

Translations

Please note that the following translations are only suggestions – other wordings may be possible as well. An example is the use of tense; for the earlier lessons we use present tense, and then switch to the past tense, to indicate what happened at a particular time.

LESSON 1 Getting To Know Each Other

SARI	I am Sari.	JOEL	Good morning.
	I am a student.	SARI'S FATHER	Please come in, Joel.
	I am a student of the Uni-	JOEL	Thanks.
	versity of Indonesia.	SARI	My father is a lecturer, and my mother is a doctor. And this is my elder brother.
	This is my house.	SARI'S BROTHER	My name's Agus.
	Welcome!	JOEL	Hi, Agus!
	This is my mother.	SARI	And this is my younger sister.
	This is my friend, Joel.	SARI'S SISTER	My name's Ratih.
JOEL	Good morning.	JOEL	Hi, Ratih!
SARI'S MOTHER	How are you, Joel?		
JOEL	Fine, thanks.		
SARI	And this is my father.		

LESSON 2 At the Campus

Sari was born in Jakarta.	At the canteen Sari drinks Pepsi.
Sari's family live in Pasar Minggu.	At home she drinks tea.
Sari goes to the UI campus in Depok.	Her sister likes to drink cold orange juice.
She goes with her father.	Her brother likes drinking Bintang beer.
Sari's father has a car.	They like eating fried rice.
At the campus Sari is studying International Relations.	Sari has lunch at the campus.
In the afternoon she goes home from the campus.	At the campus she eats fried noodles.

LESSON 3 Lectures

Sari has finished eating her breakfast.	Today there's no lecture!
Now she is ready to leave for the campus.	The lecturer isn't there.
Yesterday she forgot her umbrella.	He's away.
So today she is not going to forget it.	The students are chatting:
	"Come on, let's go home!" they say.
	"There's no use staying at the campus."
Sari has arrived at the campus.	But Sari wants to go to the Law Faculty.
She is going to follow a lecture.	"I guess I'll be able to meet Joel again", she thinks.
The lecture is going to begin.	Usually Joel will come out late in the morning.
She enters the room, and then she goes out again.	
"I'm stupid", she thinks.	
"What's wrong, Sari?" her friend asks.	

LESSON 4 At the Mall

SARI Would you like to go out to Mangga Mall?
 JOEL Yes, I would. I like going around shops like that.
 SARI Good, let's go now.
 JOEL Can I ask you, Sari – what's that man doing?
 SARI He's asking for money. He's what you call a beggar.
 JOEL What sort of shop is this?
 SARI This is a motorcycle / shoe / flower... shop.
 JOEL What's that smell?

SARI That's the smell of fried peanuts. Do you like fried peanuts?
 JOEL Yes, I do. Do you like them?
 SARI Let's just keep going, okay?
 JOEL Is there something to drink in this café?
 SARI I think there is. What do you want to drink?
 JOEL What's that?
 SARI That's cold orange juice. Try it!
 JOEL Thanks, Sari. What do you want?
 SARI I'll have the same.
 JOEL Well now, do I have any small change...?

LESSON 5 Prices

Joel needs to go to a bookshop.
 He goes by taxi to Gramedia Bookshop.
 How much does it cost?
 It costs about Rp 50,000 to take a taxi to the bookshop.
 Joel buys a ruler. It costs Rp 1,500.
 He buys a notebook. It costs Rp 25,000.

Joel looks for a dictionary of legal terms. It costs Rp 450,000.
 He buys a newspaper. It costs Rp 2,000.
 There's a magazine in English too. It costs Rp 350,000.
 Finally Joel buys three Tin-Tin comics and a novel in Indonesian. They cost Rp. 40,000.
 Everything is fixed price. What is the total?

LESSON 6 What Time?

JOEL When do you have some time, Sari? I would like to meet you again.
 SARI I have time tomorrow. Ten o'clock?
 JOEL Sorry, I have an appointment with the lecturer at 10. Can you make it at 11?
 SARI Okay. I'll wait for you at the corner of the Law Faculty building, right?
 JOEL When is your birthday?
 SARI 10 April. I was born in 1987.

JOEL So you'll be 22.
 SARI Yes. What about you?
 JOEL My birthday is 11 September. I was born in 1986.
 SARI So now you're 23. We're almost the same!
 JOEL What time is it now?
 SARI It's almost 12. Today is Friday. Muslims will be going to the mosque for Friday prayers. They finish at 1. Then they go home.

LESSON 7 Where?

Excuse me, where is the Law Faculty?
 Over there, at the side of the Faculty of Psychology.
 From the railway station, turn left. It's located on the right-hand side of the road. To the south of it there is the Campus Mosque.
 At the centre of the UI campus there is the Central Administration building.
 And at the back of that there is the Library building.

Between the buildings there are trees, grass and gardens.
 Students eat their lunch outside or in the Student Activities Centre.
 Joel is going for a walk beneath the trees.
 "Where are you going?"
 "I want to go to the Arts Faculty. Where is it?"
 "From here, keep on going, then turn left. The building is located on the right-hand side of the road."

LESSON 8 In the Street

JOEL Excuse me, is there a post office here?
 PASSER-BY Yes, there is. Over there. Across the road.
 JOEL Thanks.
 P. Wow, you speak Indonesian fluently...
 JOEL Yes, I can a bit.
 P. It's great! How many times have you been to Indonesia?
 JOEL This is just the first time.
 P. Are you happy in Indonesia?
 JOEL Yes. It's very interesting. But it's hot!
 P. What's your name?
 JOEL Joel.
 P. Do you have a family?

JOEL Sorry?
 P. Um, are you married?
 JOEL Oh, no.
 P. You mean, 'not yet', don't you.
 JOEL Oh yes, I made a mistake.
 P. You're from America, aren't you?
 JOEL No, I'm an Australian.
 P. From kangaroo country! Do you want to find a girlfriend here?
 JOEL Yes, I'd like to. But it's quite difficult.
 P. Why?
 JOEL They're all pretty! Bye!
 (Joel goes to cross the road.)
 P. Careful! See you again.

LESSON 9 Buying a Fan

Joel is sad.
 He is feeling tired.
 But it's not because he has been studying too hard.
 Outside the air is hot and humid.
 The traffic is very noisy.
 As a result, it's hard to sleep.
 Joel is thinking, "I had better just go home. How can I study in Jakarta?"
 Knock, knock! (a sound at the door)
 "Who is it?"
 Sari enters, with a sweet smile.

She says, "I was thinking just now. I think you need to buy a little electric fan. Come and we'll look for one at an electrical goods shop!"

They get a fine fan. It is blue. Well, now it feels cooler.
 "That's cool, Sari!"
 "Fresh, isn't it, Joel."
 Now Joel is feeling strong again. He's full of new vigour.
 "Thanks, Sari. You're very kind."
 "You're welcome", says Sari.

LESSON 10 Clothes

What should we wear in a tropical region?
 It's clear that we don't need to wear thick clothes.
 It's better to just wear thin ones.
 As well as that, cotton material is much more comfortable than synthetic.
 Yes, it has to be pure cotton, not a mixture.
 So we need to buy clothes that fit the climate.
 If we don't, we may possibly get sick!
 People who have just arrived in Jakarta can get sick because of the climate.
 We have to be careful.
 But our clothes also have to be decent.

It's not allowed to wear short pants outside.
 At home of course we will wear a sarong, especially when we want to go to sleep.
 It feels cool!
 Joel once tried it, and then he got used to it.
 Who is it that washes Joel's clothes?
 Joel wants to wash his clothes himself.
 He's not very happy if someone else washes his underclothes.
 But it's quite troublesome, in particular if it's a rainy day!
 How can they get dry?

LESSON 11 In the Kampong

From the main road there are alleyways that head into the kampong at the back of the shops. The alleyways are narrow. Cars can almost not get through. Some children are playing kites there. Now is the season of sea breezes. There are kites high in the air, and there are kites that come down fast, and then get stuck in trees in people's yards or on electric poles. From the window Joel can see that there are naughty boys climbing onto the mosque roof with kites in their hands.

Now it is evening. There is the sound of 'Allahu akbar, Allahu akbar' coming from the mosques again and again. Then the children go into their houses, because in a moment it will be dark. The sun is soon lost in the grey gloom in the west, and lamps are burning in the streets. Joel is feeling homesick. He thinks, "I wonder how my family at home in Australia are. I hope they're all well!"

LESSON 12 Law Lectures

According to the plan, Joel is going to stay in Jakarta for six months. He is diligently following lectures in the Faculty of Law, all of them in Indonesian. It doesn't bother him, as his Indonesian is quite good, since he studied it in Melbourne. It is only the legal terms that are still difficult. It is the lecturers who help Joel.

In Joel's opinion, the legal structure in Indonesia is very interesting, because it differs from Australia. The systems of civil and criminal law originate from the law

of the Dutch colonial era. In Indonesia there are also Islamic law and customary law.

Several classmates often ask Joel to practise their English. Some of them are fluent, and others are not very serious. In the beginning Joel is happy to chat with them in English, but sometimes he gets sick of it too, answering questions that are always the same. He says, "Some other time, okay."

LESSON 13 The Poor

While travelling around in the city, by taxi or by bus, Joel sees there are many tall and luxurious buildings in the centre of Jakarta, such as the BCA Tower at Jalan MH Thamrin 1, on the western side of the HI Roundabout. He is of the opinion that Indonesia is a developing country, because there are many big businesses.

But not far from there there are also dirty districts with piled up garbage, for example on the banks of the Ciliwung River. The garbage smells bad. Poor people

are living underneath the bridges and next to the railway lines, or sheltering under big trees.

After arriving at the campus, Joel asks his friends: "Why doesn't the government do anything for those poor people?" They answer: "Possibly the government regards the problem of street people as too difficult. That's their fate! And what about Melbourne? We suppose everybody there is rich."

Joel answers: "In fact, there are ones who sleep outside there too, in the doorways of shops or lying on benches in public parks, even in winter..."

"Oh, you must be kidding!"

LESSON 14 Smoking

At intersections there are often people who are selling cigarettes. When the lights are red and the traffic stops, they come running to offer their wares. There are various brands. For example, there is Gudang Garam Merah. It contains 12 cigarettes per pack. The price per pack is around Rp 7,500. There is also Gudang Garam International Merah, with its motto "Men's taste". In one carton there are 10 packs. Filter cigarettes and foreign cigarettes certainly cost more.

In Indonesia there are still lots of people who smoke. One day Joel and his friend Hanafi were sitting down. Hanafi lit up a cigarette. Then Joel said, "At my place there's a prohibition on smoking inside university buildings and around them. They say it's unhealthy." Hanafi was a heavy smoker. He often coughed. Hanafi answered, "Actually I agree with you. But after studying a want to enjoy the aroma, when the tobacco smoke rises in clouds on the evening air like this..." And Hanafi was still coughing.

LESSON 15 The “Taman Mini”

Sari already knew that Joel was going to celebrate his birthday. When the day drew nearer, Sari asked her father: “How would it be if we invite him to go out to Taman Mini? As far as I know, Joel has never been there.”

Sari’s father: “Yes, of course lots of tourists like going there. But in fact your Joel isn’t a tourist...”

Sari: “Even so it’s sure to be interesting for him too.”

Right on time, they fetched Joel by car to go to TMII, or Taman Mini Indonesia Indah in full. On the way to East Jakarta, while wrestling with the traffic, Sari’s father told the story:

“In the year 1970 Bu Tien Suharto got the idea of building the garden, as a kind of display, in particular for architecture, art and daily life from all the provinces of Indonesia. Then the Taman Mini

was opened in 1973. At that time there were 26 provinces — now the number has increased!”

When they arrived at Taman Mini, the parking area was almost full. The cost of parking was Rp 10,000 for a car. Joel was amazed to see the buildings that resembled exactly the original houses, each one with a sign in Indonesian and English, for example “Sumatera Barat, West Sumatra” in front of a traditional Minangkabau house. Joel thought it must have been expensive to build the TMII.

Sari’s father explained: “The Indonesian term for a building of this kind is **anjungan**. The English is ‘pavilion’, isn’t it?”

Joel: “Yes, that’s right. I understand.”

They went on the cable car, and then watched some dances from the region of Riau. They were very thirsty! Well, where do we find something to drink that isn’t too expensive?

LESSON 16 TV Dramas

When Joel arrived home it was already past 9 o’clock. As it happened, his landlady, Bu Tuti, was absorbed in watching her favourite TV series, **Cinta Fitri**, which is shown on SCTV every evening at 21.00. Fitri is a girl aged 19, originally from the village of Wonogiri. Firman, her fiancé, has died. Then Fitri lives in Jakarta and experiences various sad adventures.

Bu Tuti asked Joel to join her watching, because she was sure he would be interested in a story about rich people in Indonesia. The female character often cries, and then there is a male character who is good at soothing her. The plot moves slowly, but Joel still didn’t un-

derstand what was going on. Each scene is constantly accompanied by touching music. There are always difficult problems.

The most interesting thing for Joel, as someone who has studied language, was the way the characters speak: full of emotion, quickly, and using words from everyday speech, such as “I’ll certainly help you” and “There’s nothing wrong with me”. Clearly there is a special style of speech for this kind of drama. Joel was wanting to ask Bu Tuti why the characters always use the word *aku* and not *saya*. But he didn’t want to disturb her. “Another time,” he thought.

LESSON 17 Visit to an Expat Family

Through the network of students at the Faculty of Law Joel contacted a foreign American family who lived in Tebet, South Jakarta. He wanted to know what influenced their decision to work in Indonesia.

Joel was looking for their house. But the taxi driver got lost. Or did he deliberately get himself lost? Or was it the address that was unclear? There was a Jalan Tebet Dalam, Jalan Tebet Timur Dalam, Tebet Timur 1, Tebet Timur 2, Tebet Timur 3, and so on. Of course it was confusing, so that Joel was forced to call them on the phone. Finally the neighbours were asked for directions: “Where is the house of the American family Schroeder?”

The house that they occupied was not their own property. The house had been contracted by a big company. There were two floors, there was air-conditioning in all the bedrooms, there were two maids, even a swimming pool... Its water was clear, cool and tempting to dive straight in.

But the tiled floor was very slippery when wet. Joel fell over and hurt his foot. He was beginning to regret this plan of his. Only when he tasted the peanut sauce and cold beer that were provided by the maid with a cheerful face did he feel better. Ah, that was quite nice!

LESSON 18 The Interview

Several friends of Sari's wanted to meet Joel. Joel was going to be interviewed in Indonesian for a student magazine. But they felt shy, so they asked Sari, "How would it be if you asked Joel? He's sure to agree!"

Joel doesn't like being laughed at. "Don't just make jokes, okay? There have to be meaningful questions. I want to be given the themes of the interview in advance, if you can. I hope it goes smoothly."

The students crowded around Joel, led by Sari. His answers were going to be recorded. For example:

Sari: "What do you like most about Indonesia?"

Joel: "Yes, it's hard if you tell me to choose. Possibly it's the Indonesian people's nature, friendly and open toward outsiders..."

Sari: "What do you hate most about Indonesia?"

Joel: "Clearly it's the air pollution and the exploitation of the environment. We love nature, and don't like it if it is ruined for the sake of making excessive profits."

Sari: "Actually, there are some friends who want to continue their study overseas. Can you arrange this? What is the method?"

Joel: "Well, there are quite a few ways to go. For example, there is post-graduate research, under the supervision of an expert in Australia or America. But there is always the condition: their English has to be excellent, so that they can communicate freely."

Sari: "Probably that's enough. Thanks very much, Joel."

Joel: "You're welcome."

LESSON 19 What Will We Watch?

As usual, Joel wanted to get more complete information about the society around him. He was very interested in studying the lives of Indonesian people.

He said to Sari: "Sari, where do kids in Jakarta usually go out to, on a Saturday evening? Give me a bit of info, would you?"

Sari: "Some like going to a film, and others prefer a pop concert, such as..."

Joel: "I'm interested in seeing a contemporary Indonesian film. Please note the title for me."

(Sari wrote down film titles.) "Now, this story is very romantic. The title is *Ayat-Ayat Cinta*. This film is very well known at this time, in Singapore and Malaysia as well. Would you like it? But wait a moment, let me phone Mas Agus..."

(Sari phones.) Mas Agus! Help me a moment, would you? When you go to Mangga Mall, have a look and see what films are showing there. Not action movies, right. Just romantic ones. Joel wants to see one, he says."

Agus: "Careful! Or he'll get stolen by girls crazy about white people..."

Sari: "Oh, in that case a concert by a pop singer would be better, like Citra Lestari. What on earth will I do?"

(to Joel) Joel, you'll have to choose for yourself. I'll go along too!"

Joel: "I like both of them. But not at the same time. We'll go to the film first, providing you don't cry, and the next week we'll go to the pop concert. Please get the tickets for me. How many people? Just two, or the whole gang? I'm the one paying, right!"

LESSON 20 Twilight in Jakarta

After his afternoon bath, while drinking *kopi tubruk* on the veranda, Joel was having a read of the magazine *Gatra* that he had just bought in a bookshop. The price was Rp 24,500. There were articles of various kinds, such as politics and law, business, medicine and sport. The most useful ones for him were politics and law.

For example, there was an article on the process of electing the president. Its author was of the opinion that "the colossal general election needs well thought-out and careful preparation from those organizing it." All the regulations have to be ready in advance. If not, this can make the implementation difficult. "There has to be

an understanding of geographical conditions, the demographic character of..."

But Joel was already beginning to get sleepy. His eyes were tired. In a moment, suddenly it was dark, the hour at which cockroaches come out to play on the bathroom floor. He was getting interested in having something to eat. What will he eat? Fried chicken or pizza? Yes, fried chicken! So Joel went out and headed for the nearest KFC, on the corner of the main road. Their chicken was delicious, and in the restaurant it was more fun than sitting alone at home. Maybe he would be able to meet some new friends. Right, where's the list of foods?

LESSON 21 Going to the Doctor

One morning Joel was passing a bus stop, as it happened, right outside the Australian Embassy. There were lots of people waiting for the bus to come, and then when the red bus arrived they pushed each other while trying to get on. There were a few youths who came running, pushed Joel from behind and then got on the bus. Only when the bus had left did Joel feel his pocket: empty. His pocket had been picked. Luckily, he had not lost much, only a purse containing some small change.

But from that moment his feelings changed. He experienced feelings of fear, disappointment and failure, as if the incident had influenced his attitude toward his surroundings. Why was it like this? Sari was aware that something wasn't in order. She said to Joel: "Joel, I'm going to take you to the doctor, to have you examined, okay?"

Joel had no objections. The two of them were there at Dr Lim's consulting hour, at six o'clock in the evening. They didn't have to wait long. Joel explained to the doctor: "I always feel exhausted and tired. What do you think it is, doctor?"

Dr Lim said, "Yes, Joel, your face is rather pale. There is a possibility that you have **kurang darah**. That means the blood is lacking in iron. The English term is anaemia. It's caused by the climate, or a lack of nutritious food. If you can, my advice is that you take a holiday, to Puncak, for example. There you can have a rest in a cool place. As well as that, I'll write a prescription for tablets containing iron. Okay?"

Joel and Sari: "Thanks very much, doctor."

LESSON 22 International Relations

Ever since she was little Sari had been attracted to stories about far-away countries overseas, such as are found in children's books. She wanted to roam the world to see it for herself. Her parents suggested to Sari that she take the course in International Relations Studies, at least as a first step. After that a career path would be open in the Department of Foreign Affairs, or to the world of business.

While studying developments in East Asia, Sari got an assignment to read lecture materials including books and journal articles, the majority of them in English. She had searched for these books in the library, but rarely found them. Her frustration was indescribable! Finally she remembered: I have a friend, our Joel. Possibly he can help.

Sari: "By the way, Joel, I'm having trouble looking

for sources for an essay my lecturer has assigned to me. Where do you think I might get those books?"

Joel: "Let's have a look at the titles. Well, that kind of book is certain to be available in Monash library. Hey, I have an idea! My sister's going to visit Indonesia very soon, amongst other things to see me. How would it be if she borrowed them, and then we photocopy the most important parts here? It's not allowed to photocopy all of them, so we'll just select the necessary chapters. Agreed?"

Sari's feeling of gratitude was incalculable. She kept kissing Joel on the cheek.

Joel: "This is what's called 'International Relations', isn't it?"

Sari and Joel laughed.

LESSON 23 A Trip to Yogyakarta

To his surprise Joel got an opportunity to visit the city of Yogyakarta, the famous centre of Javanese culture.

Sari informed Joel: "In the semester break we are planning to go to Yogya, because we want to see our grandmother, that is, the mother of my mother, who lives there. Would you like to come along? We won't be there long, only about five days."

Joel: "Yes, of course I want to. I've long wanted to see the archaeological remains there are in that region. But how are we going to travel there?"

Sari: "There's the night bus, the train, and there's the plane... The night bus and the train take a long time, and are very physically tiring. So we just choose the plane..."

Joel: "Yes, clearly it's quicker and more comfortable. Let's look for a timetable and ticket price, will we?"

Loudspeaker: "Passengers are invited to board the aircraft, flight number GA 210."

Flight attendant: "Fasten your seat belts, put your seats in an upright position, and stow your tray tables. Life vests are under your seat..."

Within 60 minutes they were near the destination. Mount Merbabu and Mount Merapi were visible on the left-hand side, and the Indian Ocean and the Menoreh Range were visible on the right. The aircraft turned to the north and then made a smooth landing at Adi Sutjip-to Airport.

The family from Jakarta were met by the family from Yogya outside the baggage collection area. They didn't need to go to a hotel, as there was plenty of space in grandmother's house. Joel was introduced to Sari's grandmother: "Grandmother, this is my friend, an Australian who is studying at UI. His name is Joel."

Grandmother: "Are you well?"

Sari: "Yes, Grandmother, by your blessing."

Joel was very impressed. This Javanese, how refined and melodious it sounded!

LESSON 24 To the Market

JOEL Where are you going, Sari?

SARI I want to call in at the Beringharjo Market. Come on!

In the market various fruits and vegetables were piled up. People were pushing each other, looking for the cheapest. Some were buying rice, spices, clothes, shoes...

SARI In the market we can bargain. In fact you have to. It's not like the shops. In shops it's only fixed prices.

Meanwhile there were two old sellers who were quarrelling with each other.

SELLER 1 Look over there – there's a pretty princess courting with a giant. A giant with a red face!

SELLER 2 Don't go on like that! Or he'll punch you on the head, your brains will be scattered about, and then they'll be cooked with a hot sauce the Minang way...

SELLER 1 You're envious. I'm the one he's going to run away with!

SELLER 2 Out of the question! With that face of yours, like a fried potato chip!

SARI Careful, please, Joel. Don't let your foot touch any of the goods on the ground there. Come on, it's a durian I'm looking for, so you can get to know that famous fruit. Ha, what's this... How much for the durian?

Joel looked at the fruit with a brownish green colour and a skin like thorns.

SARI This is what we call a durian. It's very tasty! We like it.

Joel said nothing. His eyes met Sari's. Only then did Sari realize that Joel didn't like the smell much. Certainly the smell was pungent. Joel kept his distance from the pile of fruits.

SARI Don't worry. When I've opened it at home, I'll give you a bit to taste. Just a little bit! They say it can make your blood hotter...

LESSON 25 National Days

Hanafi and Joel were chatting in the Espresso Coffee Shop in Margonda Street.

HANAFI By the way, Joel, does Australia have a national day, like our Proclamation Day on 17 August? Here there are big ceremonies everywhere each year.

JOEL Yes, of course it does. It's called Australia Day, on 26 January. We have ceremonies too, and there are fireworks. On that day, in 1788, a fleet consisting of eleven sailing ships anchored in Sydney Harbour. The first English arrivals disembarked from the ships and landed there. So what is being celebrated is the first European settlement, not a proclamation of independence, for instance.

HANAFI But wasn't there anybody living there before that, the people called 'original inhabitants' or Aborigines? They had been settled in the country for a long time, for tens of thousands of years, according to an article I once read.

JOEL Yes, that's true. The Aborigines must have been astonished when they saw those ships sailing in, and then spewing out hundreds of white-skinned people. And they were certainly

not happy to have their land seized. Because they didn't build houses of stone, plant crops or herd animals they were thought to be primitive, so that they didn't need to be taken into account. Whereas their culture was to be found on the spiritual side...

HANAFI Weren't there any conflicts?

JOEL It was inevitable that disputes arose. As well as that, the diseases brought by the English spread to the Aborigines. They were unable to resist the diseases, so that many died. And so these days some people are of the opinion that Australia Day should not be celebrated, as it commemorates a disaster. It would be better for a nation that is truly united to choose another day, which brings together every social group, and which honours the achievements of each one, including the original inhabitants and all the waves of immigrants who have arrived since 1788...

HANAFI Wow, that's so interesting! I hadn't imagined there was a history like that. Maybe I should register for lectures in the Department of Australian Studies!

LESSON 26 Wall Lizards

In Jakarta Joel often saw the lizards that came out in the evenings and ran around on the walls of houses near the outside lights, chasing little insects attracted by the light of the lamps. He thought how sweet the animals were, friends sharing the same house with humans. From time to time their sound, cek cek cek, could be heard.

Sari told him: "According to what the Balinese believe, if we're in a state of uncertainty, and then hear the lizards sounding three times, then we are given certainty. The wall lizard is a manifestation of the goddess Saraswati, the patroness of speech and writing..."

Mas Agus interrupted her: "Ah, that's nonsense, superstition! Imagine believing in the sound of an animal! It's better to believe in your own reasoning, based on observation and an examination of the facts."

Sari's father added: "According to some Muslim groups, the wall lizard should be exterminated. This is because at the time when the Prophet Muhammad was being pursued by the Arab polytheists, and was hiding in the Hiro cave, suddenly a wall lizard informed them with its sound that there was someone in the cave."

Then the next day, at his boarding house, Joel had

a surprise. There was a racket outside, as if struck by a great storm. What was that? It turned out that the neighbours had asked for fogging to eliminate mosquitoes. By coincidence Joel had just been reading a report in the paper *Kompas* that cases of dengue fever were on the rise in the Jakarta metropolitan area and there had begun to be deaths. The number of sufferers from dengue fever in Depok had risen by 29 percent at that time.

According to the Head of the Disease Control and Environmental Improvement Section of the Health Service of the Municipality of Depok, most patients were being treated at Bhakti Yudha Hospital, and totalled 55. In keeping with the rise in sufferers from dengue fever, there was also a rise in requests from residents for fogging to be carried out, according to the report.

In this way someone was taking responsibility for keeping an eye on the health of the inhabitants of the area. But Joel was reminded of the wall lizards. If all the mosquitoes were gone, where would they find their food? And if the wall lizards were also affected by the vapour, what would the result be?

LESSON 27 Demonstrations

One day Joel arrived at the campus early in the morning. He was surprised to see an unusual situation: hundreds of students had gathered in front of the main gate. There were pick-up trucks with microphones, and a number of banners had been set up along the road.

After meeting his friend Hanafi, Joel asked: "What's going on today?" Hanafi was confused for a moment, thinking "to die?" then answered, "Don't be scared. There's no danger. Nobody's going to die. This is what you call a "demo" in your language, right? The Indonesian for it is **unjuk rasa**. This means informing the authorities about our feelings, for example, a feeling of dissatisfaction. This is an aspect of freedom of expression. It's common in Indonesia, especially since the fall of the Soeharto regime in 1998. A demonstration happens almost every day, in particular in Jakarta. Just recently there were seven on the same day, in different parts of the city, so that the traffic experienced jams on the main arteries and it interfered with road users."

Joel: "Why are there so many demonstrations?"

Hanafi: "Usually they are carried out by students who oppose government policy, or the workers who are dissatisfied with their treatment by their employers."

Joel: "Do they have any use?"

Hanafi: "Yes, listen. The Rector has issued a decree, with the aim of charging admission fees of Rp 5 million up to Rp 25 million per new student. Our campaign demands that this decree be withdrawn. The opportunity to study should be open equally to all students who achieve, and must not be sold to anyone who is able to pay entry money!"

About 10.00 the crowd moved to block the entrance to the campus, so that they got a response from the local security. The leaders held speeches from the pick-up trucks for two hours, slogans were shouted, and everyone worked up a sweat. Joel was wondering whether there would be any result. There had been an announcement that the Rector's office had scheduled a dialogue with the students, to take place the next morning at the Salemba campus at 9.00 a.m. The only thing left to do was to await news.

LESSON 28 The Secret Trumpet

SARI Joel, at the weekend in the evening at home like this, what are you usually doing?

JOEL I rarely have time, but if I want to relax I play my trumpet. Sometimes I'm asked to play with a few friends. We have a little band. It's called 'Sticky and the Insects'.

SARI Hey, we've known each other as long as this, and only now do I hear you can play the trumpet! That means that the longer we know each other the deeper our friendship gets, doesn't it. So, what kind of music is it?

JOEL Oh well, funky jazz, and I did once play hip hop Jamaica style.

SARI Why didn't you bring your trumpet here?

JOEL I was afraid it would disturb the neighbours, and then I'd get a warning from Pak RT. Especially if I blow the trumpet to imitate the sound of a wild elephant. It's sooo funny.

SARI Mas Agus has a friend who owns a trumpet. Would you like to try it? I'm longing to hear what it sounds like.

JOEL Ah, some other time, okay?

SARI There's a program on RCTI called *Dahsyat*, where they invite bands. Their music is terrific. Not long ago they invited Hillary Clinton, at the request of the American Embassy. Unfortunately, Hillary

only knew the names of The Beatles and The Rolling Stones.

JOEL What is RCTI?"

SARI It means **Rajawali Citra Televisi Indonesia**, the biggest private TV station in Indonesia.

JOEL By the way, Sari, what song do you like best?

SARI **Godai aku lagi** [Tempt me again], a single by Agnes Monica. If you like, I'll write down the lyrics for you. And then you can take them home, and sing them there.

JOEL Is *Dahsyat* only in Jakarta?

SARI No. Soon the Friends of *Dahsyat* living in Bali will be able to watch guest stars there, broadcast direct from the Hard Rock Café in Kuta. Oh, I'd love to go to Bali. Bali's close to Australia, isn't it?

JOEL Yes, it is. And I hope you'll go to Australia too, and go and see my parents in Geelong...

The time for Joel to go home was approaching. His program of study in Jakarta had finished.

SARI When will you come back to Jakarta?

JOEL I don't know yet. But for sure, I want to come again, as soon as possible.

SARI Parting...

JOEL Makes the heart grow fonder.