

SIAP, PAK!

*HERE I AM, SIR!*





“Jerry,” called Daddy. “Come here, please. I need you”

“Okay, here I come!” replied a voice from the house.

Daddy proceeded with his work. A big load of firewood, ordered for the winter, had been

dropped on the sidewalk and he was hurrying to get it carried in before nightfall.

After a while he called again, more insistently, “Jerry! Where are you?”

“I’ll be right there!” answered Jerry.

Daddy wondered whether he should leave the pile of wood and go get his son or continue with the job by himself. He decided to go on working. In a little while, however, he began thinking about Jerry. *“He’s probably reading or drawing, but I could really use his help.”*

“Jerry, I need you to come along quickly and help carry this wood into the shed.”

There was a long pause.

“Are you coming,” asked Daddy, “or do I have to come and get you?”

“I’m coming,” Jerry answered.

“Jerry!” seru Ayah. “Tolong ke mari. Ayah perlu kamu.”

“Baik Ayah, aku datang!” sebuah suara menjawab dari dalam rumah.

Ayah melanjutkan pekerjaannya. Kayu api dalam jumlah yang banyak, dipesan untuk musim dingin baru saja diantar dan diletakkan di tepi jalan, dan dia bergegas membawanya masuk sebelum malam datang.

Selang beberapa saat dia memanggil lagi, lebih mendesak, “Jerry! Di mana kamu?”

“Ya Ayah, aku segera datang!” jawab Jerry.

Ayah bertanya-tanya dalam hati apakah sebaiknya dia meninggalkan onggokan kayu itu dan mendapati anaknya atau apakah sebaiknya melanjutkan pekerjaan itu sendiri. Dia memutuskan untuk terus bekerja. Tak berapa lama kemudian dia mulai berpikir tentang Jerry. “Barangkali dia sedang membaca atau menggambar, tetapi aku memerlukan bantuannya.”

“Jerry, Ayah perlu bantuan segera membawakan kayu ke gudang.” Tidak terdengar suara apa pun. “Kamu datang atau Ayah yang harus ke sana?” tanya ayahnya.

“Aku datang,” jawabannya terdengar.

In a few minutes Jerry came out of the front door.

“What shall I do?” he asked.

“We have to move this wood off the sidewalk before nightfall. Hurry up now,” said Daddy.

At long last Jerry stirred himself and was soon busily lifting the logs into the wheelbarrow for daddy to wheel to the shed. He was a good worker once he got going, but getting him going was the hard part. He badly needed a self starter.

When the job was finished, and the last log had been carried in, Daddy turned to Jerry. “Thanks, son” he said. “You’re a great help. I like to have you working with me. If you would come the first time you’re called, that would be even better. I wonder if you could improve along that line.”

“It’s always hard to get started,” said Jerry, “especially when I’m interested in something else.”

“Let me tell you a story,” said Daddy.

Jerry was all ears at once. He loved stories.

Beberapa menit kemudian Jerry muncul di pintu depan. “Apa yang harus kubantu?” tanyanya.

“Kayu ini harus kita pindahkan sebelum malam hari tiba. Ayo cepatlah,” kata Ayah.

Lama kelamaan Jerry menjadi giat mengangkat kayu dan menempatkannya ke kereta dorong agar Ayah dapat mendorongnya ke gudang. Kalau sudah mulai, dia adalah pekerja yang baik, tapi untuk mulai itu sulit. Dia sangat memerlukan pemicu.

Ketika pekerjaannya sudah selesai dan kayu yang terakhir sudah dibawa masuk, Ayah menoleh kepada Jerry. “Terima kasih, nak,” katanya. “Kamu sangat membantu. Ayah senang bekerja denganmu. Jika kamu langsung datang ketika Ayah pertama kali memanggil, itu lebih baik lagi. Bagaimana kalau kamu berusaha memperbaiki kelemahan itu?”

“Selalu sulit untuk mulai,” ujar Jerry, “terutama kalau aku tertarik akan sesuatu yang lain.”

“Ayah punya sebuah cerita,” kata Ayah.

Jerry langsung “memasang telinga”. Dia suka cerita.



“Do you remember hearing or reading of a man called Shackleton – Sir Ernest Shackleton?”

“You mean the famous explorer who went to the Antarctic?”

Yes. Well, once when he was planning an expedition to the Antarctic he decided he must take someone called Wild with him, a man who had been a most faithful and devoted helper on former trips. But Wild was nowhere to be found. It was said that he had gone on a safari in Africa and there was no way to reach him.

“You had better give up trying to locate him,” said a friend. If he’s in Africa, you’ll never find him. And if he’s on a safari, he probably won’t want to go to the Antarctic again, anyway.”

“But I must have Wild along with me,” said Shackleton

“Better sail without him,” said Shackleton’s friend.

“You can’t find him and even if you could, he wouldn’t go.”

“If Wild knows I am going on this trip, he will come,” said Shackleton, “I’m sure he will, whether he is in Africa or anywhere else.”



“Kamu ingat tentang seseorang yang bernama Shackleton (baca: Syakelton)–Sir Ernest Shackleton?”

“Penjelajah ke benua Antartika?”

“Ya. Pada suatu ketika dia berencana untuk menjelajah ke Antartika dan memutuskan untuk mengajak Wild (baca: Waild), seseorang yang pada kesempatan sebelumnya sangat setia dan rajin. Tapi Wild tidak dapat ditemukan. Katanya dia sedang berburu ke jantung Afrika dan tidak ada cara untuk menghubunginya.

‘Sebaiknya usaha untuk menghubungi dia dihentikan saja,’ kata seorang teman. ‘Jika dia di Afrika, kamu tidak akan bisa menemukannya. Kalau dia

sedang berburu, mungkin dia tidak mau pergi denganmu ke Antartika.’

‘Tapi aku harus mengajak Wild,’ kata Shackleton.

‘Sebaiknya pergi tanpa dia,’ kata temannya. ‘Kamu tidak dapat menemukan dia dan jika kamu menemukannya, dia tidak mau pergi.’

‘Jika Wild tahu aku akan pergi, dia pasti mau ikut,’ kata Shackleton. ‘Aku yakin, entah dia ada di Afrika atau di mana saja.’

Just then there was a knock on the door. It was a messenger boy with a card in his hand. "There's a gentleman downstairs to see you, Sir," he said.

Shackleton looked at the card. He read 'Ernest Wild.' 'It's Wild! He's here!' Shackleton exclaimed. "Bring him in. Beaming with smiles, the friends met and shook hands.

"But how, why - ?" Began Shackleton, "I thought you were in Africa."

"I was, Sir," said Wild, "but I heard you were going on this expedition, so I dropped everything and came at once." Then standing stiffly at attention and saluting, he said "I'm here sir! Captain, what are your orders?"



"Now, Jerry, what do you think of what Wild did?" said Jerry's father. "He didn't wait to be called. He just felt that he was needed and came along. He dropped everything he was doing and hurried to what he felt was his post of duty."

"That was terrific! He was right there when he was needed!" said Jerry.

Pada saat itu juga terdengar pintu diketuk. Seorang anak lelaki membawa kartu. 'Ada seorang pria di bawah yang ingin bertemu dengan Bapak,' katanya.

Shackleton melihat kartu itu. Dia membaca: 'Ernest Wild.' 'Wild! Dia ada di sini!' serunya. 'Persilakan dia masuk.' Dengan senyum lebar, kedua sahabat itu berjabat tangan.

'Bagaimana mungkin?' kata Shackleton. 'Kukira kamu sedang berburu di Afrika.'

'Benar, Pak,' kata Wild. 'Tapi saya mendengar bahwa Bapak akan berangkat; jadi saya meninggalkan semuanya itu dan segera datang ke mari.' Kemudian, berdiri tegak dan memberi hormat, dia berkata, 'Siap, Pak! Kapten, apakah tugas saya?«

"Nah, Jerry, bagaimana pendapat kamu mengenai apa yang Wild lakukan? Dia tidak menunggu sampai dipanggil. Dia merasa dibutuhkan dan dia datang. Dia meninggalkan apa yang tengah dilakukannya dan bergegas menuju ke tempat yang dianggapnya sebagai tugasnya."

"Wah hebat sekali! Dia sudah siap ketika dibutuhkan!" said Jerry.

“I wish...” began Daddy.

“I know,” said Jerry. And he did. Next time daddy called him to help on a job, a cheerful voice replied immediately, “I’m here, sir! Captain, what are your orders?”

“Ayah berharap...” Ayah mulai berbicara.

“Aku paham,” ujar Jerry. Dan dia melakukannya. Lain kali Ayah memanggil dia untuk membantu, sebuah suara yang ceria dengan serta merta menjawab: “Siap, Pak! Kapten, apakah tugas saya?”