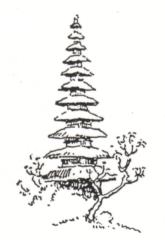
KEBO IWA a mythical tale rewritten and retold by

Michael Edwards



The following tale has been rewritten in simple language to allow young children to experience the fantasy world of Bali.

# CAST:

Narrator

Bapak Iwa Ibu Iwa 4 friends ) 6 villagers ) extras may be required Old Man Headman Picture carrier

## SETTING:

The play is written in the simplest form with stage property at a minimum:

4 pictures, several good containers, 1 mat, hoes, rakes and hessian sacks.

This will enable the actors to perform in the classroom with easily managed props.

## Suggested Scenery:

Picture 1:	Approx. 2m	x lm	
	Scene of a	house wall	with window.
	Picture to	be hung at	rear of stage.

Picture 2: Approx. 2m x 1m Scene of several houses and trees. Picture to be hung at rear of stage.

Picture 3: Approx. 2m x 1m Scene of a mountain. Picture to be hung at rear of stage.

Picture 4: Approx. 2m x 1m Cardboard cut out of large person (Kebo Iwa) hung from pole (broom handle) to be carried around on stage.

# Other Items Used in the Play:

Scene	1:	Containers of food decorated for temple offering. Mat for floor.
Scene	2:	Taped sounds of a wooden drum.
Scene	3:	Containers for food.

Cardboard cut outs or hessian bags labelled 'LIME'. Hoes, rakes, etc.

#### Costumes:

Costumes should be simple and inexpensive. Men to wear Balinese hats or peci's.

## Music:

Balinese music may be used to punctuate narration and indicate scene changes.

CAST:

4

Narrator Bapak Iwa Ibu Iwa 4 Friends

# SETTING:

The action takes place in front of the house. (Picture 1 hung on back wall - left hand side) The time: evening.

Cast	Dialogue	Action
Narrator:	Almost every child in Bali can tell a story about the legendary strong- man Kebo Iwa. In many Balinese villages there is a well, a building or a lake said to have been made or built by Kebo Iwa. One story starts late one evening in a small village somewhere in Bali.	Bapak and Ibu appear carrying decorated gifts. They place the gifts on a mat near the wall of the house.
Bapak:	Bu, tomorrow we offer these gifts at the temple, are you sure everything is in order? We do not wish to anger the gods.	
Ibu:	Yes husband, I have checked each offering. Let us retire in order that we may depart early.	Ibu rises and beckons husband.
Bapak:	My wife is excited and eager to be on her journey.	Teasing.
Ibu:	Yes husband, I pray that I may bear a son before I am too much older.	
	This is your prayer also, is it not?	Looking at her husband. Asking in a slow, quiet voice.
Bapak:	Yes, yes gentle wife. That you may bear a son is my fervent prayer.	Reassuring his wife.
		They leave,

They leave, collecting their offerings as they go.

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		cross-legged on it.
Narrator:	The couple journeyed to the temple to pray. Their prayers were answered and the wife later gave birth to a son. There was much rejoicing and celebrating. 6 weeks after the birth the child was named Iwa. The parents' joy turned to concern as they	Parents and friends cross stage. Mother carrying baby.
	noticed Iwa rejects his mother's milk and eats rice. Iwa grew quickly and the servings of rice grew each day. The parents' savings were quickly used up and they sought help from friends and relatives. They found many people willing	
	to help. After several years the strain began to tell on the village people. They felt that their support for Iwa should stop. One day some of the friends and relatives came to meet with Bapak Iwa.	Several friends appear with food, but grumbling among themselves. They go to the house and call Bapak Iwa. Bapak comes out and they all sit near the house.
Friend 1:	Pak, the prospect is not good for our harvest. The village rice surplus is low.	
Friend 2:	Pak, we have had no rain for 6 weeks.	Looking at Bapak
Friend 1:	Pak, I can no longer supply extra rice for your son.	Hanging his head.
Bapak:	My friends, do not fear me or hang your heads in shame. You have been faithful and true. Let us discuss	Friends look at Bapak Iwa.
	this matter carefully without guilt.	Friends look relieved.
Friend 3:	Pak, Iwa eats as much as ten men but does no work.	The friends are
Friend 4:	Your son Iwa must make some effort to support himself.	eager to make their feelings known.
Bapak:	I understand your situation and thank you	
Friend 1:	Pak, what is the solution?	Interrupting.
Friend 2:	Iwa needs to work his own garden, attend to his own pigs and his own sawah.	
Friend 3:	He needs to build himself a house as the one he uses is too small.	

Narrator collects mat and takes it to front corner of stage - and sits

Friend 4:	He is so tall his feet stick out and block the road.	They al cautiou first, as they
Friend 1:	Pak, we do want to help you and to help Iwa but we can no longer give food.	Laughte sudden
Bapak:	l thank you for your laughter. I will inform my son of <u>our</u> decision. Farewell.	Everyon leaves happier giving of food

Narrator:

The friends leave Bapak seated on the ground. He stares at the ground and does not notice his wife enter and sit alongside him. Both sit silently, looking at the ground. Pak Iwa notices his wife and tells her of the meeting with their friends. They discuss the matter, nodding in agreement with the others' suggestions. The wife informs the husband that the same messages have been relayed to her by some of the women. The time had come for Iwa to leave home and look after himself. They all laugh cautiously at first, then loudly as they relax.

Laughter stops suddenly.

Everyone rises, leaves in a much happier mood, giving their gifts of food to Bapak.

Wife enters and sits near husband. Both sit in silence. They soon begin to talk quietly between themselves. They begin to look very sad and upset.

They stand and leave the stage with heads bowed and looking sad.







CAST:

Narrator 3 Villagers Old Man Several extra people for meeting.

# SETTING:

The action takes place in a village. (Picture 2 hung on rear wall - right hand side).

The time: early morning.

Cast	Dialogue	Action
Narrator:	Iwa continued to grow until he was almost 30 metres tall. His stride was huge and he could walk the length and breadth of Bali in a single day. Iwa soon became known throughout the island for his size and strength. The people called him "Kebo Iwa", Kebo means 'Buffalo'.	Picture carrier crosses stage with picture/cut out of
	On his travels he would obtain food from people and when he was thirsty he stuck his finger deep into the ground, so making	Iwa suspended from a stick.
	a well. Iwa did many good things for the people of Bali and was not feared by anybody.	One villager runs onto stage shouting.
Villager 1:	Kebo Iwa, Kebo Iwa is coming. Hide, hide, hide.	Running around shouting.
Villager 2:	Why my friend. We do not fear Kebo Iwa.	Holding the arm of the man shouting.
Villager 1:	Kebo Iwa is crazy. He has destroyed houses and buildings in other villages.	Waving arms.
Villager 3:	I do not believe you friend. Only last week he helped me build the walls of my sawah.	Looking in disbelief.
Villager 1:	Listen, listen friends. Kebo Iwa is hunger crazy. He is stealing cows and pigs and eating them. He has threatened to eat people if they don't	
	give him food. Run and hide, run and hide.	Villagers begin to talk to each other and move to corners

as though hiding.

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Narrator:	Kebo Iwa had been unable to find enough food and had become crazy with hunger. He has destroyed houses, temples, crops, eaten cows, pigs and killed 30 people, eating them whole. Kebo Iwa eventually ceased and returned to his former quiet self. He left the area to rest at the base of a nearby mountain.	Picture of Kebo Iwa carried in chasing several villagers around - screaming. People and Kebo Iwa go off scage.
	The 'kulkul' (wooden drum) sounded to call the local people for a meeting. Men and women from many villages gathered to discuss Kebo Iwa. The villagers discussed many issues and it became apparent that some force would be necessary. People were reluctant to speak out. Eventually an old man stood to speak.	Sound of wooden drum or gong. People gather and sit in a half- circle. People talk quietly among themselves. An old man sitting in the middle stands. The meeting is silent.
Old Man:	We are human and as such have been given the power of using our minds. This is just one gift God has given us. There is much talk of force	
Man 2:	Our force is nothing compared to the force of Kebo Iwa.	
Old Man:	True my friend, but something must and can be done.	
Man 2:	What? We can wait no longer.	Crowd begins to talk loudly — Crowd is silent as Old Man speaks again.
Old Man:	I have a plan. Listen carefully, if you agree with my plan we may defeat Kebo Iwa.	
		Old man talks to meeting - people listen in silence.
Narrator:	Part of the old man's plan was as follows: Kebo Iwa would be approached and asked to repair all the buildings he destroyed and rebuild all the dams he had broken. Kebo Iwa would be asked to dig a huge well that could store enough water to guarantee good harvests. This would ensure that Kebo Iwa had enough to eat.	

The meeting agreed with this and the rest of the plan.

Villagers carried the message back to their villages. People began to collect and store bags of 'lime' - storing it safely in barns and other buildings.

Kebo Iwa agreed to the plan and set about repairing and rebuilding.

Meeting concludes. People move quietly off stage.



SCENE 3

CAST:

Narrator

**3 Villagers** Headman Bapak Iwa Ibu Iwa

#### SETTING:

The action takes place in front of the mountain. (Picture 3 hung centre, back stage). The time: morning.

Dialogue Cast Kebo Iwa went to the slopes of 'Gunung Narrator: Batur' and started to dig. People gathered around to watch.

Villager Kebo Iwa digs with great speed. 1: Villager His hands are like shovels. He scoops 2: large heaps each time.

The well is deeper than anything we could Villager 3: dig.

Villager We must prepare his food. He will be 1: hungry soon. We cannot stay here all day.

> Kebo Iwa ate well, the villages kept their promise of giving more food. After he had eaten he returned to dig more of the well. Kebo Iwa felt tired after digging and lay down to sleep. Sounds like thunder came from deep in the well. This indicated to the villagers that Kebo Iwa was fast asleep. The second part of the plan was now put into action. Villagers began to arrive at the well site carrying bags of lime.

Headman: Quietly place the lime either side of the hole.

Villager 1:

Narrator:

Quiet. Don't wake Kebo Iwa.

Action

Several people stand around as they are looking into a hole. Leaning on hoes, rakes etc.

Villagers move out.

Taped sounds of thunder.

Villagers appear carrying bags of lime. The headman leads the way.

Pointing to the ground.

Finger to mouth.

Villager 2: Listen to the snoring. It is so loud it would cover the noise of a thousand dogs.

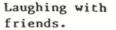
Narrator:

The villagers worked hard and had very soon emptied enough lime into the hole to cover Kebo Iwa's body. Kebo Iwa woke, he was having difficulty breathing. The lime mixed with the water seeped into the well and made it impossible for Kebo Iwa to get out. The villagers continued to pour in lime until Kebo Iwa's body was completely covered.

Water rose in the well and soon spilled over the top and poured out in all directions. The water formed a huge lake.

Kebo Iwa's parents were brought to the site and shown the lake formed from the well. Kebo Iwa watered the whole island, as water from the lake spread and flowed into rivers, watering the island of Bali. Kebo Iwa made no more trouble and provided a guarantee of good harvests.

THE END



Villagers continue to stand around hole; pouring in lime.

Villagers move back off stage.

The Headman, Bapak and Ibu Iwa appear and look out as though viewing a large lake.

Cast appear in small groups on stage.

