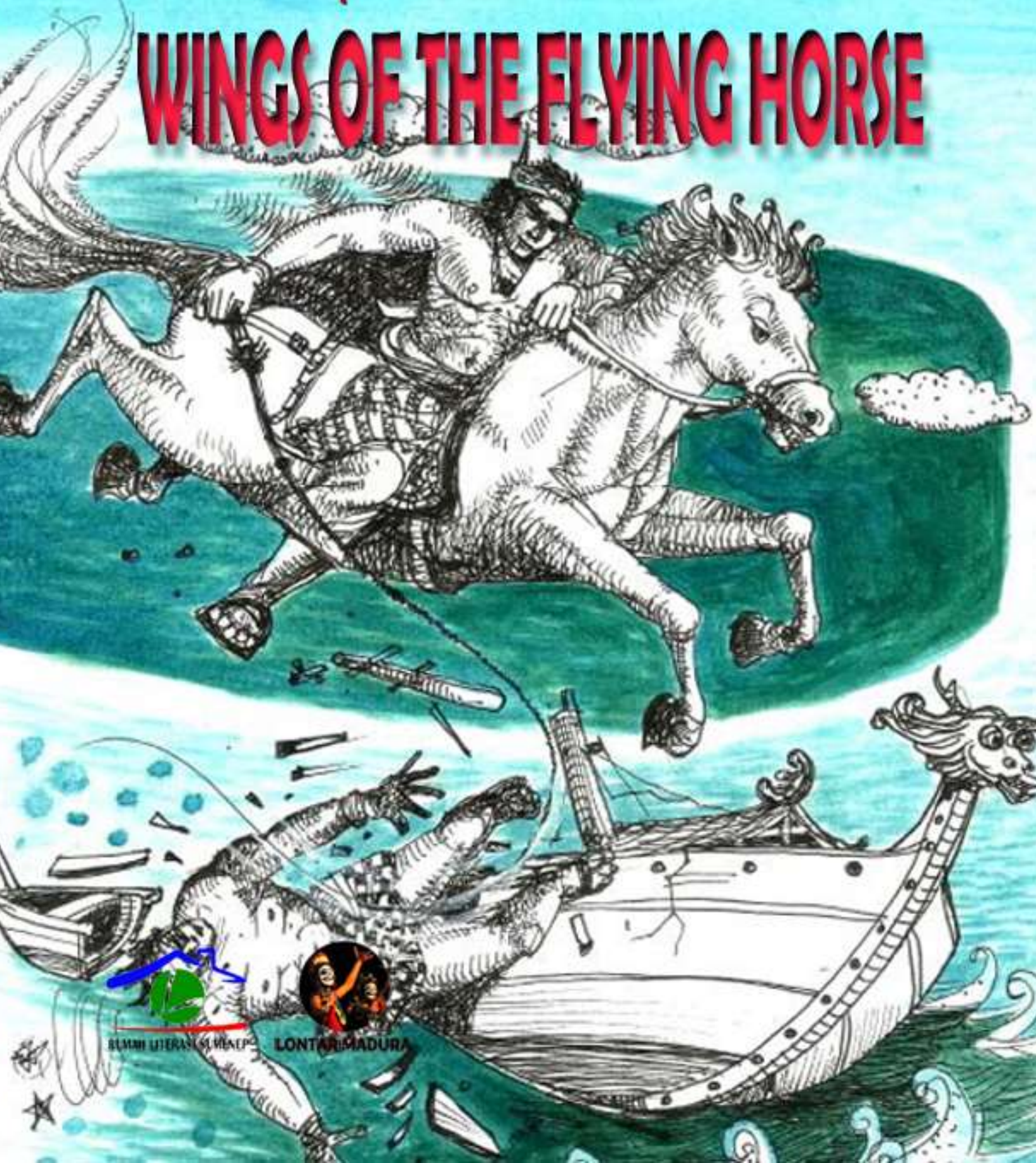


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WINGS OF THE FLYING HORSE



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WINGS OF THE FLYING HORSE

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Natives of Sumenep have learnt the legend of Jokotole by heart. They cherish the excessively dramatic and heroic story that is rich in misteries. The legend has been recounted from one generation to the next that one needs to retell the story in a more exciting way and make it into a book so that the next generation will never forget the important pieces in the early days of Sumenep.

Jokotole was born to a beautiful golden-skinned princess who lived in seclusion to meditate. In her solitude, she was only accompanied by a lady-in-waiting who served as her personal attendant. One night, during her meditation, the princess fell asleep in the middle of pitch darkness, under the stars that constantly twinkled. She dreamed about a brawny and handsome gentleman.

The beautiful princess was Princess Saini (Raden Ayu Potre Koneng), the daughter of Wagung Rukyat who held the title King Secadiningrat. She was also the great granddaughter of Prince Bukabu from Bukabu, Ambunten, Sumenep. The strong and good looking gentleman who came in her dream was later known as Adi Poday (King Sumenep XII). He was an eremite who lived on Mount Gegger. He was the son of Panembahan Balinge (who had two sons named Adi Poday and Adi Rasa).

The feeling of uneasiness about the man in her dream made Princess Pottre Koneng nervous. She then stopped meditating and went home. She told her lady-in-waiting about the dream in tears; the feeling of anxiety kept haunting her. Strange and seemingly inexplicable thing happened to

the princess' body; her belly inevitably got bigger and bigger as the days passed; she soon realized that she got pregnant.

Days went by, month after month, her physical appearance had noticeably changed that she and her lady-in-waiting could no longer conceal her pregnancy from her father, King Seccadiningrat. The king finally discovered her daughter's pregnancy and was furious about it. He scolded her and asked who on earth dared to make his daughter pregnant. Nevertheless, the king could not broad-mindedly accept his daughter's explanation about how she became pregnant.

King Seccadiningrat was ready to give her daughter a punishment. He was so angry that what happened to her daughter had tarnished the family's reputation. The rumor about Princess Pottre Koneng's pregnancy had widely circulated among the people, including those who lived in the court. The king intended to give her the punishment of death.

To conceal the disgrace, Princess Pottre Koneng was exiled into the middle of a forest by the king's royal guards to escape from the king's rage. During her exile, Princess Putre Koneng gave birth to a sweet and adorable baby.

In the midst of happiness following the birth of her son, feelings of guilt emerged within her disconcertment. She had a baby out of wedlock. After her son was born, she was concerned that, if she brought the baby to the court, his father would punish her. Therefore, she decided to leave her baby in the forest.

In the middle of the forest, the baby weakly cried, unable to quench his thirst. Fortunately, a female buffalo came and fed him its milk. The buffalo regularly visited and fed the baby. It repeatedly left its herd and its owner became curious why it disappeared at certain times. After searching his

buffalo, he found it feeding a baby with its milk. The buffalo owner was Empu Kelleng.

Discovering a baby unattended in the middle of the forest, Empu Kelleng was very happy, puzzled, and found it hard to believe that a baby had been abandoned under a shady tree. He took the baby and carried him affectionately. Empu Kelleng brought the baby home. He and his wife were so happy since they had not had any children. The husband and wife then adopted the baby and named him Jokotole.

Princess Pottre Koneng went back to her secluded cave to meditate, become closer to God. However, not long after her pregnancy and Jokotole's birth, she once more experienced the same phenomenon. She did the same thing to baby whom she just gave birth to. The baby was left in the forest. The baby boy was named Jokowedi.

Returning to Jokotole's story, Jokotole lived through his childhood with great dedication. He was affectionately fostered by his foster father. Empu Kelleng and his wife unwearingly taught him so well so that Jokotole would grow up into a person who devotedly served his parents, community, and country. Since his early age, Jokotole got used to help his father out by, for instance, making farm tools, weapons, and household tools of solid materials such as metal.

Little Jokotole secretly learnt how to make the tools with his own hands whenever Empu Kelleng had a rest. At age six, Jokotole's superiority began to become noticeable. He was able to crush metals with his hands. He could finish making any tool faster and better than his foster father. One particularly famous Jokotole's handicraft was a kris named *Jenengan Pakandangan*.

Noticing that, Empu Kelleng began to think that his fostered son was not just an ordinary person, but a very special one. He loved his fostered son

even more. One day, Empu Kelleng and some blacksmiths were invited by King Brawijaya VII from Majapahit Kingdom. The king commanded them to make the palace's main gate.

Empu Kelleng went to Majapahit. His wife, on the other hand, became worried about his husband's journey. Three years had passed without any word from her husband. She thought that her husband and the other blacksmiths might be very exhausted that the job could not be punctually finished. She then decided to send Jokotole to meet his father.

Jokotole thence departed and passed through the southern coast of Madura Island. Arriving at the coast by Jumiang Village in Pamekasan, Jokotole came across a sorcerous eremit who was none other than his own uncle, Adi Rasa. Adi Rasa meticulously explained about Jokotole's lineage and introduced him to his own little brother, Jokowedi. Adi Rasa also gave Jokotole decent advices, a black winged-horse called Mega Remeng 'the vague cloud', as well as a whip that was a gift from his father, Adi Poday. Jokotole was also instructed about how to summon his uncle whenever he encountered difficulties. Lastly, Adi Rasa gave Jokotole some jasmines to eat as well as the procedure to use his supernatural power. Those lessons would be useful once Jokotole got to Majapahit. To join metals, Jokotole's body must be burnt so that his navel would secrete some silvery tin-like liquid. After that, Jokotole must be poured with clean water to restore his previous condition. Since it would be impossible for Jokotole to do the procedure without help, he had to ask Jokowedi to accompany him.

When Jokotole and Jokowedi arrived at Gresik Regency, the two found an obstruction by being stopped by some guards who watched over the nearby coast. The guards were ordered to bring them to the palace in Gresik. The guards obeyed the order of their king who had a dream that one of the two, either Jokotole or Jokowedi, had to be the king's son in law.

Half-heartedly, the two brothers went to the palace.. The king joyfully welcomed them. Afterward, a reception was held and the king's wish was announced. Jokotole unwillingly consented to the marriage of his little brother and the king of Gresik's daughter, and then continued his journey to Majapahit without company.

Upon his arrival in Majapahit, Jokotole met his foster father. Jokotole wanted to meet King Brawijaya VII. After obtaining permission from his foster father, Jokotole met the King of Majapahit and expressed his intention to build the palace's gate without delay.

With his supernatural power, Jokotole helped the blacksmiths, including his foster father, who had been worn-out and sick due to heatstroke. The gate was enormous and heavy, but thanks to his uncle's guidance, Jokotole was able to set the gate upright and weld it.

After finishing the Majapahit palace's gate, Empu Kelleng and Jokotole asked the king's permission to go home. However, only Empe Kelleng was allowed to go, whereas Jokotole was asked to stay to temporarily work for the king.

For his meritorious service to Majapahit, the king married off Jokotole to the crown princess of Majapahit, Dewi Ratnadi. Dewi Ratnadi was a blind princess. Jokotole was such a well-mannered person that he would obey the king's will. Even though marrying a blind princess, Jokotole accepted her with gratitude and open arms.

After staying in Majapahit for a while, Jokotole asked for the king's permission to go back to Sumenep with his blind wife. Along their journey home, they shared laughter and joy. When the two arrived at a beach, Dewi Ratnadi told her husband that she needed to relieve herself. Since there was no water in that place, Jokotole took his wife's cane and stuck it to the ground and suddenly clear water spurted up. The water hit Dewi Ratnadi's blind

eyes. As the sprinkling of water touched her eyes, Dewi Ratnadi suddenly had her vision back. Filled with gratitude to God, they hugged each other out of happiness. The historical place has been remembered with the name “Socah” (which has also been used as a place name in Bangkalan) that means ‘eye’.

Along their journey, Jokotole and Dewi Ratnadi found many miraculous phenomena. For instance, when they were in Sampang, Dewi Ratnadi wanted to wash her cloth that got dirty because of her period. Her cloth was washed away by the strong stream of the river’s water. The cloth was never found although they had tried hard to find it. Madurese people call the cloth *Ambenan*. Jokotole once said, “Let water never flows from the aquifer in this village.” Since then, the village became waterless and was named *Omben*.

Knowing and recognizing the position of his father who was meditating on Mount Geger, Jokotole went to visit him and asked for his blessing. Jokotole then was told that he would go to war with a warrior and military strategist whose name was Dempo Awang (*Sampo Tua Lang*). He was military commander from China who often showed off his force to kings in Java, Madura, and other neighboring places.

Jokotole then continued his journey to Sumenep in order to meet his mother, Raden Ayu Potre Koneng. He and his wife got a loving welcome from his mother. King Secadiningrat who at the time was the King of Sumenep felt old already. He had a discussion with Jokotole and Adi Poday (his son in law). King Secadiningrat offered his

throne to Adi Poday, but he politely refused with the reason that his father, Panembahan Belingi, was old as well. People in Sepudi Island wished him back to replace his father. King Secadiningrat finally offered Jokotole his throne. Jokotole was unable to refuse, but he made a request to move the government center to Lapa Taman, Dungkek so that it would be closer to the port to Sepudi Island.

Not long after, Jokotole ascended the throne of Sumenep, replacing his grandfather with the title King Secadiningrat III. The event took place in the year 1415, a historical year for Jokotole's life.

Jokotole frequently went around and visited every village within his authority. He once visited Batuputih Laok Village in Batuputih District. At the time, the people there were having a hard time to get clean water. Jokotole's horse then scratched its feet and soon after ground water flowed. The local people named the place *Sumber Tombet*.

During his reign as a king, Jokotole was also involved in a big battle against Dempo Abang, a powerful enemy whose ship was able to sail above the mountain, fly over the treetops and rocky terrain. Dempo Abang was incredibly powerful, but his arrogance had controlled his heart and soul.

In the battle, Jokotole rode his flying horse as instructed by his uncle. When Jokotole was fighting his opponent, he heard his uncle voice that said *pokol* 'hit'; he then strongly hold his horse's straps; when the flying horse raised its front feet, Jokotole lashed Dempo Awang and his ship with his magical whip. Dempo Awang's ship and his troop were destroyed on a place that is now known as Bancaran (*Bâncarlaan*). Dempo Awang's plate fell to Ujung Piring that is now a name of a village in Bangkalan. His ship's anchor fell down to the Socah District.

From this battle, the flying horse with its white wings and his head looking backward and its two front feet raised has become symbol of Sumenep Regency to this day although since working for Majapahit, Jokotole actually had introduced the flying horse symbol through the gates he made.

Jokotole and Dewi Ratnadi had a son and daughter: their son was Raden Arya Wiragananda and their daughter was Raden Bindara Dwiryapadha (Sunan Paddusan)¹. The Sumenep people had a prosperous and peaceful life under Jokotole's leadership. He ruled as the 13th king of Sumenep for 45 years (1415-

-1460). He then passed the throne to his first child, Arya Wigananda (during his reign, the government center was moved to Gapura Village. Jokotole spent his old age meditating and drawing closer to God until his passing in his home in Lapa Taman Village, Dungkek. Jokotole's only message to his son was that when he died, he wanted his body be shouldered using a yoke; the place where the yoke broke would be where he was supposed to be buried. Jokotole's request was completed by his son, Raden Arya Wiragananda. Jokotole's body was laid to rest at a place exactly where the yoke broke, a place called Lanjuk (which means 'yoke') in Sa'asa Village, Manding District, Sumenep Regency.

(Translator) This is a controversial statement. Most references say that Raden Bindara Dwiryapadha was actually the husband of Jokotole's daughter. There has been no clear information about Jokotole's daughter including her name.



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