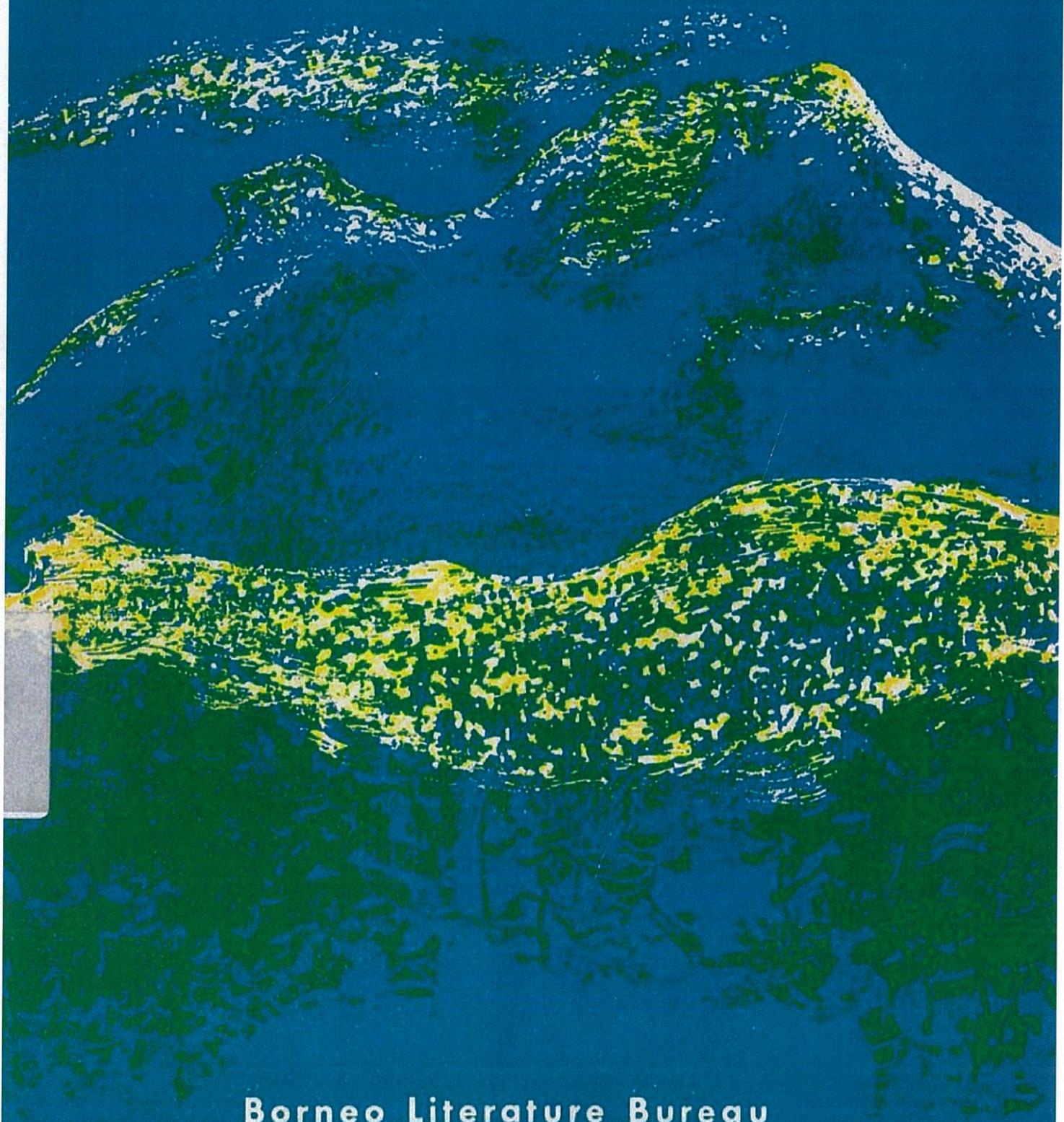


Kinabalu Dragon



Borneo Literature Bureau

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Pusat Dokumentasi Melayu
Cawangan Sabah

KINABALU DRAGON

F. G. WHELAN

Illustrated by

HUSAINI SULAIMAN



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F. G. WHELAN

PERPUSTAKAAN DBP/SAR.	
No. Kelas:	
No. Perolehan:	10881
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A VERY SHORT STORY



A very large egg fell in the forest

One day, so the Murut people of Dalit say, a very large egg fell in the forest, near the Sook river. Out of this egg came all the Boka Muruts. Another day a very large egg fell in the forest between Lamas and Mensiat. Out of this came all the Dusuns and all the other people of the rest of the world.

THE STORY OF SABAH

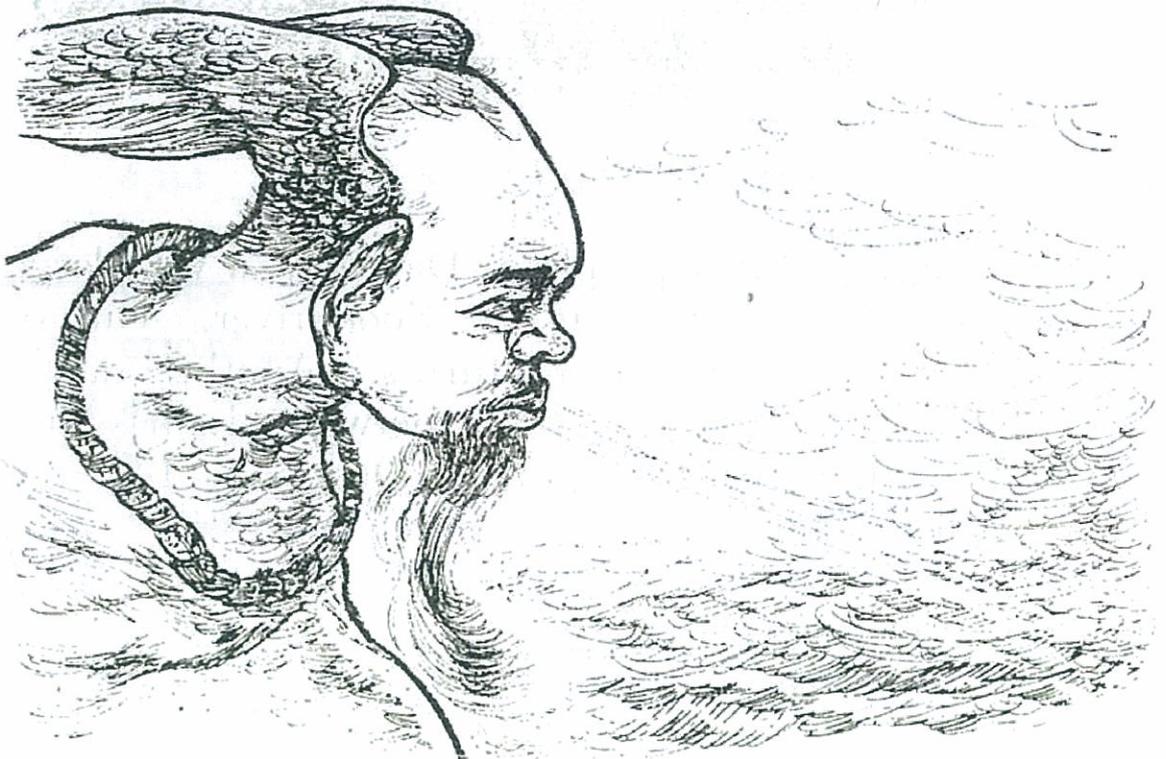
There was once no land but only water. The great

KINABALU DRAGON

God Kinoringan was not happy about this so he sent for the Wind God. The Wind God was called Jiwal. Kinoringan told Jiwal to blow on the water and make it muddy. Jiwal did this and after some time the muddy water changed to land. The great God Kinoringan then said, "This land is too small. Let it grow." The land grew until it was as big as forty padi fields. The great God Kinorigan then said, "Let it grow larger." So it grew as big as an island, and then as big as the world.

The great God Kinoringan then said, "Let there be a hat on the earth," and he took off his own hat, Hitawa, and it became the sky.

Then the great God Kinoringan took some earth and he made a man and a woman. "Let them have



Jiwal, the god of wind, he blew on the water

life," he said, "but when their life is over, they shall be earth again."

The man and the woman had fourteen children. There were seven boys and seven girls. One day the woman took ten children, five boys and five girls and sent them on a log down a river. When the log stopped the boys and the girls went onto land. Their children became the people of all the other countries in the world. The other four children stayed behind and their children became the Dusuns and the Muruts.

THE TWO SUNS

Many years ago, so the people of Ranau say, there were two suns in the sky. At first the people were very happy because the days were always bright and the rice became ripe and the fruits and flowers were many and good. Then the ground began to dry up and the grass grew brown. There was no grass for the buffaloes, and no leaves for the goats, and no padi for the chickens to eat. No-one could plant rice or sweet potatoes or *ubi kayu* or *keladi* because the ground was so hard.

Many times the people held meetings to find out what to do, but no-one could think of a good plan. Many people grew sick and hungry and many died of this sickness and hunger.

In a village near Bundu Tuhan there lived a young man called Lasiman. He had a beautiful wife and a fine young son, but day by day he saw them grow thinner and thinner, because there was no food. At last they

KINABALU DRAGON

could do nothing but lie on their beds because they were so weak. Then Lasiman made up his mind that the only way to save them was to kill one of the suns. He took his blowpipe, and darts, and set out from his kampong.

At Bundu Tuhan he saw a great crowd of people. The headman, Gantuang, had called a meeting. "Who will help us?" he cried. "If the two suns go on shining, in thirty days we will all be dead."

"I will help," said Lasiman. "You people stay here and watch. I have a plan, but I must do it all myself."

The people watched as Lasiman walked into the thick forest. All that day and all that night they watched. While they watched Lasiman climbed and climbed until, just before sunrise, he reached the top of Mount Kinabalu. There he waited.

The two suns came up, and Lasiman waited and waited until one of them was near enough for him to reach with a dart from his blowpipe. He put the dart in the mouthpiece of his blowpipe, and, raising it slowly, took good aim.

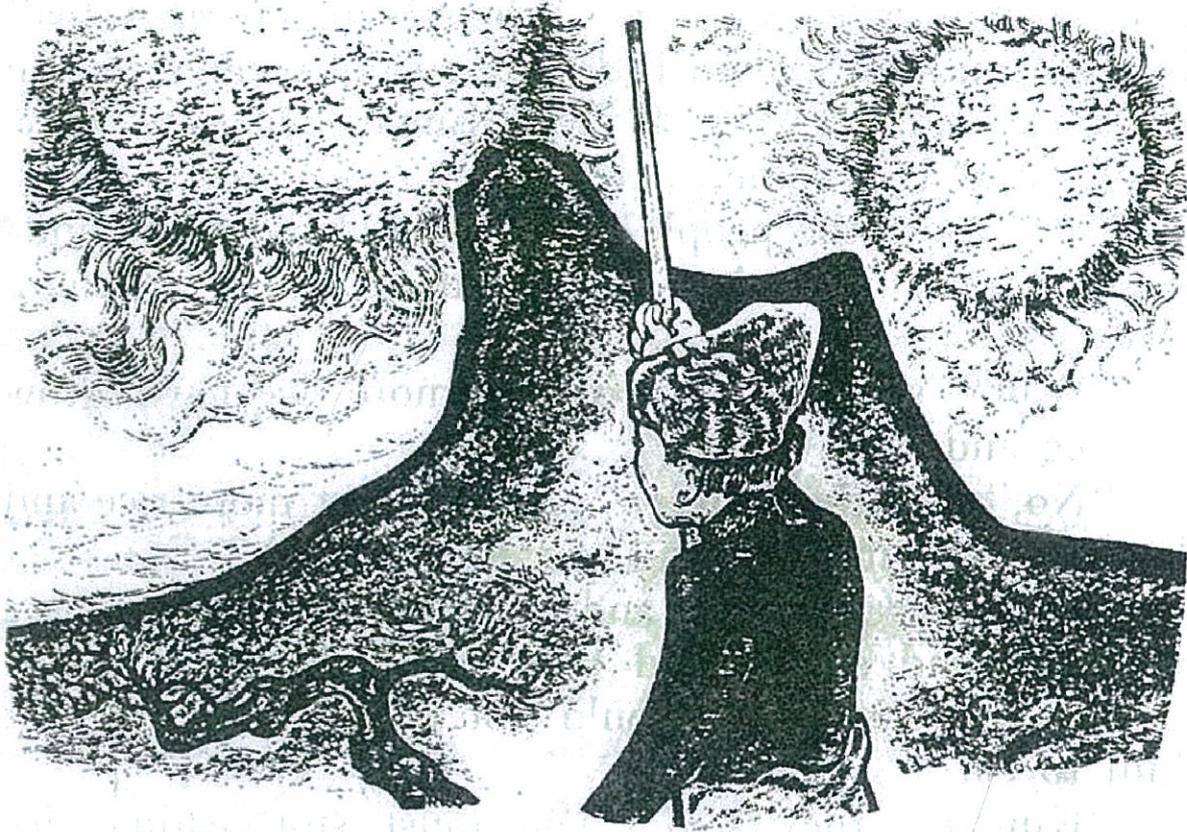
Puff!

The little dart flew straight to the centre of the sun, and down it fell out of sight.

The watching people at Bundu Tuhan gave a great shout of joy because now there was only one sun in the sky and all was well. They wanted to make Lasiman a great hero, but he rushed home to his wife and little boy and was happy to see they were now growing well and strong.

But after thirty days a wonderful thing happened.

THE TWO SUNS



Lasiman waited and waited

When the sun went down, the dead sun rose again; but it gave light only and no heat. The hot sun said to the dead sun, "What happened to you, my brother?" The dead sun answered, "I was hit by a dart and I am now very weak." "Oh!" said the hot sun, "Now you are the moon, and I am the only sun."

So the moon shines at night but he is very weak and does not give heat. Also, he is not strong enough to shine all the time, so some nights there is no moon.

KUMAR, THE DRAGON OF MOUNT KINABALU

Once upon a time in the village of Bundu Tuhan, there