah Pasukan Tartar itu (1978)
Rembulan Kasmaran (1978, 1980)
Generasi Yang Hilang (1979, 1980)
Panji Gandrung Anggraeni (1979, 1981)
Kota Angin Tercinta (1979, 1987)
Donyane Wong Culika (1979, 2004)
Jatuh Bangun Bersama Sastra Jawa (1980, 1982)
Kunanti di Selat Bali (1980, 1981)
Pacarku di Bis Kota (1981, 1995)
Kekenesan Partiyem (1981, 1985)
Memperebutkan Pusaka Jenggala (1982)
Surabaya No Monogatari (1983)
Sugriwo Subali (1983)
Nona Sekretaris (1983, 1984)
November Merah (1984)
Pahlawan November (1985)
Membakar Surabaya (1986)
Geger Jayacaraka (1986)
Pertempuran 10 November 1945 (1985)
Di Mana Kamu, Yusman? (1988)
Dokoh Jantung Hati (1988—1989)
Sejarah Pers Jawa Timur (1988)
Sejarah Panglima-Panglima Brawijaya (1988)
Buron Papat (1989)
Membakar Surabaya (1989)
Tokoh Hitam Putih (1989)

Iklan (1989)
Pacar Si Udin (1989)
Saputangan Gambar Naga (1990, 2003)
'tSpookhuis (1990, 1991)
Mencari Sarang Angin (1991, 2004)
Kunarpa Tan Bisa Kandha (1991, 1992)
Detektif (1991)
Gadis Tangsi (1991)
Terjebak di Monitor (1991)
Astirin Mbalela (1992)
Aurora, Sang Pengantin (1992, 2003)
Dahuru Ing Loji Kepencil (1993)
Trem (1993, 2000)
Surabaya, Di sanalah Aku Berdiri (1994)
Kremil (1995, 2002)
Solo Gelap Gulita (1995)
Buku Harian Seorang Perwira (1995)
Clemang-Clemon (1996)
Saksi Mata (1995, 2002)
Dinamit (1996)
Teyi Si Tegar Hati (1996)
Pariwara Mini (1999)
Pacare Udin (1999)
Bekasi Remang-Remang (2000)
Lelakone Si Lan Man (2003)
Lelakone Si Lan Man (2005)
Interogasi (2001)
Keluwarga Pejuwang (2002)
Srawungku Karo Sastra Jawa (2002)
Gadis Tangsi (2004)
Kerajaan Raminem (2006)
Mahligai Di Ufuk Timur (2003)
Republik Jungkir Balik (2005)
Suparto Brata's Omnibus (Jawa) (2005)
Cintrong Traju Papat (2006)

Ser! Ser! Plong! (2005)

Cocak Nguntal Elo (2005)

Mbok Randha Saka Jogja (2006)

Kelangan Satang (2006)

**Cuplikan Novel *Saksi Mata*,
Penerbit Buku Kompas, Januari 2002, 432 halaman**

Halaman 87—88:

“Tentu saja aku tidak bercerita. Ini perkawinan rahasia, perkawinan gelap! Tetapi direstui oleh Kanjeng Rama! Kami menikah resmi!” ujar *Ndrajeng* Rumsari.

“Kalau resmi, direstui orangtua, mengapa gelap? Mengapa rahasia?” tanya Kuntara, anak lelaki umur 12 tahun itu memandanginya sangat dekat wajah Rumsari.

“Gelap dan rahasia, karena aku dan Mas Wiradad harus berpisah, pernikahan kami harus dirahasiakan! Kalau tidak, Mas Wiradad dan mungkin Kanjeng Rama, bisa hancur, mati tersiksa di *Kenpeital*!”

“Mengapa demikian, Bulik?” tanya Kuntara. Kepada *Ndrajeng* Rumsari dia selalu memanggilnya ‘*Bulik*’.

“Karena Tuan Ichiro Nishizumi jatuh cinta kepadaku!”

“Heh?! Tuan Ichiro dewa penolong Anda itu?”

“Ya, Dimas, yaaa! Dia itu orang yang sangat berkuasa di *Solo-kochi* (Kerajaan Surakarta—Pen.) sana,” kisah Rumsari selanjutnya. “Kekuasaannya inilah yang membuat dia berkenalan dengan para pangeran, berkenalan dan bersahabat dengan Kanjeng Rama, bebas masuk ke Istana Prabukencanan, rumahku, dan jatuh cinta kepadaku! Padahal aku sudah bertunangan dengan Mas Wiradad, cucu Widanegaran. Kami memang jarang bertemu, karena Mas Wiradad telah bekerja di pabrik senjata di Batu Jamus, tempatnya tersembunyi di lereng utara Gunung Lawu. Dua minggu sekali, bahkan sebulan sekali, baru kami bisa bertemu. Dan melihat gelagat Tuan Ichiro yang tidak menguntungkan terhadap hubunganku dengan Mas Wiradad, Kanjeng Rama pun mengusulkan agar kami menikah saja, dan aku diboyong ke rumah Mas Wiradad, entah di Batu Jamus, atau di Wirengan, tempat orangtua Mas Wiradad. Dan

dengan begitu, terhindarlah aku dari malapetaka kegandrungan Tuan Ichiro kepadaku. Usaha penyelamatan telah diusahakan, nasibku lagi malang. Sehari sebelum pernikahan, Kanjeng Rama dengan maksud baik memberi tahu dan mengundang Tuan Ichiro untuk menyaksikan ijab kabul pernikahan kami. Pada waktu itu, keadaan rumah tangga Kanjeng Rama, seperti halnya rumah tangga para kerabat Keraton Kasunanan lainnya setelah pendudukan Dai Nippon, suram sekali. Jadi untuk menikahkan aku, akan dilaksanakan sederhana saja. Jadi persiapan upacaranya pun hampir tak ada istimewanya dari keadaan sehari-hari. Ternyata Tuan Ichiro marah sekali. Langsung membentak-bentak Kanjeng Rama. Kanjeng Rama, aku, dan Mas Wiradad yang kebetulan datang melihat persiapan, dimasukkan ke bilik Kanjeng Rama. Di situ Tuan Ichiro mengumpat habis-habisan memarahi kami. Bahkan Mas Wiradad dipukuli. Kami dianggap mengkhianati perwira Nippon itu. Bukankah dia sudah menyatakan maksudnya, menikahi aku? Dan besok akan dibawa pulang ke Nippon apabila perang usai. Mengapa sekarang aku dinikahkan? Tidak boleh! Pernikahan harus batal!

Kalau tidak, awas, Kanjeng Rama dan Mas Wiradad akan diseret ke *Kenpeitai*. Itu terjadi tanggal 12 Juni 2604, hari Jumat Kliwon, aku ingat benar. Meskipun keadaan kami telah luluh lantak, namun Kanjeng Rama, Mas Wiradad, tetap saja melaksanakan niatnya menikahkan aku dengan Mas Wiradad. Sebab menurut pikiran kami waktu itu, betapa pun juga lebih baik aku menikah dengan Mas Wiradad daripada dengan orang Nippon! Pernikahan kami laksanakan keesokan harinya, sesuai rencana, namun dengan bersembunyi-sembunyi di kamarku. Setelah menikah aku dilarikan ke Wirengan. Bermalam di sana semalam, telah disusul utusan Kanjeng Rama, supaya cepat pulang. Mas Wiradad disuruh bersembunyi. Sampai di rumah, kulihat Tuan Ichiro sudah menghadang di pendapa dengan senyum gembira. Mengabarkan bahwa aku akan diboyong ke Surabaya hari itu juga! Kanjeng Rama dan orang di rumah tidak

mengabarkan kepada Tuan Ichiro, bahwa sebenarnya aku telah bersuami dan waktu itu ikut ke rumah suamiku. Aku hanya dikabarkan sedang bermain di rumah teman di Wirengan. Dan, begitulah, keesokan harinya aku telah sampai di Surabaya, menginap di Van Riebeecklaan. Oh, Dimas, kau harus percaya, ini cerita sesungguhnya!”

**Excerpt from novel *Eye Witness (Saksi Mata)*
Kompas Book Publisher Jakarta, January 2002, 432 pages**

Pages 87 – 88:

“Of course, I do not tell about it. It’s a secret marriage, stealthy marriage! But it’s blessed by Father! We officially got married!” Said Ndrajeng Rumsari.

“If it’s legitimate, blessed by parents, why must it be stealthy? Why must it be secret?” asked Kuntoro, the 12 year-old watched very closely at Rumsari face.

“Stealthy and secret, because I and Brother Wiradad must be separated, our marriage must be secretly kept! Otherwise, Brother Wiradad and maybe Father, can be ruined, tortured to death in *Kenpeitai*!”

“Why is it, Auntie?” asked Kuntoro. He always addressed Ndrajeng Rumsari ‘Auntie’.

“Because Mr. Ichiro falls in love with me!”

“Heh?! Mr. Ichiro your savior?”

“Yeah, Younger Brother, yaaa! He is very powerful man in *Solo-kochi* (Surakarta Kingdom),” she continued her story. “His power that has made him get acquainted with princes, get acquainted and befriended with Father, has free access to Prabukencanan’s Palace, my house, and fell in love with me! Where as I had got engaged with Brother Wiradad, grandson of Widanegaran. Indeed, we rarely met, because Brother Wiradad has worked at a weapon factory in Batu Jamus, it is hidden on the North Slope of Lawu Mount. We met fortnightly and even once in a month. And in view of Mr. Ichiro’s unfavorable indications towards my relationship with Brother Wiradad, Father suggested us to get married, and I would be moved to Brother Wiradad’s house, maybe in Batu Jamus, or in Wirengan, residence of Brother Wiradad’s house. In this way, I get rid of disaster of Mr. Ichiro’s infatuation to me. Rescue efforts had

been carried out, I was unlucky. A day before the wedding, Father with a good intention informed and invited Mr. Ichiro to witness our marriage oath. At the time, situations of Father's household, just like other relatives of Principality Palace after occupation of Dai Nippon, very gloomy. So my wedding would be unpretentiously carried out. Hence the ceremony preparation was almost nothing special relative to daily conditions. Really, Mr. Ichiro got very angry, instantaneously he snapped at Father. Father, I and Brother Wiradad, that coincidentally came to look at the preparation entered into Father's room. There, Mr. Ichiro cursed angrily at us. Even Brother Wiradad was beaten. We were considered betraying the Nippon officer. He had told about his intention to marry me, hadn't he? And I would be taken back to Nippon when the war was over. Why I get married with someone else now? It mustn't be done! The marriage must be cancelled!

"Otherwise, watch out, Father and Brother Wiradad are going to be dragged to *Kenpeitai*. It occurred on 12th June 1944, it was Kliwon Friday, and I really remembered it well. Although we had been devastated, yet Father, Brother Wiradad, insisted on his intention to marry me to Brother Wiradad. Because according to our thought at the time, however I'd better get married with Brother Wiradad rather than with the Nippon man! Our wedding was held on the following day, as planned, yet stealthily in my room. Having got married, I was fled to Wirengan. Staying there overnight, I had been caught up by Father's messenger, told me to go home quickly. Having arrived at home, I saw Mr. Ichiro had waited for me in an audience hall smilingly. He let me know that I would be moved to Surabaya that day! Father and everyone at home did not tell Mr. Ichiro that I had got married and at the time I stayed at my husband's house in Wirengan. And, thusly, on the following day I had arrived in Surabaya, stayed overnight in Van Riebeecklaan-street. Oh, Younger Brother, you must believe in it, it is a true story!"

Pages 97 – 98:

“Yeah. For the sake of his longing to me, as well as his desire for revenge to Mr. Ichiro Nishizumi! His arrival today in Surabaya, not only wants to meet me, make love, but also wants to meet Mr. Ichiro, kill him!” said Rumsari while groping Kuntara’s cheek and neck intimately.

“Huh?!” shouted Kuntara, a 12 year-old boy.

“Yeah, Younger Brother. I misreckoned. My long reply letter to Brother Wiradad aimed at softening his intention. I thought it even triggered his hot-tempered acts! Through Father’s letter again, Brother sent a letter that he would flee from Batu Jamus, from Surakarta, to Surabaya. His plan to wipe out the power of Mr. Ichiro that tortured me. My suffering must end, he wrote. He mentioned his arrival schedule in Surabaya Gubeng Station, and I was told to meet him, I was told to prepare a secret welcome, stealthily. And I was told to steal documents of building or office pictures where Mr. Ichiro had better be caught by surprise, waited for and stabbed by Brother Wiradad.”

“How dare he is! It’s a strong will that possessed by an evil spirit!” murmured Kuntara.

“At first I felt afraid, trembling, reading the letter. Yet there’s no time to warn him. And just now when we met, his determination couldn’t be held back anymore. It must be done now, or never at all! He said, if *Kamikaze* troops dared to die flying by crashing their planes to enemy’s ships, why does such determination just belong to *Nippon-jin* only? Spirit of *Kamikaze*, spirit of dare to die, also possessed by Javanese knights!” Rumsari told her story.

Just now, when he caught by surprise Brother Wiradad made love in a bunker with Ndrajeng Rumsari, Kuntara was very envious. Now it has been completely erased, substituted by admiration and respect! No! The man, Wiradad, is not in a rage, not possessed by an evil spirit, yet his action is the best choice,

even though disaster and soul is put at stake. Bravery to act is really admired by Kuntara; admired and respected!

"Where is Brother Wiradad now?"

"Still over there. In the refuge bunker where you watched us make love. I don't know any other place, which's a hiding place that I know. There are three refuge bunkers there. Brother Wiradad can hide and play hide-and-seek in there for the time being."

"Pitiful! Why wasn't he invited here?"

"Impossible! Very dangerous! He is still a fugitive! His disappearance from Batu Jamus and Surakarta Town, of course, persons around me became targets of surveillance. Maybe tomorrow or the day after tomorrow, surely, Mr. Ichiro will urge me to show him where Wiradad is staying. Today I went out of the office to fetch Brother Wiradad; I had gone out of the office not as usual. Perhaps someone was suspicious at me. And if Mr. Ichiro check his goods out, he will find out that some of his documents have lost from the storage place. Who is supposed to be suspected but me?"

"Has Auntie brought documents needed by Brother Wiradad?"

"Yeah. I took it with me in *achtentas*, I handed over to Brother Wiradad just now!"

"Hey! How dare!"

"Yeah, Younger Brother Kun. There're no choices. It is impossible that I do not help Brother Wiradad's intention! I'd better side with him rather than being a *Jugun Ianfu*, a woman who satisfies Mr. Ichiro's passions. My life now is a life for yesterday and today only. There was no earlier yesterday, there will be no tomorrow. Yet with accomplishment of Brother Wiradad's intention, killing Mr. Ichiro, of course, my fate will change, turbulent. Perhaps it will be clearly spread tomorrow."

"If it fails?"

"If it fails, yeah, my life is over. I do not have earlier yesterday, I have no tomorrow. And it is easy to do if I have no today! Nothings to lose!"

"So, tonight, Brother Wiradad is still hiding in refuge bunker in there? What a pity! How is the plan?"

Pages 101 – 103:

"Oh! So Mr. Ichiro is a cruel man just like any other *Nipponb-jin*? My previous idea, he was a kind officer, really cared for Auntie. Auntie is always specially treated, spoiled. So far Auntie has always described him as a kind person, fond of giving apples. Only now Auntie is talking chastising his behaviors. He has given Auntie a job in Surabaya, hasn't he?"

"Mr. Ichiro is really a kind person. He is handsome, his body is slender, and he has polite attitudes. His personality is interesting. Since at the beginning I had been attracted to him and intimately associated with him. Up to now he has still treated like that. In the office I am spoiled. I obtain foods that are allotted for officers as well. In the office I am free to do anything, working, singing, sleeping, taking a shower, eating delicious foods. My obligation is that I must be there every hour. Being a translator is that I like most. Having jokes with other men, even though *Nippon-jin* in the office is strictly forbidden. He is very jealous man. I had ever been instructed to enter into his room, slept with him for hours to serve his anger! Oh, very painful!"

"*Ndrajeng*?! So, so, Auntie was treated the same as a..... woman?" Kuntara did not have the heart to utter the word '*courtesan*'.

"..... like concubiane! Mr. Ichiro's concubine!" Ouch! The term is very rude!

"Oh! Oh! But Auntie is *Ndrajeng* Rumsari. Princess of The Sovereign Prince The Sovereign Prince....!" Kuntara forgot its continuation, he sobbed in tears. "But Auntie are a noble princess, a granddaughter of Javanese Land Queen!"

"Hee, hee, Younger Brother, Kun! Don't cry! Don't cry! I can cry too later" Actually *Ndrajeng* Rumsari had sobbed in tears. She immediately took in Kuntara's head toward her.

"How can Auntie live your life like this?" Kuntara sobbed in her Auntie's neck.

"I have no other living choices! I have to take as it is. A piece of day in the office, a piece of the rest day at home. Oh, I had felt happy with what I had gone through, happy to live my life like this. In the office I am spoiled, here I can exchange jokes as satisfied as we can with you! I have no other choices, so I thank such life journey is the best one for me. Yeah, I make it the best! As a matter of fact, I eat more deliciously than workers of Asko factory do. Better than workers in Rikuyu workshop? I can cheer myself up with such comparisons, provided that I can darken my history of yesterday and furthermore, and decides that there is no hope for tomorrow's life!"

"Auntie Rum is very stout-hearted!" Kuntara had been able to control himself. "How Auntie can cope with such terrible sufferings! In this house, Auntie is always cheerful and telling about situations of Asko life only on the good things!"

"I am really glad, Younger Brother Kun. Not just an outward appearance. Because my life sheet is just a piece of today. There are not other choices. Today I am happier due to I have your love, indeed I love you and you love me! Huh, I am very glad. Come here, do you want to play with my auricles? Just play with it!" Auntie Rum dragged Kuntara's hand to grope her auricles that had earplugs. "I like you grope me like this."

"My mother told me like this. I feel finding the true security and comfort. It was before I could read. After having been able to read, while laying down mother read *macapat*, I slept beside her while observing attentively the reading. It was very delightful hearing stories about Umarmaya, Lamdahur. Another true pleasure!"

"Unfortunately, we can not read together, can't we? The epoch of Great East-Asia war, lamps are not allowed to turn

on; where as we can only meet at night time. But, it can give the real security and pleasure, can't it?" Rumsari cheered up while taking her auricles closer to be more comfortably groped by Kuntara, the 12 year-old boy.

Kuntara inhaled a long breath because he felt touched. "My mother taught me like this after I was weaned, not allowed to breast-feed again."

"So, before then? While still breast-feeding?"

"I breast-fed one, and groped the other."

"Hiik-hiiik! *Crazy!* That's what you wanted, hihik! Here it is! If it is that you like! Grope it!" and Kuntara's hand was dragged away from the auricle, moved to the other place!

*

Translated by Untung Subagyo.

**Cuplikan novel *Gadis Tangsi*.
Penerbit Buku *Kompas*, Februari 2004, 327 halaman.**

Halaman 174—175

“Kamu juga sudah bisa mengenakan kain dan kebaya sendiri. Kamu tinggal belajar merawat dan menata rambutmu. *Ngadi Busana* baru sempurna kalau kamu bisa menyanggul rambutmu sendiri. Ubahlah bentuk sanggul rambutmu. Jangan kaubiarkan terurai begitu saja. Kalau berantakan seperti itu, sekalipun mengenakan pakaian bagus, engkau tetap akan seperti Srikandhi edan dalam wayang wong di Sriwedari.”

Karena digembleng hampir tiap hari, dan Teyi sendiri punya tekad besar untuk menjadi perempuan Jawa dari kerajaan Surakarta Hadiningrat, maka belum genap setahun ia telah mampu mengerjakan semua yang diajarkan oleh Putri Parasi.

“Sebenarnya aku sudah ingin sekali mengajakmu pulang ke Negeri Surakarta. Sayang cuti *Kangmas* Sarjubehi masih agak lama. Aku sendiri juga sudah berjanji pada diri sendiri untuk tidak kembali ke Jawa setidaknya selama empat tahun. Sakit maupun sehat akan kujalani hidupku seperti apa adanya seorang istri prajurit kumpeni di Tangsi Lorong Belawan di Medan sini. Jadi, sabar dulu, ya, Teyi. Tunggulah kira-kira dua-tiga tahun lagi, “ujar Putri Parasi, seorang putri bangsawan Surakarta Hadiningrat yang jadi istri prajurit kumpeni di Medan. Beliau nekad mengikuti suami ke Medan, karena selama remajanya di istananya di Surakarta sakit-sakitan. Tidak kerasan lagi di Istana, karena meskipun bangsawan, kaya, berkuasa, tapi sakit-sakitan.

“Dua tahun lagi kamu sudah lebih dewasa. Kalau jadi berkunjung ke Surakarta, nanti aku carikan jodoh putra bangsawan di sana. Kamu pantas mendapatkannya. Kamu jangan tergesa dan mau dinikahkan dengan orang kebanyakan di sini, dinikahkan dengan prajurit muda di tangsi, ya, Teyi.

Jodohmu bukan orang kebanyakan lagi, melainkan yang berdarah bangsawan.

“Di Kerajaan Surakarta, cita-cita seorang ibu atau perempuan adalah mendapatkan *wahyu*, yaitu mendapatkan anak atau keturunan dari orang yang berdarah bangsawan. Satu-satunya cara untuk mendapatkan keturunan orang yang berkelas adalah dengan memperoleh *wahyu* dari laki-laki bangsawan. Anak perawan yang sudah terdidik budi pekerti serta tata kramanya seperti kamu, termasuk yang paling berhak mendapatkan putra mahkota sekalipun. *Jinunjung saking ngandhap, sinengkakaken ing ngaluhur*, (diangkat oleh orang-orang bawahan, dikehendaki para atasan. Pen) kata orang keraton sana. Aku yakin begitu, Teyi. Kamu juga masih perlu baju kebaya untuk pakaian sehari-hari di luar istana. Baju bajuku masih terlalu longgar buat kamu. Dua tahun lagi tubuhmu tentu akan menjadi lebih besar, dan baju-baju itu bisa kamu pakai. Atau sementara ini aku buatkan saja kebaya baru untukmu.

“*Nun inggih sendika dhawuh, Gusti. Menawi sampun wekdalipun dalem badhe matur dhumateng Simbok kanthi sae-sae. Badhe dalem estokaken dhawuh jengandika dalem Gusti,*” (Iya, Gusti. Jika sudah waktunya saya akan bilang kepada Simbok dengan baik-baik. Akan saya patuhi pesan Tuan, Gusti. Pen.) janji Teyi.

Halaman 213—215:

“eyi,” ujar Putri Parasi pada suatu hari, setelah punya niat mengajar Teyi membaca dan menulis, “aku berhasrat pulang cuti ke Surakarta membawa kamu. Aku kepengin memamerkan kamu kepada para bangsawan dan masyarakat kota kerajaan itu sebagai gadis didikanku. Aku yakin kamu sudah siap mendapatkan *wahyu*, *jinunjung saking ngandhap lan sinengkakaken ing ngaluhur*, mendapatkan putra bangsawan yang akan menurunkan anakmu. Cara seorang perempuan Jawa meningkatkan martabat keturunannya adalah dengan mendapatkan *bibit* lelaki bangsawan yang lebih tinggi derajatnya.

Banyak anak perawan saudagar kaya-raya di Nglaweyan, tapi orang kebanyakan, berupaya dinikahi seorang Ndara Bei yang derajat kebangsawanannya tinggi, sekalipun sudah tua-renta. Itu pula niatku pulang cuti ke Surakarta membawa kamu, agar kamu mendapatkan *wahyu*. Lengkapnya kamu *jinunjung saking ngandhap lan sinengkakaken ing ngalubur* untuk mendapatkan *wahyu*, walaupun masa kunjungan itu hanya sebulan. Ya, memang masa yang sangat singkat untuk menarik perhatian seorang bangsawan tinggi untuk mempergatkan kamu. Namun tetap besar harapanku kamu bisa menemukan seorang pangeran yang akan menjadi ayah bagi anak-anakmu. Pergaulanku dengan para pangeran di sana cukup akrab. Karena itu kamu jangan dulu mau dikawinkan dengan orang sembarangan di sini, ya. Kamu harus bertahan tidak menikah sampai aku bawa cuti ke Surakarta Hadiningrat.”

“Hamba akan berusaha *ngestokaken dhawuh nandalem, Gusti*, (melakukan apa pesan Tuan. Pen.) Tapi, apakah di Kerajaan Surakarta masih banyak bangsawan muda atau jejak yang masih bertahan tidak mengambil istri, Gusti?”

“Ah, kamu jangan memikirkan tentang kemudahan atau belum beristri. Yang penting putra bangsawan tinggi. Meskipun sudah beristri dan sudah tua, kalau bangsawan tinggi bisa memberi keturunan anak kepadamu, itu anugerah, itu *wahyu*. Keturunanmu akan mewarisi darah bitu. Itu anugerah yang paling diburu-buru oleh perempuan di Negeri Surakarta Hadiningrat. Jangan berkecil hati dahulu, aku punya kerabat bangsawan tertinggi di masyarakat Keraton Surakarta. Kamu, sebagai perawan didikanku, kuharapkan bisa mendapat *wahyu* itu.”

“*Kesinggihan dhawuh paduka, Gusti*,” sembah Teyi. “Apakah putri bangsawan tinggi di sana tidak jadi rebutan para jejak awam, Gusti? Sebab putranya bukankah juga berdarah biru?”

“Tentu saja, Teyi. Tentu saja banyak yang menikah dengan lelaki yang derajat kebangsawanannya lebih

rendah. Namun sekarang ada syarat yang bersifat mutlak Lelaki yang menikahi putri kerabat raja harus sudah punya selir dan punya anak. Begitulah aturannya. Jadi soal lelaki muda atau jelek bukan penting lagi dalam perkawinan para bangsawan, baik bangsawan laki-laki maupun perempuan. Bahkan untuk yang perempuan, lelaki yang awam harus sudah punya anak yang sah lahir dari selirnya atau perempuan lain. Kamu jangan berpikir soal pangeran yang masih muda atau belum beristri.”

**Excerpt from novel *Barack's Girl (Gadis Tangsi)*
Kompas Book Publisher, February 2004, 327 pages**

Pages 174-175

You have been able to wear clothles and kebaya (ladies' upper wear with long sleeves) too. You just need to take care of and arrange your hair. Getting dressed will be perfect if you can knot your hair by yourself. Change appearance of your hair's knot. Don't let it hang look like that. If it is messy like that, although you're wearning fine clothes, you will remain just like a crazy heroine in traditional Javanese stage show of Sriwedari."

Because she was thoughtfully educated about everyday, and Teyi herself had strong determination to be a Javanese woman from Surakarta Hadiningrat Kingdom, so in less than a year she had been able to do all that have taught by Princess Parasi.

"Actually I have wanted to ask you to go with me to Surakarta Land. Unfortunate my husband Sarjubehi, and I myself, have promised not to come back to Java at least for four years. Sick or healthy I will lead my life just as it is, as a wife of a Dutch East Indies soldier in Barrack of Lorong Belewan in Medan, here. So, please be patient, yeah, Teyi. Wait for another two-three years," said Princess Parasi, a noble princess of Surakarta Hadiningrat who became a wife of Dutch East Indies soldier in Medan. She was determined to follow her husband to Medan. Due to during her adolescence in her palace of Surakarta, she was repeatedly sick. Getting bored to be at home, although she was a noble girl, rich, authoritative, but repeatedly ill.

"In another two years you will have been more adult. If we visit Surakarta, I will find a prince as your husband there. You deserve it. Don't hurry up to get married with a commoner

here, married with a young soldier in barrackm yeah, Teyi. Your marriage partner is not a commoner, instead a noble person.

“In Surakarta Kingdom, ideal of a mother or woman is getting a *revelation* namely getting children or descendants from aristocrats. The only way to get descendants of aristocrats is by getting *revelations* of noble men. A girl that has been educated on manners and etiquette like you, include in the most eligible one even to get a Crown Prince. The palace persons, there, said *respected by subordinates, wanted by superior*. I am sure about it, Teyi. You also still need kebaya for daily clothes outside of the palace. My clothes are still too loose for you. In two-year’s time, surely your body will be bigger, and you can wear the clothes. Or for the time being I can make a new kebaya for you.”

“Yes, Princess. When the time has come, I will tell my mother about it well. I will obey Your Highness’ messages,” promised Teyi.

Pages 213-215:

“Teyi,” said Princess Parasi one day, after having intention to teach Teyi read and write, “I want to come back to Surakarta with you. I want to show you to aristocrats and society of the Kingdom City as my educated girl. I am sure you have been ready to get *revelatoin, raised from the bottom and placed at the top*, get an aristocrat that will descend you children. A way for a Javanese woman to improve her descendent dignity is by getting aristocrat seed that has figher degree. There are a lot of rich large-scale merchants’ girls in Ngkaweyan, but commoners, striving to be married by a Ndara Bei who has a degree of nobility, even though he is been very old. That’s my intention to go home on leave to Surakarta with you, in order that you get *Revelation*. Thoroufhly you are *raised from the bottom and placed at the top* to get the *revelation*, even though the visit period in just a month. Yeah, it is a very short time to attract an aritocrat’s attention to you. Yet, I keep on having such great intention to

find a prince that will become a father for your children. My socialization with princes there is very chummy. So, please don't get married to a commoner until I take you on a leave to Surakarta Hadiningrat."

"I will strive to obey your messages, Princess. Yet, are there still lots of young bachelors or aristocrats in their celibacy, Princess?"

"Ah, don't think about the easiness or celibacy. The most important thing is a son of a high aristocrat. Even though having got a wife or been old, if a high aristocrat can descend children to you, it's a Gift; it's a revelation. Your descendants will inherit blue blood. It is a gift that most hunted by girls in the Land of Surakarta Hadiningrat. Don't be discouraged first. I have the highest aristocrat relative in society of Surakarta Palace. You, as my educated girl, I wish that you can get the *revelation*."

"Yes, I will always obey, Princess," said Teyi. "Are high aristocrat princes striven to be snatched away by common bachelors, Princess? Because the men also have blue blood?"

"Of course, Teyi. Surely lots of them got married with men whose nobility is lower. Yet, now there is an absolute requirement that a man that get married to a princess of king's relative must have got mistress and children. That's the rule. So young man or bachelor doesn't matter anymore in aristocrat marriages, both male and female aristocrats. Even for female aristocrats, common man must have got a child legitimately born by his mistress or another woman. Don't you think about a young or unmarried prince."

Translated by Untung Subagyo.

Dewan Juri Pemilihan Sastrawan Indonesia
Penerima Hadiah Sastra Asia Tenggara 2007
Panel for the Selection of the Indonesia Awardee
of The S.E.A. Write Awards 2007

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