

The Epitome //Ipitami/

Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Cawangan Kedah



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SYNOPSIS

The Academy of Language Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Cawangan Kedah is thrilled to announce the release of the second edition of its e-magazine, The Epitome. This publication exemplifies our steady dedication to fostering creativity in language and literature.

The primary objective of THE EPITOME is to offer a platform where writers, educators, scholars, poets, and researchers can come together to exchange their ideas, discoveries, expertise, and narratives. Our special focus revolves around an array of creative writing genres, encompassing Playwriting, Short stories, Songs, Speeches, Memoirs, Literary Journalism, Humour writing, Lyric essays, Innovative essays, and Personal essays, with a goal to embrace diverse linguistic expressions, with content available in four languages: English, Bahasa Melayu, Mandarin, and Arabic.

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Every day is learning curves...

Dear Readers,

We are back! We are thrilled to present a collection of articles that we believe capture the essence of the writers. Our team has worked diligently to curate content that we hope will both engage and resonate with you.

In these pages, you will find a diverse range of perspectives on life, from joy to sorrow. We hope these pieces inspire reflection and spark meaningful conversations.

We want to express our deepest gratitude to our talented contributors for their time and expertise. Their dedication is what makes the second issue of Epitome possible.

As always, we value your feedback. Please do not hesitate to reach out with your thoughts and suggestions.

Thank you for being a part of our Epitome community.

Warm regards,

Razanawati Nordin Editor-in-Chief, The Epitome

Interstellar Voyage

Norliza Che Mustafa

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"Major general, please wait."

Kai heard someone calling for him and turned back.

"What happened?"

"Zerg army launched an attack against Cplanet early this morning. The marshal called every officer for an emergency briefing."

Kai turned and immediately went to the administrative building behind him. His long legs devoured the stairs quickly and easily. The meeting room was crowded with officers. Kai chose a chair in the corner. He nodded to the young captain next to him. And peek at the gigantic galaxy map shown by the marshal.

"At 0430 this morning, we received a distress signal from C- planet in the Galaway galaxy. A group of Zerg warriors have been detected at the northern point of the planet. At this moment, the shield is at 45%. We must deploy a fast warship and go to their aid as soon as possible".

"I suggest General Alexandre. The general's army is decked out with the latest technology. They also have the fastest warship".

"True. But that warship is smaller compared to the B army. We should give this urgent task to Major General Kai. B Army warships can transport thousands of mechas. It will be more beneficial when we fight the Zerg", someone countered.

"Is Major General Kai here?"

"Yes, marshal. I saw him just now", said the secretary, pointing his finger in Kai's direction. Everyone looked and saw Major General Kai, sitting quietly near the door.

"Well, what do you think Major General?" "Kai? Kai?"

In a daze, Kai heard someone call his name. He blinked and saw the dean and the faculty members looking at him. He looked around. There was no Zerg, no mechas, no warship. It was a cold and cloudy Monday morning. He then realized that he was at a weekly faculty meeting.

"Oh well...at least I don't need to go to planet C and fight the Zerg", he whispered happily after the meeting and headed to his office. Meanwhile, at a galaxy billion of light years away, a Zerg warrior looked around suspiciously.

"Huh? Who is calling me?"

Kai woke up with a fierce headache. It was so painful, that he felt like vomiting. He groaned weakly and tried to open his eyes. It was dark all around.

He could not see anything. Where is he? He remembered that he returned to his office after the faculty meeting. He can clearly see himself printing some documents for his next class.

Then, suddenly blank. What happened? Why is he here? Is this a cave? He felt the rough surface on his back. And somewhere near him was a dripping sound. He looked around. But he could not see anything. Total darkness.

After lying blankly for an infinity, he heard a noise on his left. It was a ... growl? A cat? Is there a cat in the cave? He turned his head stiffly to the left to find out. The pain hit him like a tsunami. He grunted in agony and breathed slowly, trying to lessen the pain. When it subsided, he opened his eyes and looked around defensively. He could only hear his breathing and... the dripping sound. Nothing else. Holding his aching head, he tentatively stood and looked for a way out of the cave.

He walked slowly towards the dripping sound, hoping it would lead him to the exit. After struggling for an eternity, he saw that it was getting a bit brighter. He could see one meter in front of him. He felt so happy, he almost danced. Quickly, he moved towards the light when he heard the growling sound again. He stopped, heart pounding. Should he turn back, and walk the other way around? While hesitating, he heard some noise.

"Major general! Major general! Where are you???"

"Are you sure it's here captain? This cave is far from the crash site."

"Yes, the locater in his light brain indicated he is here. Quickly look for him! Inform the medic too." Major general! Major general! Answer if you could hear us."

People! there are people here. Kai opened his mouth. "Here! Help!"

"Major general??? The major is here!"
Kai heard a dozen footsteps rushing towards him.

"Finally, help arrived," he sighed deeply. Before he could celebrate his rescue, he saw something that made him sweat. A pair of glowing yellow eyes. It was getting closer and closer to his position. What is it? An animal? A monster?

Kai is so terrified he is getting lightheaded. Why me? I am just a teacher, he lamented. He opened his mouth to ask for help, but nothing came out. No sound. His throat felt constricted.

To his horror the owner of the eyes appeared in front of him. A huge, fierce beast! Kai heard someone yelling medic before he blacked out.







