

KEBO IWA
a mythical tale
rewritten and retold
by
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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

Old Man

Headman

Picture carrier

) extras may be required

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 1m
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.

SCENE 1

CAST:

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.

<u>Cast</u>	<u>Dialogue</u>	<u>Action</u>
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, collecting their offerings as they go.

* MUSIC

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 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.

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.

Friend 1:

Pak, I can no longer supply extra rice for your son.

Bapak:

My friends, do not fear me or hang your heads in shame. You have been faithful and true. Let us discuss this matter carefully without guilt.

Friend 3:

Pak, Iwa eats as much as ten men but does no work.

Friend 4:

Your son Iwa must make some effort to support himself.

Bapak:

I understand your situation and thank you

Friend 1:

Pak, what is the solution?

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 cross-legged on it.

Parents and friends cross stage. Mother carrying baby.

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.

Looking at Bapak

Hanging his head.

Friends look at Bapak Iwa.

Friends look relieved.

The friends are eager to make their feelings known.

Interrupting.

Friend 4:

He is so tall his feet stick out and block the road.

Friend 1:

Pak, we do want to help you and to help Iwa but we can no longer give food.

Bapak:

I thank you for your laughter. I will inform my son of our decision. Farewell.

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.

* MUSIC

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.



SCENE 2

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.

<u>Cast</u>	<u>Dialogue</u>	<u>Action</u>
Narrator:	<p>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'.</p> <p>On his travels he would obtain food from people and when he was thirsty he stuck his finger deep into the ground, so making a well. Iwa did many good things for the people of Bali and was not feared by anybody.</p>	<p>Picture carrier crosses stage with picture/cut out of Iwa suspended from a stick.</p> <p>One villager runs onto stage shouting.</p>
Villager 1:	<p>Kebo Iwa, Kebo Iwa is coming. Hide, hide, hide.</p>	<p>Running around shouting.</p>
Villager 2:	<p>Why my friend. We do not fear Kebo Iwa.</p>	<p>Holding the arm of the man shouting.</p>
Villager 1:	<p>Kebo Iwa is crazy. He has destroyed houses and buildings in other villages.</p>	<p>Waving arms.</p>
Villager 3:	<p>I do not believe you friend. Only last week he helped me build the walls of my sawah.</p>	<p>Looking in disbelief.</p>
Villager 1:	<p>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.</p>	<p>Villagers begin to talk to each other and move to corners as though hiding.</p>

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.

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.

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.

Old Man:

I have a plan. Listen carefully, if you agree with my plan we may defeat Kebo Iwa.

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.

Picture of Kebo Iwa carried in - chasing several villagers around - screaming. People and Kebo Iwa go off stage.

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.

Crowd begins to talk loudly - Crowd is silent as Old Man speaks again.

Old man talks to meeting - people listen in silence.

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.

<u>Cast</u>	<u>Dialogue</u>	<u>Action</u>
Narrator:	Kebo Iwa went to the slopes of 'Gunung Batur' and started to dig. People gathered around to watch.	Several people stand around as they are looking into a hole. Leaning on hoes, rakes etc.
Villager 1:	Kebo Iwa digs with great speed.	
Villager 2:	His hands are like shovels. He scoops large heaps each time.	
Villager 3:	The well is deeper than anything we could dig.	
Villager 1:	We must prepare his food. He will be hungry soon. We cannot stay here all day.	Villagers move out.
Narrator:	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.	Taped sounds of thunder. Villagers appear carrying bags of lime. The headman leads the way.
Headman:	Quietly place the lime either side of the hole.	Pointing to the ground.
Villager 1:	Quiet. Don't wake Kebo Iwa.	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 breath-
ing. 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.

Laughing with
friends.

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.

THE END

