He changed his mind, that noble frog:
True were the words spoken by the Cobra, that war-like paladin.
This vizier of his was really doing all he could to trick him,
Wanting to find fault with the snake.

His Majesty was furious and spoke:
‘Hey, you, vizier, you, old minister!
Don’t you dare to put up all this pretence
And find fault with the young Cobra, that war-like paladin.’

‘I will no longer listen to your advice;
You all are subjects and subordinates.
Don’t you make too many objections,
Or I will dismiss you from the hall.’

The old minister was terrified
When he heard the words of that accomplished king.
His heart was filled with deep melancholy.
Thereupon he left the kings private quarters by the gate.

He wanted to go back to his own house,
Feeling upset, indescribably.
Moreover he had been dismissed from office;
The more he thought of it the more terrified he was.

When he reached the open space surrounding the hall
He met a toad who was a gallant man to behold,
Moreover he had spikes on his back like a moustache,
And walked with a swaggering gait.

He was a minister who was old as well as clever,
His body was covered all over with ulcers.
In strength and daring none was his equal,
He was a courageous war-chief of Pasai descent.

Addressing him the war-chief said:
‘Whither are you going, venerable sir?
You look as if you are a hurry and speak not a word.
What is it that upsets you so?’

‘Whither, sir, do you want to go,
Having been on your way since early morning,
You seem unable to make out any longer where to go;
What is it that you wish to obtain.'
dihampiri menteri berhati ngeri
selaku dekat menghampiri
aduhai saudaraku arif bestari
janggala masuk kiranya ke negeri
hamba ini sudah dimurkai
oleh baginda seri bupati
sepatah sembah hamba maklumi
habislah hamba dikata-katai
demi katak puru menengar kata
hatinya takut lemah anggota
jikalau demikian khabar bertita
beta pun takut menghadap sang nata
adapun niat beta sendiri
hendak menghadap mahkota negeri
menengar baginda merendahkan diri
kepada tedung ular pencuri
karena baginda membuat paksah
menyuruhkan rakyat ke tedung bisa
jika dimakan tedung sentiasa
akhirnya negeri habislah binasa
[f.6v]
maksudnya beta dengan tawakal
baginda ini hendak kuberi akal
supaya martabat bertambah kekal
apakah faedahnya jika disangkal
apalah zadinya kalau tak berguna
tedung nin pandai membuat pesona
sebabkan dia empunya bencana
seini negeri tentulah fana
sekarang apa kehendak dikata
baginda ini tak mau menengar kata
jikalau kita berbanyak kata
akhirnya kita juga dimista
baginda ini tidak menaruh pikiran
tanda nin hampir akhir zaman
hairan sangat kepada pendapatan
ular dan katak menjadi taulan
baginda seorang empunya termasa
rakyat sekalian jadi binasa
tidak tersadar ketika dan masa
ia nin juga demikian merasa

When he drew near the vizier was terrified;
it was as if he was coming up close to him.
‘You, my brother, who are wise and accomplished,
Pray, do not enter the kingdom.’

‘Your servant has already incurred the wrath
of His Majesty, that most illustrious ruler.
Your servant laud hardly uttered a few words.
Or he was already showered with abuse by him.’

When the ulcerated toad heard him speak these words
Fear filled his heart and all strength drained from his limbs:
‘If that is what they say about His Highness
We, too, are afraid to present Ourselves before him.’

‘As for the intention with which We Ourselves,
Wished to present Ourselves to His Royal Highness,
It was to hear the king humble himself
Before the Cobra, that thieving snake.’

‘Because the king is applying coercion
And sending his subjects to the poisonous Cobra.
If they are continually eaten by the Cobra,
The kingdom will ultimately be destroyed.’

[f.6v]
‘What we wanted to do, while resigning ourselves to God’s Will,
Was to give the king wisdom,
So that his dignity would be all the more enduring;
But what’s the use of this, if he refuses to listen?’

‘What will happen if all is to no avail?
The Cobra is expert at deceiving people.
Because of the trouble he will create,
The entire kingdom will certainly perish.’

‘What use is it is it now to speak of our wishes,
This king does not want to listen to what is said.
If we protest too much to him
In the end we will be reviled.’

‘His Majesty does not give a single thought to it all,
A sign that the end of time is nigh.
It is truly astonishing to learn
That a snake and a frog have become friends.’

‘His Majesty alone is to be blamed
For the ruin of all his subjects.
If he does not wake up in time
He, too, will suffer the same fate.’
karena sudah perintah dewata
ular itu musuh yang nyata
bukankah hairan kepada kita
katak dan ular dapat sekata
saudara pikirlah hamba bersahabda
benarkah tidak seperti mada
jikalau demikian kelakuan binga baginda
baiklah kembali ke rumah kita

[£7r]
keduanya pun pulanglah lari
balik kembali ke rumah sendiri
duduk berpeka berdiam diri
memikirkan hatinya raja bestari

alkisah tersebutlah perkataan
ceritera pedang pada pahlawan
sukacita tiada terperikan
perkataannya telah baginda turunkan

tambahan pula hatinya suka
wazir sekalian habis dimurka
berkirlah ia dengan sangka
betapa akalku membuat malapetaka
tedung ular yang bahari
lemus lembut mengeluarkan peri
aduah tuanku mahkota negeri
himpunan rakyat semua ke mari
telah rakyat sudah dihimpunan
bolehlah tuanku patik ajarkan
rakyat sekalian boleh ketakutan
sebarang kerja dapat dikerjakan
tuanku dijunjung bagai mahkota
biarlah berhadir rakyat semata
supaya senang patik berkata
memberi perintah yang amat nyata
apabila dilihat demikian peri
tuanku diulang sehari-hari
sekaliamnya takut dan ngeri
kehendak tuanku segera dihiber

'It has already been ordained by the gods
That the snake is his greatest enemy,
Is it therefore not astonishing to us
That a frog and a snake have reached agreement?'

'My brother, think about what your servant says.
Are the words he speaks right or not?
If that is how His Majesty behaves,
We might as well return to our own homes.'

[£7r]
The two of them thereupon hurried back
And returned again to their own homes.
There they sat down in deep thoughts in silence,
Thinking about the problem of their accomplished king.

Now the story is told
Of the young Cobra, that war-like paladin.
His joy was indescribable:
His Majesty had agreed with everything he had said.

What added to his joy was that
All the king's viziers had incurred his wrath.
He carefully calculated and estimated:
'How can I by my wiles cause a curse to strike.'

Thereupon the Cobra, that fine snake,
Gently and softly spoke the words:
'O, my Lord, ruler of the kingdom,
Tell all your subjects to gather together here.'

'When your subjects have gathered together
Let your slave teach you a lesson, my Lord.
Your subjects will become so afraid
That whatever service you want can be performed.'

'Your every command is obeyed like that of a king.
Let all your subjects be present here,
So that your slave can speak to them easily
And give orders to them that are very clear.'

'When they see how things stand
And that your commands are faithfully carried out every day,
They will be overcome by fear and terror,
And will immediately do your bidding, my Lord.'
Moreover all who are plotting against you will give up,
And all swashbucklers, too, will be overcome by fear.
All the more exalted will you be as a famous king.
For making a snake your personal mount.'

In former days there has never been a king
Who could sit resting his elbows on the head of a cobra.
Your fame will be all the greater, my Lord.
All who see it will be awed by you.'

'The reason why your slave speaks like this
Is that he wishes to extol Your Highness's fame,
So that it may be known by young and old
That you, my Lord, are a descendant of venerable kings.'

'May all his sins be forgiven by Allah;
Your slave has no intention to play tricks on you.
He begs your forgiveness, most noble king.
Wherever you go, he will follow you.'

'This slave of yours does not want to have a bad name.
All he hopes is that he may be Your Highness's slave,
No matter whether he lives or dies, let that be clear,
Even if he must die right here at the foot of your throne.'

When the Frog heard these words
He felt greatly pleased with them.
Immediately he called his ministers and war-chiefs,
And ordered them to bring together all his subjects.

The Frog, that noble animal, also said:
'Hey, you, my ministers and war-chiefs.
The reason why I have given this order
Is that I want to show them to the Cobra.'

'The reason why I have spoken thus
Is that I follow the teachings of the Cobra.
He knows more than one trick
To bring improvement to my kingdom.'

All his war-chiefs and ministers were astonished.
Thereupon they said among themselves:
'How stupid he is, our accomplished king
To follow the teachings of the Cobra, that thieving snake.'
mengapakah demikian laku baginda
sangat nin hendak mengada-ada
kepada ular tidak berbeza
diturut sahaja sebarang sabda

ini pula ia suruhkan
rakyat sekaian hendak dihimpunkan
kepada tedung hendak diperagakan
bukanakah aib kepada pendapatian

baginda tak tau di dalamnya tipu
racun yang bisa ada di situ
rakyat pun kelak habis disapu
habislah sekaian dimakannya tentu
tedung itu ular yang sakti
rupanya hebat amatlah pasti
matanya merah seperti api
kulitnya pula bagi dicati

sebagai mana hitam rupanya itu
demikianlah jahat fiilnya tentu
pandainya sangat membuat laku
seisi negara hendak ditipu

[£8v]
apalah lagi hendak dikenangkan
kita nin rakyat di bawah telapakan
perintah nin tak boleh kita tolakkan
tak dapat tiada wajib dikerjakan

jika tidak kita turutkan
kepada tedung tentulah diserahkan
apalah kelak akan kejadian
azab nin juga kita rasakan

setelah sudah berkata-kata
dihimpunannya rakyat serta merta
kecil besar semuanya rata
disuruh hadapkan duli sang rata

berhimpunlah sudah rakyat belaka
menghadapi baginda seri paduka
tedung pun hatinya suka
banyaknya katak tidak diangka

sambil berpikir di dalamnya diri
jikalau demikan halnya peri
kenyanglah aku sehari-hari
tidakh ya aku merasa kelapari

‘Why does His Majesty carry on like this
And does he wish to put on such airs?
He is no whit different from the snake
And just follows whatever advice he gives.’

‘Now this is what he orders us to do:
To bring together all his subjects
So that he can show them off to the Cobra.
Isn’t that, come to think of it, a wanton insult?’

‘The King is unaware that behind his deception
Lurks a venomous poison.
One fine day his subjects will be wiped out.
They are sure to be devoured by the snake one and all.’

‘That Cobra is a snake with supernatural power.
His looks are awe-inspiring, no doubt about that.
His eyes are red like the glow of fire
And the colour of his skin looks as if it has been painted.’

‘As black as he looks,
So evil is his behaviour, no doubt about that.
He is very good at dissimulating;
The entire kingdom will be deceived.’

[£8v]
‘But all regrets are now in vain;
We are his subjects under the soles of his feet.
This order cannot be refused by us
Willy-nilly we are obliged to do as he says.’

‘If we fail to obey his command
We are sure to be handed over to the Cobra;
And what may very well happen to us then?
We will suffer great torments and pain.’

When the ministers had spoken thus
They gathered the populace together without delay.
Great and small, all were summoned to come
And present themselves before His Majesty.

When the entire populace had been gathered together
in the presence of His Majesty, the illustrious King,
The Cobra felt very pleased;
He had not expected that there would be so many frogs.

Meanwhile he thought to himself:
‘If that’s how things stand
I will have a full stomach day by day
And will never have to go hungry.’
'It's fine if I become his servant
And just obey his every command;
Later, when the right moment has come,
I will devour him as well.'

'Why should I worry any longer?
My food has already been provided for.
Two frogs per day is what I can eat;
What a comfortable situation!'

'taklah penat ke sana ke nari
mencari makan setiap hari
makanan kelak datang sendiri
tidaklah berfanaah berpenat diri
katak bedebah sudah kutipu
diturutnya belaka barang kataku
jikalau demikian hal dan laku
senanglah sudah kedudukan aku
karena aku seekor ular
musuhnya katak yang amat besar
daripada makan bijak aku menyanmar
barang kataku semuanya didengar
apa kataku menurut semua
terbuang tidak sepatah dua
akulah seorang beruntung jua
ia nin juga akan kecewa
setelah sudah tetap pikiran
berdatanglah sebanyak dengan perlahan
ampun tuanku mahkota junjungan
banyaknya rakyat tiada terperikan
patutlah tuanku raja yang bahari
makanya demikian alatan negeri
rakyat nin banyak tiada terper
menjunjung sebah sebilang hari
tuanku raja amat mukatbar
bertambahlah jua pangkat yang besar
betapa hatran orang menengar
keinderaan tuanku seekor ular

When the Cobra had made up his mind
Doing obeisance and speaking in a soft voice he said to the king:
'I beg your forgiveness, ruler whose every word is obeyed,
Your subjects are so numerous that they are beyond description.'

'It is fitting indeed, that you, O lord, illustrious king,
Should be surrounded by all these splendid regalia
And that your subjects be numerous beyond description,
Faithfully carrying out your commands every day.'

'You, O lord, were already a most famous king
Yet your great station is now even more exalted.
How astonished people will be to hear, my lord,
That you have made a snake your personal mount.'
tiadalah raja lain kerajaan
dapat menyamai mahkota junjungan
bertambah arif serta dermawan
sekolok tuanku tiada bandingan
termsyhurst kelak seri mahkota
melimpah kepada alam semesta
jika siapa yang menengar warta
tunduk khidmat di bawah takhta

raja kata menengar kata
tedung nil sangat pujinya nyata
terlalui suka rasanya cinta
bertambah kasih ke tedung pokta

berpikirlah kata raja bangsawan
benarlah kata tedung pahlawan
namaku sangat hendak dibesarkan
betapalah kasihnya dapat dibalaskan

maksud baik tiada terkira
hendak memelihara akan isi negara
wajiblah aku membalas segera
kasihnya sangat sudah termesra

setelah sudah demikian peri
di kepala tedung baginda berdiri
memandang ke kanan menoleh ke kiri
sambil berkata manis berserti
aduhai menteri rakyatku sekalian
perkataanku jangan kamu lalukan
kamu ke nari aku suruhkan
di kepala tedung hendak kunjukkan

ketahuilah olehmu seisi negeri
halnya tedung ular yang bahari
adapun maksudnya datang ke mari
sangatlah hendak berhambakan diri
auhui sekalian rakyat semata
hendaklah kamu menurut kata
barangsiapa melalui perintah
ialah kelak mendapat lata

'Ve here, you, all my ministers and subjects,
Don't you neglect to carry out my commands,
The reason that I have ordered you to come here
Is that I wish to show you to the snake.'

'Know ye, all my subjects in the kingdom
How things stand with the snake, that fine animal.
As for the reason why he has come thither,
It is that he greatly wishes to become my servant.'

'Hey, you, my subjects one and all,
Please, follow the orders he gives.
Whoever neglects to carry out his commands
Will suffer harm.'
It is in fact my deepest wish
To make make the Cobra a minister
So that he can reform my kingdom
And look after all who live in my private apartments.’

‘Please follow all his orders.
Don’t let me catch anyone grumbling.
Whosoever does not obey his command
Must not be sorry for himself if he loses his life.’

‘I have myself already examined
How things stand with the Cobra, that greatly meritorious animal.
He does not intend to destroy us
But wishes to look after us peacefully.’

‘Also, you my ministers and war-chiefs,
I impose on you another decree to carry out.
You must prepare two frogs a day
And take them to the Cobra.’

‘Thus always do your duty
And do not be remiss a single day.
If you do not obey my command
I will extinguish you yourselves.’

‘That’s how it is, O my ministers;
Don’t you give all sorts of comments.
Carry out my every command each and every day
In order that you may save your own skin.’

When His Majesty had finished speaking
His subjects one and all spoke in reply:
‘We beg for your forgiveness, Your Royal Highness,
But why does Your Highness act like this?’

‘What are your considerations, O ruler whose every command is obeyed,
For imposing these orders on your slaves?
Your subjects have not committed any wrongdoing,
And yet they are made food for the Cobra.’

‘My lord, not once have you given a thought
To what it really is that you are doing thus.
If your subjects have all been eaten,
How will things subsequently go with the kingdom?’
"We, your subjects, all humbly would like to ask one question
To the household attendants of Your Majesty, God's Vicegerent on earth:
"How come His Royal Highness has lost his wits
And shows such great deference to a snake?"

"Since you, O lord, ruler whose every command is obeyed,
Have always been in charge of the kingdom,
My lord, don't you perchance know
The story of the Cobra, that war-like paladin?"

"We beg your forgiveness, O lord, illustrious king,
Since the beginning of times it has been ordained by the Deity
That the snake shall be the manifest enemy of the frog,
Yet you, O lord, are in agreement with him."

"You are not in the least aware, O lord,
That by listening to the snake's words you are letting yourself be deceived.
When all your subjects have been eaten to the last frog
You will also be devoured, O lord."

"O lord, illustrious king,
Your subjects are all your humble slaves.
How could they disobey your commands;
God's will has so ordained."

"To the Cobra we have been handed over
We, your subjects, will become his food.
It is God's will that we are asked to sacrifice ourselves.
We entrust ourselves to the Deity."

When the Frog, that noble animal, heard
What his subjects and the rank and file said
He bowed the head, that noble king, and thought:
"They are in a way right to speak as they do."

"What my subjects say is right in a way.
In a way it is I who is causing problems.
By befriending a treacherous snake
I will in the end be deceived."

But then again he thought to himself:
"How could the Cobra do a thing like that.
He shows such great deference to me;
He will take excellent care of the kingdom."
ia nin sangat merendahkan diri
menjunjung titah setiap hari
masakan dapat melakukan diri
karena ia pendeta jauhari

hatta setelah seketika lamanya
bertitahlah baginda dengan murkanya
berkata kepada sekalian rakyatnya
ingat-ingatlah kamu semuanya

perkataan kamu tidak kuindah
kamu ini pandai mengada-ada
pada pikiran di dalam dada
dengki cemburu sahaja ahada

sebab telah aku menganugerahi
akan negeriku kedung memerintahi
kamu sekalian tiada sukai
itulah makanya kamu gagahi

jangan dipikirkah hina dina
perkataan kamu boleh berguna
supaya aku berbuat bencana
akan mengenyahkannya kedung teruna

janganlah tersalah pikiran kamu
aku ini tidak kelak tersemu
berbuat demikian jauhlah bagiku
kepada dewata sangatlah maluku

malah lebih aku ini
kepada kedung berubah janji
namaku sangat telah dipuji
betapakah albnya mendapat keji

aku ini raja di atas takhta
tidaklah mau berubah kata
turutlah kamu sabda dan perintah
asal jangan beroleh lata

siapa di antara kamu sekalian
perintahku berani dilanggarkan
ialah mula-mula aku serahkan
kepada kedung supaya dimakan

'He shows such great deference to me,
And carries out my orders each and every day.
How could he do a thing like that to me,
Since is he a holy pundit of great wisdom.'

Well then, after thinking thus for a while
His Majesty replied angrily
Saying to his subjects:
'You mark my words, all of you!'

'I don't care what you have to say,
Clever as you are at feigning sincerity.
What I think in my heart is that actually
You are just jealous of him, and that is all.'

'It is because I have already granted
The Cobra the right to rule my kingdom for me,
And you are feeling unhappy about it,
That you are putting pressure on me.'

'But don't you think that, whether you are high or low,
Your speaking out against him will have the power
To make me take the disastrous step
Of chasing away the snake, that gallant young man.'

'Don't you have wrong ideas in your head,
I will not later prove to have been tricked.
To act as you advise me to do is far from my nature.
How ashamed would I then be before the Deity.'

'I would be very ashamed, indeed,
were I to go back on the oath I have sworn to the Cobra.
My name has always been greatly praised;
What a humiliation it would be if I incurred censure.'

'I am a king who is seated on a throne,
No way will I go back on my words.
You there, just do as you are told
So long as I do not get a bad name.'

'Whosoever among you has the nerve
To transgress my commands,
He will be the first to be handed over by me
To the Cobra to be eaten by him.'
When the Cobra heard these words
And noticed that His Majesty was full of praise for him,
He felt greatly pleased
And showed all the more deference to the king.

As, speaking in a soft voice, he said:
'O my brothers, dear frogs, listen to me,
Please do not think of your servant
As a normal snake just like any other.'

'This useless servant and insignificant slave
Has strayed into the quarters under the palace,
Begging for the favour of his lord and master
That he will pick him up for whatever he is worth.'

'The reason he speaks these words
Is that he desires to add lustre to the reputation of His Royal Highness
Who all around the world is without a match,
Even compared to other rulers.'

'O, gentlemen, my brothers, listen to me,
Shed all your suspicion and mistrust.
Your servant does not want to deceive you
Or bring your kingdom to ruin.'

'It is not the intention of your servant
To commit treason against His Majesty's rule,
If what they say was indeed true,
Your servant would fear the Deity.'

'However, everything has now been decided
And His Majesty, too, has laid down the law.
Two frogs must be provided without fail
To become food for your humble servant.'

'Gentlemen, please do not get angry with your servant,
These words of his are not just empty talk.
These are the orders of His Majesty himself.
Don't contravene his instructions and commands.'

'Having spoken thus, the Cobra said
As he bowed the head and did obeisance to His Majesty:
'I beg your forgiveness, Your Illustrious Highness,
I am merely your slave at the foot of your coffin.'

'How fitting it is that you, O lord, ruler of the kingdom
Should have so many subjects that it is beyond description.
Your servant feels greatly terrified
At the sight of your troops, O accomplished king.'
kalam nin tidak fakir panjangkan
perkataan yang ringkas fakir sebutkan
tesebutlah pula si katak haiwan
ular tedung dibuatnya keinderaan
demikianlah sehari kepada sehari
dua ekor katak yang diberi
katak yang tua-tua habislah lari
tiada berkehendak diam di negeri

[f.13r]
ke mana-mana membawa dirinya
masing-masing mengadukan untungnya
untung sabut timbul dianyanya
untung batu tenggelam adanya
demikianlah masing-masing membawa diri
ada yang bersembunyi di dalam perigi
ada yang berlindung di hutan duri
takut dimakan tedung pencuri
habis rawit timbal cerita
katak nin sangat membuat lata
anartia mulu kepada dewata
kehenduk hatinya diturut semata

adalah berapa hari lamaanya
sentiasa katak melakukan sukanya
setiap hari tedung dinaikinya
ke sana ke mari menunjuk megahnya

sangatlah sombong katak berida
mengendarai tedung pahlawan muda
barang permintaan semuanya ada
rakyatnya kesip tiada diindah
adalah kepada suatu hari
berkatalah tedung ular pencuri
ampun tuanku mahkota negeri
patik nin hendak berdatang peri
ditanya baginda apakah itu
aduhai tedung guru aku
jangi dissembunyikan barang suatu
katakina jua supaya tentu

These words will not be spun out by this beggar,
He will keep brief the tale he has to tell.
Now the story is told of that brutish frog
Who made the Cobra his personal mount.

Thus day in day out
The snake was given two frogs.
The more senior frogs fled to the last animal,
Unwilling to stay in the kingdom.

[f.13r]
They fled for safety in all directions
Each trying its luck in its own way.
When bound to rise they made their way up
When bound to sink they went down.

Thus they fled for safety each in his own way,
Some hid themselves in the wells
Others concealed themselves in the forest full of thorns,
Afraid of being eaten by the thieving Cobra.

This prelude is finished, now the story comes up
Of how the Frog behaved himself in a most foul way.
He felt no shame before the Deity
And just did whatever he pleased.

For a number of days
The Frog kept doing what he pleased.
Each day he mounted the Cobra
And rode hither and thither to display his glory.

How puffed up with pride was the Frog
As he rode on the young Cobra, that war-like paladin.
Whatever he had requested was provided
He cared not the least bit for his subjects.

Then it happened one fine day
That the thieving snake spoke to the King:
'I beg your forgiveness, O lord, ruler of the realm,
But there is something I want to say to you.'

His Majesty asked him: 'What is it, then,
That you want to say, O Cobra, my teacher.
Do not hide any wish you may have from me.
Speak up all the same so that we know where we stand.'
[f.13v]
jika berkenan kepada beta
maulah beta menurut kata
aduhai tedung yang amat pokta
barang perkataan biarlah nyata

setelah didengar tedung bestari
pura-pura menyembah sambil berperi
ampun tuanku mahkota negeri
sangatlah patik merasi kelapari

ampun tuanku mahkota junjungan
ke bawah duli seri kerajaan
seperti ayapan tuanku karuniakan
tidaklah cukup patik memakan

ampun tuanku seri junjungan
kalau boleh patik pohonkan
empat katak akan makanan
supaya boleh patik memakan

demi didengar raja bestari
ular tedung empunya peri
berkatelah baginda manis berseri
jangalah susah kepada diri

adapun seperti permintaan
masakan dapat aku tabhankan
jangankan empat dipohonkan
walau sepuluh aku berikan

makinlah tedung berhati suka
berseri-seri warnanya muka
permintaan sebarang diturut belaka
lebihlah maksat di dalam sangka

[f.14r]
rakyat katak hendak kumakan
ist negerinya aku habiskan
katak celaka kemudian kumakan
ialah penghabisan aku kerjakkan
demikianlah halnya tedung pencuri
mengkelakarkan katak sebilang hari
selang tidak berapa hari
susutlah rakyat separuh negeri

[f.13v]
‘If your request is to Our liking
We are willing to do as you say.
Come on, Cobra, excellent animal,
Whatever you have to say, let it be known.’

When the Cobra, that accomplished animal, heard these words,
He feigned doing obeisance while he said:
‘I beg your forgiveness for saying so, ruler of the kingdom,
But your servant is very hungry.’

‘I beg forgiveness, ruler whose every command is obeyed,
Bowed down at your feet, O Royal Highness, lustre of the kingdom,
But such victuals as you have graciously granted, O lord,
Are not enough to feed your servant.’

‘I beg your forgiveness, illustrious ruler whose every command is obeyed,
But if your servant may make a request,
It is that he be given four frogs
So that he may eat them.’

When the king, that accomplished animal, heard
What the Cobra had to say to him,
His Highness spoke with a kind face:
‘Don’t make such a fuss about all this.’

‘As for the request you have made,
How could I refuse to grant it.
Not to mention asking for four frogs,
We would even grant you ten.’

The Cobra felt more and more pleased
His face lit up with a kind smile;
Whatever request he made was granted without exception;
He had in mind to do more evil.

[f.14r]
‘I want to devour the subjects of the Frog.
I will finish the entire population of his kingdom.
Then I will eat that damned Frog,
That is the finale I’ll perform.’

That’s how things stood with that thieving snake,
Everyday he made a fool of the Frog.
Before a few days had passed
His subjects had decreased in numbers by half the kingdom.
katak sedikit tidak sadarkan
rakyat nin habis tedung kerjakan
asyik sahaja hendak berkeinderaan
di kepala tedung ular pahlawan

mahuk berjalan ke sana ke mari
hendak memeragakan kebesaran diri
oleh sebab perbuatan sendiri
rakyat nin habis tersamar

sudahlah datang takdir yang gana
tersurat di dahi katak durjana
ia seorang empunya bencana
seisi negara habis merana

syahdan setelah berapa hari
menghadap pula katak pencuri
ampun tuanku mahkota negeri
ayapan tak cukup tuanku memberi

jika rahim seri mahkota
patik pohonkan ke bawah takhta
tuanku karuniakan apalah beta
sepuluh ekor katak yang nyata

[f.14v]
sebab pun patik berkata demikian
pekerjaan nin berat patik tanggungkan
terutulah patik tuanku dijunjungkan
seketika kenyang datang kelaparan
tuanku jangan berwaham cinta
bukannya patik mengadai kata
terlebihlah maklum ke bawah mahkota
akan halnya patik yang lata
demi didengar oleh baginda
bertambah belas di dalam dada
jika demikian permintaan yang ada
huberi juga sampai pada
tedung wai jangan bimbang gulana
aku nin tidak membuat pesona
jika kubahrikan engkau merana
bukankah aku yang beroleh hina
seperti permintaan aku memberi
walau dua puluh pada sethari
kasihmu tidak lagi terper
teranggunglah sahaja padaku sendiri

The Frog was not in the least aware
That his subjects were being given hell by the Cobra.
All he wanted was to ride around
On the head of the Cobra, that war-like paladin.

Like a madman he rode hither and thither
Bent on showing off what a great king he was.
Because of the foolish things which he did
His subjects were all deceived.

Finally had come the hour ordained by the All-Sufficing,
As it stood written on the forehead of the wicked Frog.
He alone had caused the disaster to strike;
All the subjects in his kingdom had to suffer for it.

Well then, after a few days had gone by,
The thieving Cobra again presented himself before the king.
'I beg your forgiveness, O lord, ruler of the kingdom,
But the victuals you give me do not suffice.'

'If you have mercy, illustrious ruler,
Your servant would like to make a request at the foot of your throne.
Please, graciously grant Us, O lord, an increase
To ten frogs per day as food.'

[f.14v]
'The reason why your servant says this
Is that his work is a heavy burden to carry,
Your servant has to work himself to death to carry out your commands;
Hardly has he eaten his fill or he is hungry again.'

'My lord, do not be mistrustful.
I assure you that your servant has not made up what he says.
You only know too well, Your Royal Highness,
How things stand with me, your insignificant servant.'

As soon as he heard what the Cobra had to say
His Majesty took more and more pity on him.
'If that is all you want to ask me for,
Well then, I will give you as many frogs as you need.'

'Cobra, dear friend, do not worry and fret,
I am not making empty promises to you.
If I were to let you pine away,
Wouldn't I get a bad reputation?'

'I will grant you all that you request
Even if it would be twenty frogs a day.
Your love for me is beyond description
It is on me alone to satisfy your needs.'
setelah tedung menengarkan kata
makinlah suka di dalam cinta
pulihlah rasanya segala anggota
sebab maksudnya beroleh semesta

menyembahlah tedung muda teruna
menundukkan kepala sampai ke tanah
ampun tuanku seri istana
bertambahlah derajat di singgahsana

[F.15r]
karunia tuanku sangatlah limah
mengasihilah patik yang hina papa
apakah daya dengannya rupa
dapat membalas kasih khalifah

[baginda nin suka tidak terkira
menengarkan tedung pandai berecura
makin bertambah kasih dan mesra
tedung menjadi tambatan lara

demikianlah baginda sehari-hari
memberi muka ke tedung bahari
rakyatnya habis tiada terperi
sedikit pun tidak merasa ngeri

[baginda nin tidak menaruh sedar
dirinya itu terkena kelakar
mabuk memacu di belakang ular
rakyat senegeri habislah legar

tidak dipikir raja mengern
akan negerinya habislah fana
menurutkan tipa tedung durjana
akhirnya ia juga merana

sedikit tidak menaruh pikiran
rakyat lenyap dari pemandangan
sebilang hari melakukan kesukaan
demikianlah halnya katak hiawan

hatta setelah berapa lamanya
datanglah menghadap seorang menterinya
membaiki laku sangat tertibnya
lemah lembut mengeluarkan sembahnya

When the Cobra had heard what he said
He felt all the more pleased.
He felt the energy return to all his limbs
Because all he had wished had been granted to him.

He made obeisance to the king, the Cobra, that gallant young man,
While bowing down his head until it touched the ground.
'I beg your forgiveness, O lord, lustre of the palace,
Whose prestige on the royal dais is ever increasing.'

[F.15r]
'The flow of your bounty, O lord, is inexhaustible,
As you bestow your favour upon this lowly and destitute servant.
How and in what form could he ever hope to repay
The favour bestowed on him by God’s vicegerent on earth?'

His Majesty was incredibly pleased
To hear the words of the Cobra, that clever trickster.
He felt ever more fond of and intimate with him;
The Cobra had captured his aching heart.

Thus His Majesty conducted himself day by day,
Indulging the Cobra, that fine animal, in everything.
That his subjects had all gone to the last frog
Did not terrify him in the least.

His Majesty was unaware
That he had been made a fool of.
Like a madman he raced around on the back of the snake,
While all his subjects in the kingdom were being eaten to the last man.

He gave no thought, that beloved king,
To the fact that his kingdom would be entirely destroyed.
By allowing himself to be deceived by the wicked Cobra
He, too, would ultimately waste away.

He gave not the least thought to the fact
That his subjects had disappeared from his sight.
Each day he did just as he pleased,
Thus did things stand with that brutish Frog.

Well then, after some time had passed,
One of his ministers came to present himself to the king.
Conducting himself as decorously as he could
He softly and gently spoke to him:
ampun tuanku mahkota negeri
patik datang membawakan peri
rakyat nin habis seisi negeri
banyak pula yang habis lari

masing-masing membawa halnya
barang ke mana membawa dirinya
tedung nin sangat ditakutinya
takut tedung akan memakannya

inilah sebabnya patik ke mari
bermaklumkan kepada mahkota negeri
betapalah kelak halnya negeri
rakyat tuanku habislah lari

ampun tuanku kemala seri
apakah sabda mahkota negeri
katak di mana hendak dicari
akan memberi ke tedung bahari
demi baginda menengarkansembah
terbanglah arwah bertambah gelabah
durjiah yang manis muram berubah
menteri memandang selaku hina
maka dengan sebentar-bentar
hilanglah sekali dari pikiran
segala lezat dan kesukaan
masyhul jua yang dipikirkan
baharulah kelihatan nyata-nyata
di pikiran baginda datang terpeta
sebab tak mau meneng ant kata
sekarang inilah beroleh lata

berkatilah baginda pucat berseri
aduhai mamanda perdana menteri
tak adakah seorang di dalam negeri
dapat kuberikan ke tedung bahari
aku telah berjanji rata
makannya tak mau kuberi lata
jika aku mungkirkah kata
aku kelak dimakannya serta

'I beg your forgiveness, ruler of the realm,
Your servant has come to bring you word
That all the subjects in your kingdom have been used up
And that many have also fled.'

'Each in their own way they have fled to safety
Running away in all directions,
Utterly terrified of the Cobra,
And afraid that he will devour them.'

'This is the reason your servant has come;
He wishes to inform you, ruler of the realm,
How things will presently stand with the kingdom:
Your subjects have all fled to the last frog.'

'I beg your forgiveness, O radiant gem,
What are your orders, ruler of the realm.
Where do we have to look for the frogs
That we have to give to the Cobra, that fine animal.'

As soon as His Majesty had heard these words,
He felt faint at heart and became ever more melancholy.
His smiling face became darkened by care:
His own minister looked down on him!

Then, in the mere twinkling of an eye,
Completely gone they were from his mind,
The delights and pleasures he had always indulged in;
Only sombre thoughts now filled his mind.

Only now did it become visible in all clarity
And did the full picture form in His Majesty's mind:
'It is because I did not wish to listen to advice
That I now have a bad name.'

His Majesty spoke, his radiant face looking pale:
'O dear uncle Prime Minister, tell me please,
Isn't there someone left in the kingdom
Whom I could give to the Cobra, that fine animal?'

'I have already given him my full promise,
And do not want to treat him badly with his food.
If I go back on my word,
I too will presently be devoured.'
sebab itu hai menteri
cubalah berjalan ke sana ke mari
barangkali ada di dalam negeri
jika dapat bawa ke mari

menyembahlah menteri sambil berkata
ampun tuanku tajuk mahkota
patik nin tidak berkata dusta
patik nin sudah mencari rata

ampun tuanku mahkota negeri
bukannya tidak patik berperi
jangen bersahabatkan ular pencuri
tuanku juga tersemalah diri

berapa banyak menteri yang tua
kepada tuanku memohonkan sembah
daripada tedung biaslah berubah
asal jangan tuanku kecewa

semuanya sembah tuanku tolakkan
semuanya tedung tuanku turutkan
sekaran inilah datang kesesalan
tiadalah berguna sesal kemudian

[f.16v]
ke mana lagi tuanku lari
mencari jalan melepaskan diri
sudahlah takdir Khalil al-Bahari
di atas tuanku telah terperli

apa lagi hendak dikata
suratan azali dari dewata
sebab tuanku menolakkan kata
terpecatlah tuanku dari takhta
takhta dan balai lupakan tuanku
lezat pun tiada lagi di situ
kenatianlah sahaja yang dihadap tentu
tidaklah dapat ditolakkan itu
tuanku seorang empunya termasa
patik sekalian habis merasa
dimakan tedung setiap masa
negeri pun rusak binasa

bukankah patik menyembah dahulu
aduhai tuanku junjungan ulu
jangen bersahabat ular penipu
tentulah kelak tuanku teripu

Therefore, listen, my dear minister,
Please be so kind as to go thither and thither.
Possibly there are still some frogs in the land;
Should you find any, please bring them here.'

His minister did obeisance to him as he spoke:
'I beg your forgiveness, O lord, crowned ruler,
But your servant is not lying when he says
That he has already looked for them everywhere.'

'I beg your forgiveness, O ruler of the realm,
Did your servant not tell you to take heed
And not to befriend that thieving snake;
Now you yourself have been deceived by him.'

'How many old ministers haven't already
Petitioned Your Majesty, saying:
It is no problem if you break your oath of loyalty to the snake,
So long as you do not get a bad deal, my lord.'

'Whereas all their petitions were turned down by you
Whatever the Cobra said was law unto you.
Now only has repentance come,
But to repent too late is in vain.'

[f.16v]
'Whither could you flee for safety, O lord,
Looking for a way out to escape?
It has already been ordained by the Creator of the Seas,
Passed on you by Him, O my lord.'

'How could one gainsay one's lot,
It stands written by the deity since the beginning of times.
Because you, O lord, have refused to listen,
You are now dismissed from your throne.'

'Throned and audience-hall you'd better forget, lord,
Delights can there no more be had.
Only death is waiting there for you,
That is something that cannot be averted.'

'You alone are to blame, O my lord,
We, your subjects, had to suffer the consequences.
Being eaten by the Cobra without let-up;
The kingdom was also destroyed.'

'Did not your servant previously beg you,
O, my lord, whose every command I obey,
Not to befriend the deceiving snake;
Some day you would be deceived by him.'
demi baginda menengarkan kata
benar sekali menteri berkata
lemahlah segala sendi anggota
berlinang-linang airnya mata

naik napas turunnya napas
pikiran di hati amatlah cemas
tidaklah boleh aku terlepas
tentulah aku mati terkupas

[F.17t]
wahai nasib untungku badan
kepada siapa hendak disosalkan
aku seorang empunya buatan
rakyat sekalian merasa kesakitan

aku nin tidak menaruh sadar
seisi negeri habislah legar
oleh menengarkan tipunya ular
betapalah aku di Yaum al-Mahsyar

tengah baginda berpikir demikian
masuklah menghadap tedung pahlawan
menundukkan kepala di bawah telapakan
berdiamlah sembah dengan perlahan

ampun tuanku dari mahkota
patik nin lapar tidak menderita
makanan patik belumlah nyata
belum diberi kepada beta

sekarang apa pikiran tuanku
laparlah sangat rasa perutku
lebih lemu rasa badanku
sebarang pekerjaan tiadalah tentu

setelah baginda menengarkan sembah
wajah yang persih muram berubah
hatinya masyghul bertambah susah
berpikir sambil tunduk tengadah
diketahuikah sudah tedung pencuri
katak semua habislah lari
sunyilah pula rumanya negeri
bolehlah aku berbesar diri

As soon as His Majesty heard these words
And taken note that his minister had spoken quite right
His limbs went limp and began to tremble,
Tears trickled down his cheeks.

He breathed in and breathed out,
His thoughts full of apprehension:
‘Impossible that I escape my fate;
I will surely die flayed alive.’

[F.17r]
‘How unfortunate is the lot apportioned to me!
Whom could I blame for what has happened?
It is I alone who has brought all this about,
But my subjects have had to suffer the pain.’

‘I was unaware of what was going on,
That all my subjects were being eaten to the last man.
Because I listened to the treacherous words of the snake,
What will be my fate on the Day of Judgment?’

While His Majesty was brooding thus,
The Cobra, that war-like paladin, came in and presented himself to the king.
Bowing down his head under his foot soles
He spoke softly while doing obeisance:

‘I beg your forgiveness, ruler of the realm,
Your servant is so hungry that it is unbearable.
The food of your servant has not yet appeared;
It has not been given to Us yet.’

‘Now what do you think to do about it, my lord?
My empty stomach really feels hungry.
My body feels utterly tired and exhausted,
Whatever work I try to do is too much for me.’

When His Majesty had heard these words,
His radiant face was darkened by care.
He was ever more pressed by melancholy,
Sunk in deep thought, looking up and down.

The Cobra, that thieving animal, now knew
That all frogs to the last one had fled.
‘Now doesn’t the kingdom look deserted?
I may now give in to my royal pride.’
Thereupon the Cobra said to the king
Clearly behaving in a rude manner:
‘Hey, you there, you frog, you lowly animal!
What is the advice you have to give Us’.

‘Now where is that food of mine!
Why is it not given to me right now?
If my food is not given to me,
I will next eat you up, that’s for sure!’

‘For long have I been your servant,
And have obeyed whatever orders you gave.
I am fed up with being your personal mount;
And sick and tired of your arrogance.’

‘You damned, accursed and ill-omened frog,
I am tired of carrying you around on my back.
So tired am I of it that I cannot put it into words,
Now let me spell out to you what I really think.’

‘You already think the world of yourself
Because I have been made your personal mount
And then you have the nerve to boast and brag,
Carelessly treading on my head.’

‘What is so illustrious about those feet of yours, anyway,
Wrinkled as they are, like the skin of a ghost?
You are as ugly to look at as is a ghost,
And then you have the nerve to tread me on the head.’

‘With all those horrible things you have done
I have patiently put up with,
Even allowing you to tread on my head,
So that I could eat your subjects.’

‘Hey, you there, you stupid damned frog.
Why do you sit pondering there any longer?
Too long have you been able to do exactly as you pleased,
Without let-up for even a moment.’

‘You were not in the least aware
That I belong to the species of the snakes,
One of your greatest enemies,
And would one fine day coil around you.’
sekarang apa engkau pikiri
engkau nih tak boleh berlepas diri
ke mana lagi hendak lari
engkau kupajuh bersama menteri

kamu berdua juga yang ada
jadi makananku sudahlah pada
tidaklah aku lagi bergundah
akan menyebut engkau baginda

aku kctahi akan asalmu
telur lendir kejadiammu
telaga buta akan tempatmu
maka sangat sekali sombongmu

keturunannmu itu tiadalah tentu
telur hamburi asalmu itu
di parit-parit tempat kediamannmu
maka jadi sekin rupamu

waktu memecah telur menjadi
bertaburlah sahaja ke sana ke mari
ada yang lari ke dalam perigi
katak sial tidak kusudi

[f.18v]
hai kata yang amat bedebah
apakah pikirannya di dalam dada
apalah lagi kata dan sabda
barang katamu tidak kuindah

jemulah sudah kira rasanya
aku dibuat hamba adanya
sekarang ini bergetir masanya
kutuntut bila pula kiranya

jangalah lagi berbanyak pikiran
engkau nih tidak aku lepaskan
rakyatmu pun habislah kupajuhan
sekarang engkau pula kukuferakann

demilah kata menengarkan kata
berdebar lenyap rasanya cinta
lelah lembut mengeluarkan kata
aduhai tetung hidupi beta

disahuti tetung dengan kekerasan
engkau nih tak boleh aku hidupkan
sudah tatkdr dengan suratan
engkau ini menjadi makanan

'Now why do you sit pondering there any longer?
You cannot escape me, frog, that's for sure.
Where could you flee for safety anymore?
This I will guzzle you up and your minister.'

'There are still the two of you remaining.
So there is enough food for me to eat.
No more will I have to mope and fret
About having to address you as 'Your Highness'.

'I know all about your ancestry;
From the spawn of frogs, that's how you were born.
In a stagnant pool, that's where you belong.
That's why you are so puffed-up with pride.'

'Whose descendant you are is hard to say,
Scattered eggs, that's where you come from.
In moats and ditches, that's where you dwell.
That's why you look as ugly as you do.'

'When the eggs break and are ripe
The frogs are scattered about hither and thither
And some run for the safety of a well.
Damned frog, I don't like you one bit!'

[f.18v]
'Hey you, utterly stupid frog.
What are you brooding about?
What do you have to say any longer?
Whatever it is, I won't give a damn.'

'I am already quite fed up, so I feel,
With having been made your servant.
Now the moment has come for the times to change.
Methinks I can claim my right any time I please.'

'Don't you have all sorts of thoughts any longer.
I will not let you escape, frog, that's for sure!
I have already gazzled up your subjects to the last frog.
Now I will give it to you.'

As soon as the Frog had heard what he said
His heart began to pound and he almost fainted.
Speaking softly and gently he uttered the words:
'Please, good Cobra, spare Our life.'

The Cobra answered him rudely:
'I cannot spare your life, you frog!
It has already been ordained and stands written by God's decree,
That you will become my food.'
engkau nin jangan berbanyak kata
perkataanmu tidak berguna semata
lapar perutku tidak menderita
engkau nin hendak kunak an serta
demikian itu lah tedung menjawabnya
eraya mendekati dibuka mulutnya
lalu disengapnyalah akan keduanya
raja katak dengan menterinya

[f.19r]
syair tedung tamatlah sudah
fakir menggarang tunduk tengah
mata berpendar sakitlah dada
kalau kan boleh memebri faedah

ayuhai enck saudaraku sekalian
syair ini siapa bacakan
serta tuan-tuan yang menengarkan
haraplah fakir mengambil tauladan

sebab pun fakir berkata demikian
janganlah gusar saudara sekalian
terutamalah mula disesalkan
tidu berfaedah jika kemudian

hamba ini seorang fakir
haraplah tuan yang membaca syair
mengertilah kiranya iberat fakir
jangalah tuan-tuan berkuranf fikir

sallallahu sayidina Muhammad
syair tedung tamatlah sangat
siapa membaca dengan beringat
allah kelak beroleh syaafat.

‘Anyway, don’t waste your breath any longer.
What you have to say will be of absolutely no avail.
My stomach is so hungry it is unbearable.
I want to eat you now, right away.’

No sooner had the Cobra given this answer
Than he drew near and opened his mouth.
Thereupon he gobbled up both animals,
The Frog-King and his minister.

[f.19r]
The Poem of the Cobra has come to its end.
This beggar wrote it looking up and down,
As his head was reeling and his breast was aching,
Hoping that perhaps it might bring benefit.

You, dear sirs, all my brothers,
When someone reads out this poem,
This beggar hopes that on hearing it
You gentlemen will draw a lesson from it.

The reason this beggar says this to you -
And hopefully you will not get angry at him -
Is that it is best to repent at an early moment;
If one repents too late, it is in vain.

Your servant is a lowly beggar.
He hopes that you, sirs, who read out this poem
Will perhaps understand the parable this beggar tells;
Don’t you be lacking in thought, dear sirs.

May God bless our Prophet, Lord Muhammad,
The poem of the Cobra has come to its end, indeed.
Whoever reads it out with a mindful spirit
Will later one day obtain his intercession.