

# Grande Island

By : serpol

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Many years have passed, their offspring multiplied. It happened as a fulfilment of Dios prophecy.



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# Grande Island : Chapter 1

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-charlie s. flojo-

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"Our offspring will multiply in the place known as Pearl of the Orient. They will be called Pilipino (Filipino) because in them, came the race of Pili (elite) and Pino (refined)".

It came to passed, there are many mortals aboard in a boat cast adrift in the island of Philippines. They came from the different parts of the world that emerged from the wives of Dios. They quickly multiplied in this Island. Most mortal are so beautiful so the children of gods were fascinated with them. Because of this, many of the mortals became the wives of the sons of gods.

Luzon has many children and grandchildren. His favourite grandchild is Apo (Grandchild). Apo became famous because of his grandeur and brilliance. Apo also possesses a power as the same as the power of the gods but when he fell in love with a beautiful mortal whom he called Kababae (Women), his god being is lose. His love affair with Kababe resulted in a baby boy whom he called Kalalake (Man). Because of this, the gods are very angry to Apo so Apo was finally rejected in the House of Gods.

Because of the strong bond of love of Apo and Kababae their offspring quickly multiplied. Some of them became the wives of Bataan, the son of Apo Abucay. They native coast and land became prosperous because of the greatness and of wisdom of Apo. They named their kingdom Kalaklan (Trade) because it was the centre of trade of various kingdoms and foreigners.

Many times have passed, a selfish man, Arabo, is born from Bangal by a bald-headed merchant foreigner whom they named Arabohok (no hair) (so said because the foreigner is always seen wearing a head veil and only to find out that he is bald-headed).

Arabo wants to usurp the throne of Apo. He unkindly kills those who frustrate his purpose. One day, all are surprised when they learned that Apo is beheaded and took his *caban* (a kind of trunk where his valuable treasures is placed). So the whole kingdom is in deep sorrow and under the leadership of Zambales, one of Apo's son, they pursued Arabo and his army. Arabo and his army were killed by a bloody combat but *caban* has never been recovered since Arabo ordered to bury it in an island called the Island of Death.

King Zambales sent elite warriors to recover the said *caban* but they were not able to succeed and no one of them has returned. Yet, another mission followed but still failed so they called the island, a place of no return, and later, Island of Death. Since then, the people are afraid to sail in this area for thousands of people have just simply disappeared. The kingdom of Zambales is unable to travel and to fish in their territorial sea so they only concentrate on the raisings and productions of animals and plant as a sort of their livelihood.

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Meanwhile, Mampweng, an old hermit and a forest god, is also very angry for the death of his brother Apo. Since then, people are no longer welcome in his territory. Mampweng ordered all his ferocious animals to devour every man that comes in his territory.

As a tribute to the death of Apo, the ferocious animals attack the kingdom of Zambales every last full moon of the month. At first, the army attempted to fight but unable to conquer those ferocious animals so all they have to do is to let these hundreds of cattle to be lured and to be fed on the ferocious animals and when these ferocious animals are filled, they deliberately leave. They also poisoned the cattle before letting them to be fed to the ferocious animals but the ferocious animals seems to have the intellect. They do not eat the poisoned one. So their idea in planning to kill these ferocious animals did not succeed. Because of this, the herds of the kingdom did not increase for they supply it as the food of ferocious animals because if they are not going to do this, the lives of the people will be sacrificed or consumed.

Meanwhile, Cabalan, one of Arabo's wives, is scheduled for execution for she was accused of collaboration with Arabo. Cabalan is also one of Apo's daughters. She is the safe-keeper of the *caban*. Arabo forced Cabalan to love him so he can get the *caban*. Cabalan has a pigeon given to her by Apo when she is still a kid. The pigeon is in charge of carrying and bringing to the kingdom the important messages from the gods that are written in green leaves. Sometimes, about the prophecy of the kingdom is written on those green leaves. But when Apo died, this pigeon becomes huge and vanished away.

Asinan, a slave and obstetrician, pleaded to king Zambales to pending the execution of Cabalan until the baby in her womb is born because she is pregnant from Arabo. The king granted the request in such condition, the baby born by Cabalan shall be a slave of the kingdom.

One night, volcano Pinatubo suddenly erupted. This coincided for the giving birth of Cabalan and queen Candelaria. Both of them died after giving birth but before Cabalan yields her last breath, he pleaded Asinan to exchange her baby to the king's baby because she did not want to suffer the slavery of her daughter someday. Asinan succeeded in exchanging the two babies because he is the obstetrician of the two. Furthermore, people are in great panic due to the rumbles of volcanic eruption, vibrating earthquake and rushing of the hot lavas.

It came to pass, Asinan begged the king to nurture the baby. The king agreed. So Asinan concealed the true origin of the two.

The birth of a baby girl by queen Candelaria resulted in substantial doubt to the kingdom. Whereas, according to the prophecy contained in the green leaves...

"With the eruption of volcano, a baby boy is born from the queen. He is the grandchild of Apo. He is the destined hero and will defend the kingdom. He will be named Sabik (Long) for he will long the love of his father and a beautiful princess will long for his love."

Due to the king's too much delight to the baby, he has forgotten about the prophecy. He named the baby, Rita. The real king's son lives and grew up with Asinan. He named the boy, Subic.

One day, the king consulted a Babaylan (priestess) about his princess. The Babaylan spoke in a trembling voice...

"The Tari (gaff) is born, the grandchild of Apo, the fated one that will defend the kingdom. Any attempt to destroy the Tari (gaff) will be wounded and die!"

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Asinan trembled in fear after hearing the Babaylan because he has done something wrong about the fated one but the Babaylan approached him and whispered to Asinan...

"Protect the Tari (gaff) and concealed his true origin."

Because of this, the intense fear of Asinan, vanished.

The king, upon hearing the Babaylan, is very much determined that princess Rita is the one fated, the true realization of the prophecy. For Tari, is the opposite of Rita; whereas according to the prophecy, the one fated is a boy and the opposite of a boy is girl. So king Zambales rejoiced and hailed the princess.

"Long live the Tari(gaff) of the kingdom!"

"Long live!"

"Long live princess Rita, the Tari (gaff) of the kingdom!"

"Long live!"

So king Zambales swore to the baby princess that she will never long for his fatherly love to contradict what is stated in the prophecy. So from then on, the king never married again so he can focus his attention to the princess.

When the two grew up, the princess prefers to play with Subic than to the young nobles or members of royal family that are peevish and annoying. They used to see each other secretly. Sometimes, Subic disguised as duke so he can freely go to the palace. Princess Rita also disguised as a slave girl so he can freely go to Subic's place. Sometimes they flee and go from place to place. They go to the river to paddle, to swim, to row a boat and to fish. They go to the forest to gather fruits, to climb trees, to swing on the vines and to hunt wild animals. They go to the shore to run and play on the beach sand and to collect shells. They go on top of the mountains to slide downward riding in a coconut leaves, to watch the beautiful landscapes and to fly a kite. They also used to go to the garden to gather flowers and chase butterflies and much more. Their happiness is incomparable.

One day, princess Rita wondered on the heart shape birthmark on Subic's chest. Out of curiosity, she touched it and stared in wonder. Subic has nothing to tell because he himself knows nothing about his birthmark.

At home, Subic asks Asinan about his birthmark. Asinan was nervous. Even more nervous when he learn that princes Rita touched and stared at it. Asinan instructed Subic not to tell anyone about his birthmark. To be sure, Asinan poured an acid to cover and hide the birthmark.

When Subic was eleven years old, he noticed through himself a tremendous power. He can drive away the ferocious animals. Because of this, the two agreed that Asinan possesses the power so as not to doubt the extraordinary ability of Subic.

The king was elated when he learned that Asinan had recoil the ferocious animals. Because of this, Asinan is freed from being a slave and made him chief ruler of the royal herd.

When Subic reached the age of twelve, his training with Asinan becomes more rigorous. He trained how to battle. Sometimes he lost the interest to train. Because according to him, he doesn't need to be a terrific combatant for he is only a slave. However, the urge of Asinan, prevail. He gave Subic a very hard training such as; he will be pursued by five consecutive lions that cause him to run all day without stopping, he will be

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swimming on the wide river starting from sunrise to sunset without stopping, to fight blindfolded and bound hand and many others.

At the age of fifteen, Subic and princess Rita went on top of the mountain. They were flying a big kite. They put a cage made up of net under it so they can ride while the kite is on flight. And it happens. While riding on a big kite, they saw the beautiful sceneries down the kingdom. Unknowingly, Mercano came. He is the rigorous rival of Subic in the princess' heart. Mercano secretly unleashes the rope of the kite that is being tied in the big tree. The big kite swept by strong wind. It headed in to the territory of Mampweng. But before it landed to the awaiting and ready to devour ferocious animals, a huge pigeon came and seized the kite and forcibly flew away. But the huge dove is unbearable to bring the two in flight. So Subic let himself fall from the kite and the pigeon brought the princess safely to the royal herd.

Meanwhile, the whole kingdom is worried for they can't find the princess. The maid of honour said that Princes Rita was abducted by Subic because if she reveals the truth, that Subic and the princess used to see each other secretly, he might be beheaded by the king.

The whole kingdom helps one another to search the princess. Finally, Mercano found the princes.

When the princess is inquired about what happened, she is speechless. She remained traumatized for several days. Meanwhile, Mercano became the youngest member of the kingdom's army for his allege rescue to the princess. Asinan was also imprisoned and to be released only if Subic surrenders. The king also ordered the capture of Subic either dead or alive.

Meanwhile, Subic lives for several days with the gorillas while hiding himself from the army of the king. Subic wondered why are the gorillas are fearful and rarely go out on the cave. He realized that a group of powerful gorillas is oppressing and killing them. Subic defended these pitiful gorillas by helping them in defeating those savage gorillas.

The last full moon came. The ferocious animals attack again. Asinan is brought out from jail to drive away those ferocious animals. But he knows he can't do it because Subic is the one who really posses the power. So he pretended being very sick and unable to get up. Over fifty of the cattle are already devoured. So Asinan is diagnosed and the physician said Asinan is not sick. Upon suggestion, they throw Asinan in the ravine that is full of vines near the ferocious animals to compel him to drive those ferocious animals but before Asinan fell, a gorilla had caught him. Then together, they drove the ferocious animals. The king is surprised and delighted for what he had witnessed. So he freed Asinan and let him regain his position as the ruler of the royal herd. He gave Asinan fifty slaves to help him in tending the herd.

Asinan and the gorilla, together with the fifty slaves made a dams, dikes and turbines. The very strong gorilla that disguised Subic is the one carrying the big rocks. The king is very much pleased when he saw the turbines and the huge dams and dikes being built. From now on, there is already a sufficient supply of water during summer. The grasses on top of the mountains are watered through the turbines. Not only the grass and herds are increased in production but also the fruits, fishes and fowls. With the buildings of these dams and dikes, it is tantamount to vast ocean. Due to these accomplishments, Asinan, from being a slave, is made minister of the kingdom. A big feast was given in his honour. There was dancing, eating and singing. The gorilla became the centre of attraction in the celebration. Mercano is very jealous when princess Rita danced with the meek gorilla.

When the party is over, minister Asinan is abducted by the pirates. All are tired due to e the recent celebration so they are unaware of the abduction. These pirates abducted minister Asinan because of the big benefit they can obtain from him. Minister Asinan is gifted in making special kind of acid that can scorch an enemy. They want Asinan to be their allies. Balicbalic (Return) an expert in boomerang, (a kind of weapon that when it

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thrown it *returns* to the thrower) is the leader of the pirates. They are sea pirates attacking traders in the middle of the kingdom territorial sea but their activities in this sea are stopped since the traders no longer travel in this sea for they feared the mystery of the Island of Death. So these pirates made the kingdom of Zambales as their next target to be their victims. They rob the people of the kingdom. The others are abducted to make them become their allies.

At that same time of abduction to minister Asinan, Mercano raped Nelie, the most beautiful and the closet maid of honor of princess Rita. The crime is blamed on the gorilla. Because of this, Subic immediately fled. He took off his cloths, the skin of gorilla, and gave it to Philip who is scheduled to be brought in to the kingdom of king Hanjin. Philip is the one of the ten slaves sold to king Hanjin by king Zambales. Subic puts on the garments of Philip and rode on the chariot together with the nine slaves and brought them in to the mining camp that covers the vast kingdom of king Hanjin.

The designated guards in this camp are very brutal. They even exploited women slaves. Subic can endure their cruelty but when these guards are trying to kill him, he defended himself so he accidentally killed four of the guards. The leader of the guards ordered to pursue Subic, but Subic quickly ran until he reached an open cage of a gladiator. In the cage, Subic saw a men trembling holding an iron mask. Subic took the mask and hastily wears it to hide his face in his pursuer. Yet Gordon submissively gave the mask and even helps Subic in putting the mask on his face.

Gordon is a gladiator. He is the next one to fight the fierce tiger that already killed more than a hundred gladiators. So when the name Gordon called, a masked man came out on the cage and faced the tiger. The real Gordon immediately fled. Meanwhile, Subic is in disadvantage situation and even underestimated by the betters but in just an instant, he killed the tiger. Here began the fame of Subic as Gordon. He has been contended to many fights. Of the more than two thousand fights, he never defeated. There are instances that he was compelled to fight fierce animals, to fight a full battle gear opponent without using a weapon or armour. He also participated in the so called survival of the fittest fight in a large steel cage with one hundred participants and he wins in this fight for he is only the sole survivor. He also participated in a fight with flooded arena using war boat. He also participated to fight incessantly within twenty four hours and in this day he defeated five hundred gladiators. Thus, king Hanjin became very wealthy and also with the king who always bet on the sides of Subic most especially king Zambales that in earlier times, he wants to purchased the gladiator Gordon to king Hanjin.

One day, Gordon was contended to Coryano, a foreign gladiator, very strong and never defeated to all of his fights.

King Hanjin said to Gordon that he should succumb to Coryano because he is going to bet on his side. King Hanjin also said that he already made an arrangement to the executioner that once Gordon loss or quit in the middle of the fight, the executioner will not eventually execute or kill Gordon. King Hanjin also said that this is his last fight and after this fight with Coryano, he is going to give his freedom. Gordon deliberately agreed.

Subic pretends that he was dead when hit by a powerful kick of Coryano. But this gladiator is really savage. He doesn't want to leave his enemy alive. Compared to Subic, he is compassionate and has pity. He won't kill his opponent unless it is unavoidable or accident.

Subic urged Coryano not to finish him but Coryano didn't listen to his plea and he attempt to crushed the head of Subic. Subic struggles to free himself from the hold of Coryano and immediately broke his nose. This has no effect to Coryano and he eventually gone wild. He pulled out the columns of the arena and hurled to Subic. Subic fell prostrate on the floor from the rapid succession and forcible blow of Coryano seemingly all his bone are fractured but surprisingly, Subic still manage to continue the fight. The betters and the viewers cried a dissonant clamor. And finally, Coryano released his deadliest and final hurl, but Subic dodged and quickly

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seized the throat of Coryano. The large column is thrown into the audience and betters and many are injured and some are even killed.

The throat of Coryano is slashed but can still manage to fight. Subic proceeded to his next move. He ripped the stomach of Coryano so his intestine burst. Coryano can still manage to fight. His strength is unchanged. Subic is always knocked down when hit by the powerful kick of Coryano. So as the final attack of Subic, he snatched the heart of Coryano. Coryano falls and eventually dies. Because of this, the referee changed his decision and declared Subic as the winner. All are very happy on the result of the fight except king Hanjin.

King Hanjin can't believe what happened. He almost can't accept the decision of the referee because he bet almost all his wealth in this fight. Hence, the king ordered that Gordon will be offered to their gods.

King Hanjin has a vast kingdom. At the centre of his kingdom lies a mountain covered with grasses. At the top of the mountain has a unique tall tree which is the home of the couple dragons. At the stem of the tree is a steel cage where an old lion is confined. For them the mountain is sacred. This is their sanctuary. Each year they offer three human lives, one for the lion and two for the couple dragons.

King Zambales suggests to king Hanjin that Gordon be the only one to be offered by the three sacred beings so that while doing the offer people can do betting, Gordon against the three sacred beings. King Hanjin agreed so that he can recoup his many losses wealth.

They bring Gordon inside the steel cage. He fought the lion. Gordon is wounded but he finally killed the lion. King Hanjin is nervous for he might lose again because he bets for his three sacred gods. Gordon finds a way on how he can get out on the cage. He shouts angrily and forcibly. He tear the skin of the tree using his bare hands then took the jaw and bones of the lion and chopped the stem but not even a half of it is chipped and all the bones and jaws are crushed. Not enough to let the tree fall. So he gathers the dry leaves and branches and made fire by rubbing the dry twigs. Finally he burns the stem of the tree. He added the fats of the lion to accelerate the burning. Finally the tree fell down but the steel cage is not destroyed. The couple dragon is disturbed and they crawled toward Subic. The male dragon enters the steel cage and coiled to Gordon. Gordon wrestled the dragon. Grab his head and rub it in the rough stump of the tree. The head of the dragon is worn off and died. The wife of the dragon got angry and she expelled fires towards Gordon. Gordon dodged and the fire hit the some parts of the steel cage and it melts. The dragon continues to emit fire and hit the stump of the tree where Subic hid himself. The small portion and the steel cage that prevent the disintegration of the tree and the stump burnt. Because of this, the tree eventually withdrew to its stump. The tree rolls and glides downward. The dragon coiled tightly to the tree but it continues to roll and glide down faster and faster until it hit the king's palace. Many noble men and members of the royal family have died. The female dragon also died because she was crushed but before she finally died, she expelled a very huge hot fire and hit the barracks of the kingdom. The barracks burnt into ashes and many armies died. The audience and the betters are very much delighted on the outcome of the fight because all of them bet on the side of Subic except king Hanjin. So they cried...

"Freeman! Freeman! Freeman!"

King Hanjin's army is unable to pursue Subic for their barracks is gone and most of them are injured and killed.

Then Gordon, finally escaped from the kingdom of Zambales.

After this, Subic seeks the fort of the pirates and recovered minister Asinan.

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Meanwhile, the royal herd left by minister Asinan and Subic are almost all gone because aside from letting them to be fed to the ferocious animals, a very dangerous plague devastated the herd. So the king wants Asinan to be back in his kingdom because if all the herds are gone, the ferocious animals will surely devour the people in the kingdom.

Again, the last full moon came. All feared for the arrival of the ferocious animals. But before devouring the remaining herd, minister Asinan and a masked man arrived and they drive out the ferocious animals.

The king is surprised for the return of minister Asinan together with the masked man Gordon. He is extremely delighted because on his came back, he bring along with him the masked man Gordon, the grate gladiator he longs to buy for a long time to king Hanjin. But now, this man voluntary came to his kingdom.

Thus, Gordon treated the plague of the herd through transmission of the blood of plague survivors to the body of remaining herd. (This process is called immunization, the start of the discovery of vaccine. Vaccine came from the word vacca, means cow).

Again, king Zambales gave a big feast in honour of the two. Asinan is promoted as second chief minister which envied by his fellow ministers. There was dancing, eating, drinking and singing in this celebration. Because of Subic longing to the princess, they dance repeatedly. This envied captain Mercano very much. Many princes have a strong liking on Subic because of his elegant and muscled body. One of this is princess Amelia, the daughter of king Bajac. Princes Amelia is the best friend of princes Rita. She was invited in this feast. She also danced repeatedly with Gordon but Gordon knew that his heart belongs only to princess Rita.

Mercano has a big doubt regarding the personality of the masked man. After the celebration, Mercano secretly followed the masked man to his hut near the ranch. Mercano is surprised when he saw the man unmasked because the man behind the masked is Subic. Subic gently lies. Because he was very tired due to the recent celebration, he immediately falls asleep. Captain Mercano stole the mask and wears it. Then he went to princess Rita who was sitting on the balcony of the palace and this prompted the princess to go down to the garden. The surrounding is dark and calm. Suddenly the masked Mercano embraced princess Rita with an eagerness and a strong desire. The princess also embraced the masked Mercano but when Mercano attempts to rape her, she forcibly pushed him and ran back to the palace. The princess is angry. He thought Gordon was a gentleman but why is he so very aggressive and lustful.

Because the masked Mercano failed to rape princess Rita, he turned on to rape princess Amelia. He succeeded in raping the princess who slept here after the celebration. After raping the princes, Mercano carefully returned the mask. Subic is unaware of the theft and return of his masked.

Morning comes. Subic is awake. Before leaving his hut he wears his mask then released the herds. He turns to the garden of the palace to glimpse the princess but the princes seemed to hate and feared him. Subic wondered why the princess seems to be wild and angry with him.

Meanwhile, the consort of princess Amelia shocked when they saw the piteous appearance of the princess. When asked who raped her, she said, Gordon. All are startled and the king ordered the arrest of Gordon because he is the one being pointed as suspect. Subic is confused so he fled. But secretly, he was followed by Mercano's group.

King Bajac is very angry on the raped of her daughter. Prince Boton, together with more than fifty thousand warriors advanced to the kingdom of king Zambales. Prince Boton is princess Amelia's brother. To avoid bloodshed, king Zambales voluntarily submits himself as captive and they resolved to be released upon the surrender of Gordon.

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Subic was caught by captain Mercano's army. Minister Asinan feared this so much because he knew that Subic will be executed if they will surrender him to the king. So the minister pleaded to Mercano. Captain Mercano refused the entreaty of the minister because this is now the chance for him to be promoted. He dreamed to be a general and if he surrenders Subic, the king and the princess will surely trust and admire him. One thing more, his keenest rival in the heart of the princess will finally be gone.

But minister Asinan pleaded again. He promised to help Mercano in getting a general position and will find ways on how to get the absolute trust and admiration of the king and the princess for him. Mercano agreed in such condition, Subic will be his slave, and he burns the beautiful face of Subic so that when they see to each other with the princess, the princess will loathe him.

Asinan pitied the fate of Subic but this can benefit them so as to hide his identity as Subic and Gordon. And Subic was called ugly slave Magsaysay.

Meanwhile, chief minister Japon advised Mercano not to kill Subic and minister Asinan because they can get many benefits from the two. He also suggests to seek and to get the true Gordon to be surrendered to king Bajac in exchange for the freedom of king Zambales.

Captain Mercano is the conspirator of chief minister Japon of their dark plans against the kingdom. The two are real father and son. They concealed this so that it would be easier for them to usurp the throne of the king.

Meanwhile, they learned that the real Gordon is hiding somewhere in the kingdom of Hanjin. They arrested the true Gordon and surrendered to king Bajac in exchanged of the freedom of king Zambales. Thus, the king is very much pleased to captain Mercano so he promoted him as a general of five thousand warriors. There was a big feast in honour of his (questionable) heroism.

Meanwhile, the true Gordon tried. He said he is innocent about the crime. But the official records obtained from the kingdom of Hanjin shows he was the real Gordon. Gordon admitted that fact but the truth is there is someone who is using his name. So they suspend the execution of the real Gordon.

Again, king Bajac's army rushed to the kingdom of Zambales because the Gordon they surrendered is not the real culprit.

King Zambales begged to king Bajac to give one month deadline to find the real culprit. He also provided big amount of money as a reward for anyone who can capture or point out the whereabouts of Subic.

Thus, Asinan is terrified for Mercano might surrender Subic or Mercano's loyal men might tell the whereabouts of Subic.

A month pass, they had not found the real culprit. And probably, carrying too much sorrow and shame, princes Amelia committed a suicide.

King Bajac feels too much anger and resentment for the death of his one and only princess. After the burial, king Bajac and his army advanced to attack the kingdom of Zambales. They were seeking justice for the death of the princess. Zambales alone face the army. He is begging and supplicating earnestly to king Bajac and he compromised that prince Boton will marry his princess Rita to settle or put an end to their aggravating dispute.

General Mercano almost can't believe the compromise agreement of the two kings. He can't accept this because he knew that when they make this to happen he will not only lose the princess heart but also the king's throne

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Subic has also a mixed feeling of fear and regret. Fear, for he could be surrendered to the king by Mercano so as to stop the marriage, and regret because when the marriage won't cease, princess Rita will be forever lost to him.

The day of the wedding comes. Many have attended to grace the occasion.

Mercano ordered Subic to abduct Boton so that the wedding ceased. Subic refused because he would not want to increase the hatred and anger of the people to the masked man whom they claimed culprit but Subic, whether he likes it or not, he has to follow the order of Mercano because Mercano might as well denounce him as culprit. Furthermore, he doesn't also want that his beloved princess will be permanently lost.

Again, Subic wears his mask. He went to the jungle in the territory of Mampweng to borrow the hermit's ferocious animals. And they attacked the ongoing wedding feast in the kingdom of king Bajac. People were terrified. The army is unable to volley their arrows because the ferocious animals are mingled with the people. Thus, Subic succeeded in abducting prince Boton. He brought it to his hut. Secretly, general Mercano killed Boton by a bite of a poisonous snake to make it sure that their marriage with the princess will no longer realize. Subic is astonished for he doesn't know what killed his captive.

Meanwhile, king Zambales and princess Rita is left captives in the kingdom of Bajac. He said he is going to release the two if they return prince Boton alive.

Subic wears the war clothes of Mercano and ordered him to rescue king Zambales and princess Rita. To be sure, Mercano locked the metal shield on the face of Subic so that it can't be removed while Subic is doing the rescue. Mercano also instructed Subic that the king and the princess must be convinced that it was Mercano who rescued them and not him. He also threaten Subic that if he is not going to comply, he will denounce to the three kings about his identity.

"Make sure that you won't fail or I'll kill Asinan!"

Subic is not afraid of the threat of Mercano. What perplexed him is the urge of minister Asinan to save the king. Asinan can't give the real answer so he said...

"If the king dies, minister Japon will sit on the throne. Thus, our life will be at risk, so with the kingdom."

Magsaysay succeeded in rescuing the princess and the king. His plan is to rescue only the princess and after it, kills Mercano. But he remembered the emphatic plea of minister Asinan that whatever happens he must save the king. Asinan cannot say that, "He is your real father."

Asinan is afraid to tell this because Subic might get angry of him and if the king also learned this secret, Asinan might be beheaded.

Asinan also explained to Magsaysay that if he is going to kill Mercano, his loyal men will only denounce his secrets.

Meanwhile, king Bajac is very angry when he learned that the king and the princess escaped. When he also learned that prince Boton is dead, he became furious. Hence, he declared war against king Bajac for they continue hiding the perpetrator.

King Bajac and his more than hundred thousand armies attacked the kingdom of Zambales. In sympathy, king Tapinac sent thirty thousand warriors as their allies. More than twenty thousand is also sent from king ilalim.

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With ten days of battling, they easily besieged the kingdom of Zambales because they first killed the chief general, general Antonio. General Mercano hid in the midst of the battle.

Subic mobilized all his allies to attack the kingdom of Bajac. With him are the ferocious animals, the group of pirates led by Balicbalic, his fellow former gladiators who was his allies in a team fight but now member of the pirates and also the allies behind them are the coward forces of general Mercano. The expertise of his men are as follows: Tabacuhan, sword; Iram, axe; Tipo, spear; Maliwakat, the boxer; Bulagaw, sniper; Sibol, bamboo; Libas, the kick fighter; Binictican, the wrestler; Mabayuan, archery; Castillejos, lash; Narciso, slingshot; Balicbalic, boomerang; and minister Asinan, scorching acid.

Because of this, king Bajac immediately leave their besieged kingdom of Zambales to defend their own kingdom but they brought king Zambales and princess Rita as their captives.

Meanwhile, Subic and his allies open the dam and destroy the dikes. They alter the direction of the rivers and directed it all to the kingdom of Bajac. The water roars and it created a huge flood. This flood called Bajac-Bajac. It means the kingdom of Bajac is engulfed by flood. Subic and his allies continue to attack using a war boat called Sibitsibit. Because of the huge flood, king Bajac warriors are defeated easily because they are inefficient when it comes into war in the sea compared to the sea pirates of Balicbalic.

After destroying the kingdom of Bajac, a large number of warriors came from the kingdom of Tapinac and Ilalim to rescue the kingdom of Bajac. Subic and his allies are very much exhausted in the recent battle. So how can they battle the large number of army? Their only hope is the help of the forces of Mercano. But how can they depend on the coward troops of Mercano that in the midst of the battle, they are hiding behind them? But while the waters from the dams and rivers continue to rush, they didn't lose hope especially when they saw the huge wall that separates the kingdom of Bajac and Tapinac. They call this place Pag-asa(Hope). Thus, they destroy the wall by using the scorching acid of minister Asinan. When the wall collapsed, huge water rushed and dashed the incoming enemy. Many were drowned and unable to advance because of the strong current of water. The soil in king Bajac's kingdom becomes soft and melted so it is not only waters that dashed the enemy but also mire. The water and mire continue to rush and dash up to the kingdom of Tapinac and it leaves a deep mud called Pitac (Mud) and it continued to flow until it reaches the kingdom of Ilalim and here, the mud reach up to sixteen feet deep. Thus, the kingdom of Tapinac is filled with Pitac (mud) and the kingdom of Ilalim (Under) is buried under the mud.

Thus, within two months of battling, they have destroyed three kingdoms except Morong's kingdom that are now launching their attacks but when they heard that the three kingdoms are already destroyed, Morong's army had withdrawn (uMorong).

Thus, general Mercano and his army came. They drive Subic together with his allies. He ordered them all to vanish so that the credit in defeating the three kingdoms would be given to them.

Then Mercano rescues king Zambales and princess Rita who are confined in the upper part of king Bajac palace.

Many have died in the recent battle. The men survivors were imprisoned while the women were made slaves. Since then, the kingdom becomes prosperous and expanded and the people believe that general Mercano save the king and the princess. They also believe that he is the responsible in defeating the three kingdoms. So he got the full trust and so much admiration of the king. Thus, general Mercano was promoted as the chief general of the kingdom.

## Chapter 2

Riding onto a horse, the princess wanders through the immense kingdom. She saw the beautiful sights and happy people. But the princess has a gloomy feeling and once again floated in her memories her childhood lover, the slave Subic, her first love, the one and only love, he who always save her life in times of danger, he who always makes her laugh and happy, but she knows, Subic is gone. She is certain that those ferocious animals will not leave Subic alive. But why until now, Subic is not erased in her mind?

Due to this feeling of loneliness, the princess decided to go to their former rendezvous, and here, she saw the ugly slave Magsaysay. He was sitting on a large rock. His eyes focus on a distance. He is reminiscing. When the princess is approaching, Magsaysay gave a polite greeting. They had an intimate conversation but Subic decided to stay away from the princess so as not to endanger his life. And despite of his ugliness, he had accepted that they were not meant for each other.

One day, general Mercano proposed to the king to have a competition. The competition would be to find and return to the kingdom the royal signet ring which will be catapulted into the jungle territory of Mampweng. The winner will then marry the princess. The king immediately agreed because this is perhaps the better way to eliminate those ferocious animals.

Many brave princes, dukes, generals and warriors in the kingdom and in different kingdoms participated in the competition, but they do not know that this is another black agenda by minister Japon and general Mercano. For in case minister Japon sits on the throne, the ferocious animals will no longer be their problem and if all of these ferocious animals are eliminated, they can now also dispatch Subic and minister Asinan. Furthermore, they are confident that the competitors cannot find the royal signet ring due to the ticket of the woods. Also hidden from their knowledge, minister Japon and general Mercano connived with the royal blacksmith to make a ring the same as the royal signet ring and gave it to general Mercano.

Meanwhile, Magsaysay is worried for the possible danger that awaits these competitors. He has concerned both for the lives of the competitors and the ferocious animals so he went to the territory of Mampweng not to participate in the competition but to hide the ferocious animals in the cave so as to prevent the slaughtering between the competitors and the ferocious animals. While doing this, he accidentally saw the royal signet ring. He picked and put it in his pocket.

Meanwhile, Mercano, together with his loyal men, also participated in the competition. They are searching not the ring but the ones who search the ring.

Due to the persistency of the competitors in searching the ring, they accidentally opened the cave where Subic hid those ferocious animals. Thus, the ferocious animals attacked the competitors. Thousands of the competitors died. The completion didn't cease until all the ferocious animals died. When general Mercano and minister Japon are certain that all the ferocious animals are completely eliminated, they announced that they have found the ring. Thus, the king ordered to stop the competition. He called all the survivors to proceed in the lobby of the palace. Then, they arrange a big feast for the survivors and to the people of the king so they can announce the winner or the lucky one who is going to marry the princess. There was dancing, singing, eating and drinking. At the midst of their happiness and enjoyment, the king ordered all to be silent so he can announce the winner of the competition. The king is now calling the name of the winner but before he uttered the name of general Mercano, the ugly Magsaysay came and extended the signet ring to the king. The king is surprised. Then, he was fainting. The people are also surprised. It seems that they cannot accept that the princess will be married by the ugly slave.

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Minister Japon rescued the fainting king who is still holding the ring that was handed from Subic. He secretly exchanged the royal signet ring to the fake ring of general Mercano.

Meanwhile, minister Asinan got angry because Subic didn't consult him in doing such thing but Subic argued gently that he would only want to embarrass general Mercano in his fraud and it is not in his desire or intention to marry the princes.

When the king recovered in his consciousness, minister Japon speaks before the people. He called their attention and ordered to remain silent while he was speaking.

"I want to convey to the knowledge of all of you who are here right now, that this ugly slave is no other than the criminal we are looking for a long time. He is Subic, the young slave who failed to abduct the princess. He is also the gorilla who raped and killed the maid of honour Nelie. He is also the masked man Gordon, the ungrateful gladiator who after making him famous he murdered the army, the noble men and the royal family of king Hanjin. This ugly man also raped the daughter of king Bajac, princess Amelia. He also murdered princess Amelia's brother, prince Boton. I also learned that he intentionally burnt his face to hide his identity. I also learned that the ring he handed to the king is a fake and the true signet ring was found by a true hero. He is no other than general Mercano."

All cried and applauded for what they heard. Then, the minister continues his speech.

"Because of the tremendous power of Subic, the former slave, minister Asinan had gotten the courage to secretly usurp the king's throne and he wanted Subic to marry the princess so that it would be easy for him to dethrone the king! Here are my evidences and witnesses to prove what I have spoken!"

He showed the evidences such as iron mask and clothes made up of gorilla skin. The witnesses whom they paid also expressed pure lies and perverted statement. Subic remains still. Even if he insists his reasons in defending himself, the evidences and witnesses against him are very strong. Furthermore, no one would want to testify in his favour. Thus, Subic is arrested and the people cried...

"Behead that criminal! Behead Subic! Behead! Behead! Behead!"

Feeling too much anger, the princess slapped Subic on his face. Thus, the princess asked the king if he could allow her to behead Subic so as to avenge her maid of honour Nelie and her best friend princess Amelia.

The king agreed.

The princess could hardly believe why Subic have done this. She has many questions to herself, what compels Subic in doing all these things.

"Why have you done this abomination to my father's kingdom?"

"Even you, dear princess, also believe in their accusations."

"And to whom should I suppose to believe? You want me to believe in you? You who are accustomed in living a life full of lies? When we are still a child you made me believe that you love me and that our love is eternal, that even tragedies can't destroy our strong bond of love. But what have you done to my heart. You made me believe that you are dead but only to find out, you are still alive. You didn't hint to me. You didn't sympathize with me during those days of my sorrow since you've left. Don't you know that I've longed so much for your love since we've parted from those woods? But now, my eagerness to see you had changed to abhorrence. The love I have felt for you is replaced by hostility and anger. I hate you, Subic. How I wish those

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ferocious animals have devoured you so that the war against the three kingdoms did not happen. Because of you, many lives have been sacrificed. I regret I met a man like you. I can't stop thinking why you've done all these things. Or perhaps you've inherited the bad character of your mother and father who want to gain the throne of the kingdom. So you can't blame me if my anger to you can reach up to the sky!"

"Exercise prudence, dear princess, do not beheaded me just only of your rage feeling against me!"

"I behead you not because I fell angry but I behead you for the sake of justice, justice for my maid of honour Nelie, justice for my best friend princess Amelia, Justice for prince Boton, and justice to all your victims and for trampling our kingdom! Here ends your wrong doings!"

The princess cried and brandished her sharp sword toward the neck of Subic. Subic whispered through himself.

"I now die with peace. I wish you would not regret someday what you've done today."

But before the sharp sword hit the neck of Subic, the princess suddenly drops the sword. A childhood memories crossed her mind. She remembers the birthmark of Subic on the chest that she used to touch when they are still child. Again, she took the sword and cut Subic's cloth on the chest. She is surprised for there is no birthmark on Magsaysay's chest. Subic also recalled the scene when Subic is still a child and minister Asinan poured acid in his birthmark and the birthmark eventually disappear.

Thus, both of them are speechless in a minute so with the people of the kingdom. Hence, the princess is convinced that the ugly slave Magsaysay is not Subic. Thus, the princess proposed to the king that before executing Magsaysay, it is better to grant his rights on the trial proceedings.

But the people wanted Subic to be beheaded now, so they cried...

"Behead that criminal! Behead Subic! Behead! Behead! Behead!"

And they are signalling their left hand holding the hair on top of a head while the right hand is slicing the neck.

The king defers the execution until the capture of minister who suddenly fled.

Minister Asinan is nowhere to find so the king announces that ten days from now, princess Rita will marry general Mercano.

But general Mercano rejected it because he has another bad plan with minister Japon. They are suggesting to the king to have a competition again. The competition is to bring back to the kingdom the caban buried in the Island of Death. The winner in this competition will marry the princess.

This is another evil plan of general Mercano and minister Japon because they already destroyed the curse of Mampweng and their next move is to destroy the curse of the Island of death. More than hundred thousands have participated again in the competition. The army of Mercano did not participate. They only wait onto the shore so as to seize the caban in the hand of the winner.

The army of king Hanjin did not also participate in the competition because he has also another dark plan. He wants to gain the kingdom of Zambales so he made a fake caban and cast adrift in the territorial sea of king Zambales. King Hanjin knows that if the competitors see the fake caban, everyone will seize it and everyone will kill each other in order to win. King Hanjin knows that most of the army of king Zambales will

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participate in the said competition. And if most of his army die in the competition, it would be very easy for him to seize the kingdom of king Zambales. But king Hanjin was wrong. There are only few of the army who participate in the said competition.

Thus, the competitors sailed to the Island of Death. At the middle of the sea they saw the fake caban. The competitors begin to seize it. They kill one another. When the other competitors yield, Bareto came. They try to escape but Bareto consume them all including the competitors who died in the competition. No one is left.

Meanwhile, minister Asinan eventually join the group of the pirates led by Balicbalic. Thus, they help Subic escape from the prison of Zambales kingdom. After the escape, Subic inquires minister Asinan about the mystery of the Island of Death. After hearing all the information, Subic said that he will bring back to the kingdom the said caban.

"Are you interested in the caban or in the princess?"

"No father, I just only want to know the secrets of the Island of Death and I want to seek justice for the death of our race from then until now."

"Your plan is very dangerous, Subic so I'll accompany you because there are still other secrets you need to know more."

Minister Asinan and Subic went to the Island of Death. They had succeeded in getting the caban that is being buried in the Island of Death. On their return, minister Asinan confessed the true personality of Subic.

"I'm a prince! Why did you allow me to suffer like this?"

"Because I do not want to be repeated what happened to Apo. There are many threats in the ongoing kingship of king Zambales. Many want to usurp his throne and many want to seize his kingdom. And you know that, Subic."

"What is the reason why you have hidden my true identity?"

"If the enemy learned that you are the fated one, they will certainly kill you. So I've trained you very hard to prepare yourself as being the true king because you are the destined one to inherit the kingdom of Apo and not just any one else. But forgive me. I feel guilty to myself. I've really done something wrong to Apo and king Zambales but most especially to you, Subic. Even my life will not suffice to pay for them."

"I think there's nothing wrong for what you've done and do not blame your self for the fate I'm suffering now. I know this is the will of Dios (G0d) and Apo and I want to thank for all the goodness you've done to me."

Minister Asinan brings out his acid and poured to the face of Subic. Subic is amazed for his ugly face, returned to its original beautiful form. Then Asinan poured the acid to the birthmark of Subic and his original birthmark appeared. Subic is very much delighted. He doesn't know that his ugly face can still get back to its original form and so with his birthmark.

They were in such circumstances when suddenly, a huge fish monster collide with their boat.

They say that the Island of Death is the territory of Kinabuksan, the god of the sea. Kinabuksan grieved the death of Apo so he ordered Bareto, the huge fish monster, to devour every man that comes to his territory. Thus, Bareto is the mystery creature that is responsible for the lost of thousands and thousands of the races and just recently, he devoured again a hundred thousand competitors.

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Subic and minister Asinan throw the scorching acid to Bareto but Bareto releases an alkali from his skin to prevent the scorching acid from hurting him. The clashing of the scorching acid and the alkali produced a white sand-like by product called *asin* (salt).

Bareto eventually swallowed minister Asinan. Subic, with the caban escaped. Bareto quickly pursued him but there was Kawag (Wiggle) in his rescue. Kawag is the prince of the male mermaids. Subic, with the caban, rode onto Kawag. Then, Kawag doesn't stop to wiggle until they had reached the shore safely. Thus, Subic blame himself for he was not able to defend minister Asinan, the man who nurture him, for he can easily defend the royal herds from the ferocious animals but why he did nothing against that huge monster.

Meanwhile, the king is puzzled again when he learned that all the more than one hundred thousand competitors disappeared in the middle of the sea. So, the king has given up his desire to recover the said caban.

Meanwhile, king Zambales announces the wedding of princess Rita and general Mercano so he ordered to destroy the growing forces of the pirates before the last full moon so that there will be no more distraction on the day of the wedding because the king have learned that Subic and minister Asinan have already joined the group of the pirates. The king emphasized that they have to kill all the pirates including the women and the infants. All their herds, crops, weapons and forts must be destroyed and to be burnt into ashes. Hence, Subic voluntarily surrenders himself to the king to cease their operation against the pirates. Consequently, Subic is brought before the people of the kingdom. Then, he told the dangerous adventure they had encountered with minister Asinan in recovering the caban. But the king and the people did not believe him because according to them, the place is a curse, that no one will escape the place. Thus, Subic shows the caban that they had unearthed in the Island of Death. They let him open the caban before the presence of all. When the caban is opened, the content is also a caban. Then, he opens the caban which is found inside of the earlier caban and the conten is caban again. In short, he had opened ten cabans in accordance with their sizes until the latest caban reaches the size as the same as the size of a matches box. Then, he opens the smallest and latest caban, the contents are a seed and a fish hook.

"Is this the caban of Apo that you were saying, Subic? Do you consider these two things as the valuable and precious treasures of Apo? What kind of craziness are you planning to do, Subic?" Asked minister Japon.

People laugh boisterously on what they saw. Subic also can't believe on what he saw. Thus, Subic tells that he is the real son of the king. He showed the birthmark on his chest which is the same as the birthmark of Apo.

"If you don't believe that I'm actually the son of the king, how do you account for this birthmark?"

The people are surprised especially the princes, when Subic displayed his chest.

"You know, Subic, what perplexed me most is on how did you restore your burnt and ugly face to its original form. Can you explain this to us, Subic?"

Asked minister Japon.

"By the acid of minister, Asinan, your honour."

"Well, you yourself answered your own question. That the birthmark on your chest is created by the acid of minister Asinan."

People laughed and applauded minister Japon for the cross examination he made against Subic. And Subic just gently shook his head.

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"What about my extra ordinary power to drive away the ferocious animals."

Suddenly, the king jumps from his throne and obviously angry with Subic.

"Extra ordinary to drive those ferocious animals! If so, why have you allowed those ferocious animals to attack us every month? And why Mercano, with no extra ordinary power, has made his way to eliminate those ferocious animals. What goodness had been done by your extra ordinary power against those ferocious animals? Nothing! You only use them for your own benefit. You have made them as your accomplices in doing your heinous crimes!"

Again, people applauded the king and ridiculed Subic. And they cried.

"Behead, Subic! Behead, Subic! Behead, Subic!"

"Your Highness, I am the one who actually saved your life and also with the princess."

Having heard what Subic had said, the king remembers the scene where general Mercano is actually who saved his life and also with the princes, when general Mercano rescued them in the upper part of king Bajac's palace which contradicts to what Subic is now saying. Because of this, the king gets angry again.

"Imprison this criminal! I don't like to hear his lies anymore. Bound his hand and locked a chain in his feet before you shut the prison so that he can't escape. At the last full moon, and if minister Asinan will not surrender, we will behead this criminal in simultaneous with the wedding of general Mercano and princes Rita."

All are happy with the decision of the king while princess Rita is extremely confused and bewildered. Thus, Subic grieved for his fate.

"You have no sense of gratitude! How dare you to love the princess! You are indeed crazy! Do you want to deceive the king? Then, you must die!"

These were the painful ridicule of the people.

Ten days before the wedding, an unidentified woman came. She is taking all the herds. There is a speculation that the woman is disguised minister Asinan.

The herds are intended to be butchered on the day of the wedding. Their problem is there is no other source for them to where they can get food to serve during the wedding feast because the dams and dikes where they can suppose to get fishes are already destroyed during the war against king Bajac. They also cannot get fishes in their territorial sea because of the mystery of the Island of Death. Because of this, the leader of the herdsmen proposed to release Subic for the mean time to prevent the woman. The king agreed because he doesn't want to be put in shame if the wedding feast will not be abundant in delicious food.

Thus, Subic is released and he immediately followed the woman. The army and the herdsmen also followed the woman but she threw fireball toward them. The fireball of the woman that automatically comes out with her hand can raze the target. Hence, the army and the herdsmen are scared so they ran and they let Subic alone to do the combat against the women.

The woman brings all the herds on the mountain top. Slowly, Subic comes closer to the woman. He gazed at the face of the woman but Subic is unable to discern her because he is dazzled by her glaring face.

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"Until now, the gods won't forgive me. So, you have to give me these herds so I can offer them to the gods."

"These herds are not mine. I'm sorry but I will not let you take these herds. I must show my loyalty to the king to convince him that I am his true son."

The two begins to fight. Subic is in disadvantageous and dangerous situation because the body of the woman is invulnerable. But Subic never gives up. He uses his perseverance to hit the woman and speed to dodge the fireball. They continue to fight until the mountain becomes the likeness of Island of Death because all the plants and trees are burnt into ashes. But Subic won't give up. He was trained to fight to death. He regulates the turbine. And finally, he defeated the woman by the sudden expulsion of lots of water from the turbine.

Subic learned that the woman is the spirit of Cabalan. He also learned that the seed and the fishhook are the keys to unlock the true caban. When Subic asked, where is the real caban? , Cabalan stretched her arm and a huge fireball came out to her hand and before Subic can make a move, the woman released the fireball and consumed all the herds. Eventually, all the herds disappeared so with the woman.

Now, how can he explain to the king about what happened? Certainly, his death will come early.

Meanwhile, Mercano went to the king and made a false report, that Subic and minister Asinan, together with the pirates took all the herds.

The king got mad.

"I command all the army! Bring to me the head of Subic now!"

King Zambales blamed himself. If he beheaded Cabalan while still pregnant, this turmoil could not happen.

Meanwhile, Subic is extremely troubled because the ferocious animals that supposed to help him in battling the more than five hundred thousand army of the kingdom is already gone.

Subic ran onto the shore. He rode on his war boat and fled. The warriors led by general Mercano pursued him. The archers volleyed their arrows. Subic is also defended by the more than five hundred pirates. Subic and the pirates row their boat going to the direction of the Island of Death while on hot pursuit. When the armies realized that they are already in the territory of Kinabuksan, they stop shooting and pursuing and they row back to the kingdom. But it was too late because Bareto came and devoured them.

Subic seeks the help of the Siokoys (male mermaids) and the mermaids to rescue the pirates.

All the army are already eaten by Bareto except general Mercano who continue to pursue Subic. Subic urges Mercano to work together in combating Bareto but general Mercano won't stop in volleying his arrow to Subic. Subic was just lucky because he was not being hit. General Mercano shoots his last arrow. The arrow fell not onto the body of Subic but onto the floor of the boat. A hole is created on the floor so the water slowly entered the boat. Subic hurriedly wears the fins that were given by princes Siera, the princes of the mermaids, and Subic jump from the boat and swim to the Island of Death.

Meanwhile, Bareto is there to finish the life of Mercano. He then devoured the general and after that, Bareto pursued Subic but it is too late for Bareto because Subic swims very fast due to the fins given to him. He had reached the Island of Death immediately.

Meanwhile, king Hanjin learned that all the army of king Zambales are gone so he takes advantage of the situation. He took this opportunity to fulfil his plan in seizing the kingdom of king Zambales. He then

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mobilizes all his more than three hundred thousand army and advance to the kingdom of king Zambales.

Meanwhile, king Zambales is nervous when he had learn that king Hanjin and his army are now advancing to attack his kingdom. He is planning to surrender because his army are all gone. But the more than five hundreds pirates came into his rescue. They are willing to defend the kingdom from the more than three hundred thousand army of king Hanjin.

Meanwhile, Subic survived the pursuit of Bareto. But how can he survives in this kind of place for there is nothing to eat nor drink and he is harshly monitored by Bareto for even just a dip of his foot on the water, he cannot do because precisely, Bareto will devour him. Is he going to befall the fate of his thousands and thousands of his races who are all gone? What shall he do? Surely, he will die due to hunger and thirst.

"Ah...Island of Death, you're really a curse! If only there's a grass in here I will eat. I'm famished!" cried Subic.

He is thinking of what to do. He pulls his pocket and brings out the seed and the fish hook.

"Seed! What shall I do with this seed? It takes many months or years before it can eventually yield fruits, whereas my life might not last for a week. And this fish hook! How can this very tiny fish hook hurt that very huge monster? Never mind, just a slight scratch in his tongue, it would be enough for me to avenge minister Asinan. Thus, Subic makes a fish line out of his cloth. And after making the fish line, he heaves it onto the water but Bareto only draws nearer. He did not bite the fish hook because there is no bait. Subic digs through the soft part of the island to find worms to be used as bait for the fish hook. But he found nothing.

"You deserve to be called Island of Death for no living creature found in you! Not even the tiny organisms, insects, arachnids, plants and animals! Nothing! Nothing! Nothing! The birds and the butterflies are also unwilling to alight on you because you are killing all the creatures that come to you! So today, I challenge the god of the sea who is responsible for this outrage. Show yourself to me and we will fight to settle this dispute. I know it's an act of craziness to challenge the god of the sea but how long does it takes your cruelty?"

Suddenly, the wind blows and develops a strong tornado. Gradually, the water of the sea lifts and develops into a scary appearance. And finally, the frightening face of Kinabuksan appeared. He answered the questions of Subic. His voice sounds like a thunder. The ground trembled while he was speaking. Subic fall face down as if he was posses by the mighty power of Kinabuksan.

"All men are inherently evil so you must die! You must die! You must die!"

"Well, why don't you just kill me?"

"I'm a just god. I will never put a stain in my hand with the blood of an evil man. Bareto will be the one to accomplish your desired death. Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha! Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!"

"If you are a just god, why don't you splash me just a little water?"

"Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha! You must suffer! You must suffer! You must suffer!"

And later on, the frightening face of Kinabuksan is gradually vanishing.

Meanwhile, Subic continues to fight his extreme hunger and thirst. Within ten days, he did not eat and drink. A few moments later, a huge pigeon suddenly came, the pigeon of Cabalan that is given by Apo. When Apo died, Mampweng took it. When Kinabuksan saw that this huge pigeon is still helping the people such as

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helping princes Rita, he took the pigeon and imprisoned for ten years. But now, Kinabuksan released it for a mission, to kill every creature that set foot on the Island of Death. Bareto is unable to live on land so he had no ability to fight Subic on the terrain part of the island.

The huge pigeon begins to attack. Subic is really very weak. He has no more strength left to fight the huge dove. Subic has obtained many wounds on the attack of the huge dove.

Subic is extremely confused and bewildered. How can he endure the fierce attacks of the huge dove? With so many injuries, weariness, excessive thirst and hunger, and the scorching heat of the sun that hits his half naked body, Subic falls on the ground. After falling to the ground, he grasps a handful of soil and plant the small seed and there, Subic finally lost his consciousness.

Having seen what happened to Subic, the pigeon seizes and carries off a big stone and flew very high above Subic in order to drop the heavy stone on Subic's body.

The seed that is being planted by Subic suddenly grows. The branches sprouted rapidly. The plant continues to rise and it appeared like a cactus. The robust leaves and the luxuriant branches overshadowed the body of Subic that is exposed to the sun. And the huge dove finally drops the huge stone but before it hit the body of Subic, the plant catches and grasps tightly the big stone. A little later, the flower of the plant sprouted. When Subic smells the fragrance of the flower he barely regains his consciousness.

"What a wonderful plant!" he said.

In the flower of the plant, there are constantly growing fruits. The fruit is immediately ripened. Subic picks ones then he eats. Subic is surprised because his usual strength returns. His vitality goes back to normal. Subic is really amazed on the plant. He stared at every single part of it. When his eyes are focused on the stem, he saw a big worm. This big worm is quickly eating the stem of the plant. Subic attempt to squeeze the big worm but suddenly, he changed his mind because he is afraid that the big worm might gnaws his fingers so what he did is to look for a stone to crushed the big worm. When Subic found a stone, the plant is already being cut down. And it suddenly withered and eventually dried up. So the plants that has quickly appeared, has quickly disappeared.

Subic crushed the head of the worm then picked it up. He attempted to throw it onto the sea but again, he changed his mind because he has an idea. He will make it as bait.

Subic took the fishing gear that he made and connects the worm to the fish hook. During the installation, Subic is unaware that the huge dove from his behind is carefully watching him. The huge dove is waiting for good opportunity on how he can get the big worm to Subic. This dove needs to eat because he was punished by Kinabuksan by not letting him to eat for ten days.

After connecting the worm into the fishing gear, Subic heaves the worm onto the whereabouts of Bareto but the huge pigeon did not lose time. When the worm is heaved upward, the dove took a good timing to peck the huge worm on the air before it finally dropped to Bareto. So the huge dove is hooked up to the fishing gear. Thus, the huge dove flew going to the direction of king Zambales kingdom. Subic holds firmly on the fishing line so he was carried away on the flight of the huge dove. But Bareto pursued them. While on pursuit, the feet of Subic are dragging onto the sea. This caused Bareto to put more speed in his swimming pursuit. Only a little pace so that Bareto can chase the feet of Subic. But the huge dove also accelerated his flight. And finally, the huge dove, together with Subic who is hanging under the huge dove, had reached the shore. When the huge pigeon saw the war flag being wave by the army of king Hanjin who are advancing to the kingdom of king Zambales, he quickly flew heading to their direction. Bareto, while doing his very fast swimming pursuit, glides to the shore and hits king Hanjin's army. Many were crushed and many have died including

## Grande Island

king Hanjin. Seeing the rest of the army and their king, dead, the survivors are discouraged. They halt the attack. They bowed before the king and eventually surrendered.

It is the wedding day of princess Rita. Gone are the herds. Also gone is the bridegroom, general Mercano. But the wedding feast must commence. And it took ten days celebration. There are lots of foods being served because the territorial sea of king Zambales is now open for fishing. And the fishes are more abundant than the royal herds. The pirates, with the help of the Syokoys (male mermaids) and mermaids, are the ones in charge in fishing. The freed slaves and captives also took charge in cooking.

After opening the stomach of Bareto, they found the caban. They also found minister Asinan that is miraculously alive. He was enveloped by asin (salt) inside the stomach of Bareto.

Meanwhile, minister Japon, together with his conspirators were imprisoned. Balicbalic is assigned as the chief general of the kingdom while minister Asinan is the chief minister.

"This is eventually the fulfilment of the prophecy. Thanks for the huge dove. Thanks for the woman whose face is shining. Finally, justice is sought for the deaths of thousands and thousands of our races. The gods had forgiven Cabalan and Apo. The destructive curse of forest and sea gods is over. I recovered the caban. I inherited the throne. I gained the kingdom. But most importantly, I won the heart of the princess."

Since then, the Island of Death is called Grande Island because the ten days celebration in the wedding feast was truly (grande) grand.

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