The Legend of Meriam Keramat

by

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DURING the reign of the Late Sultan Abu Bakar of Johore, His Highness proposed to go to China. When all preparations were ready His Highness with a Royal Retinue proceeded on this venturous journey by sea on board a ship called “Kapal Sayang”. Before reaching China in the middle of the China Sea, Kapal Sayang was attacked by a Sea Dragon. Kapal Sayang was quite a fast ship and soon escaped being molested by the Sea Dragon. Due to this misfortune His Highness ordered the ship to return to Johore. The return journey was along Sekijang and Pulau Buloh. Unknown to His Highness two small cannons followed the ship floating above the water until the ship reached Johore. The ship berthed at Tangga Dewan and the two cannons dropped near the beach.

A month later the two cannons seeming to be husband and wife were blessed with two cannon children, a male and female. His Highness The Late Sultan Abu Bakar was not aware of all this. Soon His Highness made another journey to Europe. His Highness Tunku Mahkota Ibrahim (The Late Sultan Ibrahim) was then Regent of Johore. His Highness came to hear of the two parent cannons and two cannon children. He ordered the four cannons be brought to the Prison compound at Jalan Ayer Molek, Johore Bahru, a distance of one and a half miles. A platoon of the Johore Military Forces personnel were trying to carry the cannons from the beach but they were held fast to the ground and the men were all unable to move the cannons from the beach. His Highness Tunku Mahkota Ibrahim was furious and went down himself to the beach and lifted the cannons one by one so that the rest of the personnel were now able to carry them to the destination aforementioned. But while carrying the cannon children the male cannon child dropped back to the beach into the water and was lost. The next morning the three cannons were found missing.

Tuan Putri Sakti (Anak Perempuan)  Tuan Putri Mayang Mengurai Tanah Jawa (Ibu)
at the Prison Compound and on investigation they were lying on the beach at Tangga Dewan. His Highness Tunku Mahkota Ibrahim ordered the cannons to be brought to the JMF Fort, Bukit Timbalan, with the same procedure of lifting the cannons first by His Highness otherwise the cannons refused to be moved or lifted. When the three cannons were brought to the JMF Fort they were there with no intention of going back to the beach any more. That night His Highness Tunku Mahkota Ibrahim dreamed that an old man with a flowing white beard came to him and told him the story of the cannons. The parent cannons were Syed Mohamed Gunong Bulang and his wife Tuan Putri Mayang Mengurai Tanah Jawa. The two cannons children were Syed Abdullah and Putri Sakti.

The parent cannons when they first came to Johore were small but they grew into two tons of iron and the cannon children now can be seen as big as the parent cannons. The parent cannons with their female child are still seen at Bukit Timbalan while the male child is believed to be at Tanjong Putri close to Tangga Dewan. According to Legend you can still see the child cannon as big as his parent near the beach if you are fortunate enough.

The Malays hold in great respect, the three cannons at Bukit Timbalan. The belief is that the cannon will give a warning of any misfortune to befall the State of Johore or the Johore Royal Family. The warning is in the form of a thunderous booming sound coming from the cannon as if it had been fired with a live shot. It is said that an unbeliever who scoffed at the reputation of the cannons by kicking them with his foot was duly punished and suffered a swollen leg that gave him pain day and night until he asked for forgiveness and poured over his body water that had had been saved after washing the cannon.

The three cannons have been at the old JMF Fort at Bukit Timbalan for over 65 years and no one is able to remove them to other places.