



The **Epitome** */I'pitəmi/*

Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Cawangan Kedah

*We are back!
Welcoming the epitome of artistic ideas &
astonishing writers!*

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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

EDITOR'S NOTE

Hello Dad

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(A table for two is set in the middle of the stage, setting the scene of a coffee house.)

A man wearing a white collared shirt with black pants, shoes and a blazer approaches the table.

The man extends his hand in a handshake)

It's so great that we can finally meet. I am glad that you agree to see me. (sits down) Sorry for being late, I had to deal with some things at the office. You know, small business stuff. I only have like what, seven staff members? Anyway, since you got here earlier, I am guessing that you have already had a look at the menu? Trust me, the steak here is to die for! I've been coming to this cafe almost daily for the past 11 months by the way. The people here basically know me!

Ahhhhh, okay then. Let's just order first. Excuse me! Garcon!
(waits for a while as the waiter approaches)

Good afternoon to you too Matt! How's your mother? Ahh that's good to hear. Anyway, this is my father! Meeting ol' pops after a long, LONG time. I'd have the usual - hot latte with an extra shot of espresso, and your famous steak, medium rare, bloody. And what about you dad?

(the father announces his order)

Okay, so my father will just have plain water and your signature burger.
Yeah that's all. Thanks, Matt!

(turns his attention to his father)

So how have you been dad? I heard so many great things about you, I mean you are really popular among the people.

You have like what, 2.6 billion followers! Honestly, dad, you should try to go on TikTok. Trust me, you would be a blast on that app. I mean, you can have a much farther reach especially with your messages since your schtick is spreading good messages, values, giving motivation yada yada yada.. Oh please dad you are just being humble!

It's been so long, ey? Remember when we were younger? I was a kid and you had less gray hair. The stuff we did. I miss the days we would go hiking across the hills, you'd bring me to see the view of the countryside from mountain tops, walking through the forests, enjoying the riverside. Hey, my favorite would always be when you brought me sailing across the seas. I can't recall how old was I but do you remember that one time there was a suuuper terrible storm and we were *this close* in capsizing? But you showed no fear, dad. That's what I admire about you, dad. We were unstoppable! You and me against and across the world!

Hmmmm...? Hahaha, straight to the point eh dad? You have never changed. Alrighty then, straight to business.

Okay, I just want to ask this one thing - where were you dad? I was locked up for most of my life. Fine, I paid my dues. Life must go on, but when I was in prison - you, never, visited. Like, at all. What's up with that? Heck, no one visited me, not even my siblings! Brothers for life? Yeah right. I get it that Michael never came to visit - he never liked me growing up anyway. But, Raph? Gabe? Zach? None of them came. YOU NEVER DID.

We both know I got... Oh

(the waiter arrives with the drinks)

Thanks Matt! Keep em coming!
Hahaha, you do you man, you do you.

(sips his latte)

Where was I? Owh yeah.

You never visited me in prison. My brothers never visited me in prison. I felt as if I did not have any family, y'know? What happened to me being your favorite son? You would flaunt me being your pride and joy, your amazing eldest son but when I was thrown behind bars, I was the villain? Wait, you never did villainize me? Dad, you do know we have television in prison, right? I witnessed your rise in fame but when the media, the people caught up about your black sheep of a son that was in jail, you panicked!

You have this facade that you come from a happy family with your four, not five, but FOUR amazing sons - Mikey, Raphy, Gabey and Zacky. Y'all were like a reality TV sitcom Barney the Dinosaur menagerie; "I love you, you love me, we are one big family..." And then your dark secret got out. You have FIVE sons. And the eldest, me, was in jail. Suddenly, the world's favorite family has a black sheep.

"He is my biggest disappointment!"

"We are no longer associated with him!"

"He brought shame to the family"

"He made our lives Hell"

No, dad - YOU made my life Hell!

Everything that was wrong in YOUR world - I was put to blame But little did the world know - I got into prison BECAUSE I COVERED FOR YOU!

Alright, we would both agree that your sister, dear Aunty, was a problem - a cancer to our family. She could not be reasoned with and could not be stopped. She'd beat us when we were kids, torment us and cause a lot of ruckus. So after years have passed, you have had enough. I get it, I had enough too.

We tried talking to Aunty but in the end we had to put her down. You came to me, your favorite son - to pull the trigger. I, being loyal to you, did it. I did it - for you. I have never harmed another let alone uttering putting an end to someone. That affected me, dad. I know you noticed but you just let it slip by. I began having an addiction to violence, just like Aunty. What did you do? YOU PUT ME IN JAIL! I was in the darkest part of my life, I needed my dad, I NEEDED YOU! And you just shoved me aside as if I was yesterday's news. You put me behind bars.

Oh so it's my fault?! You see that's just you, you blame everyone BUT YOURSELF!

sighs You see, dad. I don't want your apologies, nor am I here to apologize. I just want you to know that I got out, dad. I'm out and I'm HERE.

Dad, the thing about prisons is that we make friends, and I have made four very close buddies back in the slammer. They got out too, and we are gonna have so, so much fun together.

As for you, this is not going to be a normal family feud - this is war. I will bring famine and pestilence to your family, your followers, everyone! I will bring death if I have to.

(the waiter arrives with the meal)
Thank you Matt.

So, dad, I am here to tell you that next week, I will be coming for you. I will...make...your life... Hell.

But that's next week, let's live in the moment and enjoy our meal.

(proceeds to cut his steak)

Owh, you should try the burger with their Cajun sauce. By the way, my main office is nearby. You should pay a visit. It's the red building with the pitchfork logo on it. Just type "Lucifer Inc." and the Uber will drive you there.



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