



# The Epitome

## /ɪ'pɪtəmi/

Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kedah Branch

Capturing Life Lessons and Moments

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# Copyright Page

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# Synopsis



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

The primary objective of THE EPITOME is to offer a platform for 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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# Preface

**Mr. Azlan Abdul Rahman**  
Head of Faculty  
Academy of Language Studies  
UiTM Kedah Branch

Welcome to the fourth issue of Epitome, where creativity and imagination shine brightly. Within these pages, you will discover a rich tapestry of voices and visions—each piece a celebration of the limitless potential of words.

This issue of Epitome is more than a mere publication; it is a tribute to the art of storytelling in all its forms. Whether you are captivated by evocative poetry, enthralled by engaging short stories, or intrigued by insightful essays, we aim to present something that resonates with every reader.

We are passionate about the transformative power of literature, and we hope that this collection will inspire, challenge, and delight you. As you explore these pages, may you uncover new perspectives and experiences that enrich your own creative journey.

Thank you for embarking on this literary adventure with us.

Happy reading!





# Editor InChief

Dear gentle readers,

Let me welcome you to our fourth edition of e-magazine, where we explore the beauty of life's journey. Our theme, "Capturing Life Lessons and Moments," encourages you to pause, reflect, and celebrate the wisdom that arises from everyday experiences.

Life is a mosaic of moments, each with the potential to teach us something profound, inspire change, or remind us of the surrounding beauty. Within these pages, we have unfolded stories, reflections, and insights that illuminate the lessons woven into the fabric of our lives. From the quiet wisdom found in fleeting moments to the power of life-changing events, this edition pays tribute to the learning that occurs beyond the classroom, in the heart of our daily lives.

Our contributors have poured their hearts into capturing these moments, sharing personal stories that resonate with authenticity and depth. You will find essays exploring the significance of small acts of kindness, articles reflecting on the lessons learned from adversity, and creative pieces celebrating the joy found in simple leisure. Each piece serves as a reminder that life's greatest lessons often emerge from the most unexpected places.

As you flip through this edition, we hope you find inspiration in the shared stories and perhaps discover a mirror to your own experiences. May these pages encourage you to appreciate the moments that shape you, learn from the challenges that test you, and embrace the wisdom that life offers at every step of your journey.

Thank you for joining us in exploring life's lessons and moments. We invite you to take your time, savour each piece, and maybe even gain a new perspective on the experiences that have shaped your own life.

Happy reading!  
Warm regards,

Razanawati Nordin  
Editor-in-Chief  
THE EPITOME





# Peneman Larut Malam

Noor 'Izzati Ahmad Shafai  
Akademi Pengajian Bahasa, UiTM Kedah

**Program yang berlangsung di dewan seminar resort tamat pukul 11.15 malam, lantas aku mengemas barang untuk pulang ke bilik. Dah janji dengan anak-anak untuk bawa mereka keluar mencari kndapan lewat malam. Ketiga-tiga anak masih belum tidur, barangkali teruja dengan percutian kali ini. Maka terpakalah aku bawa semuanya.**

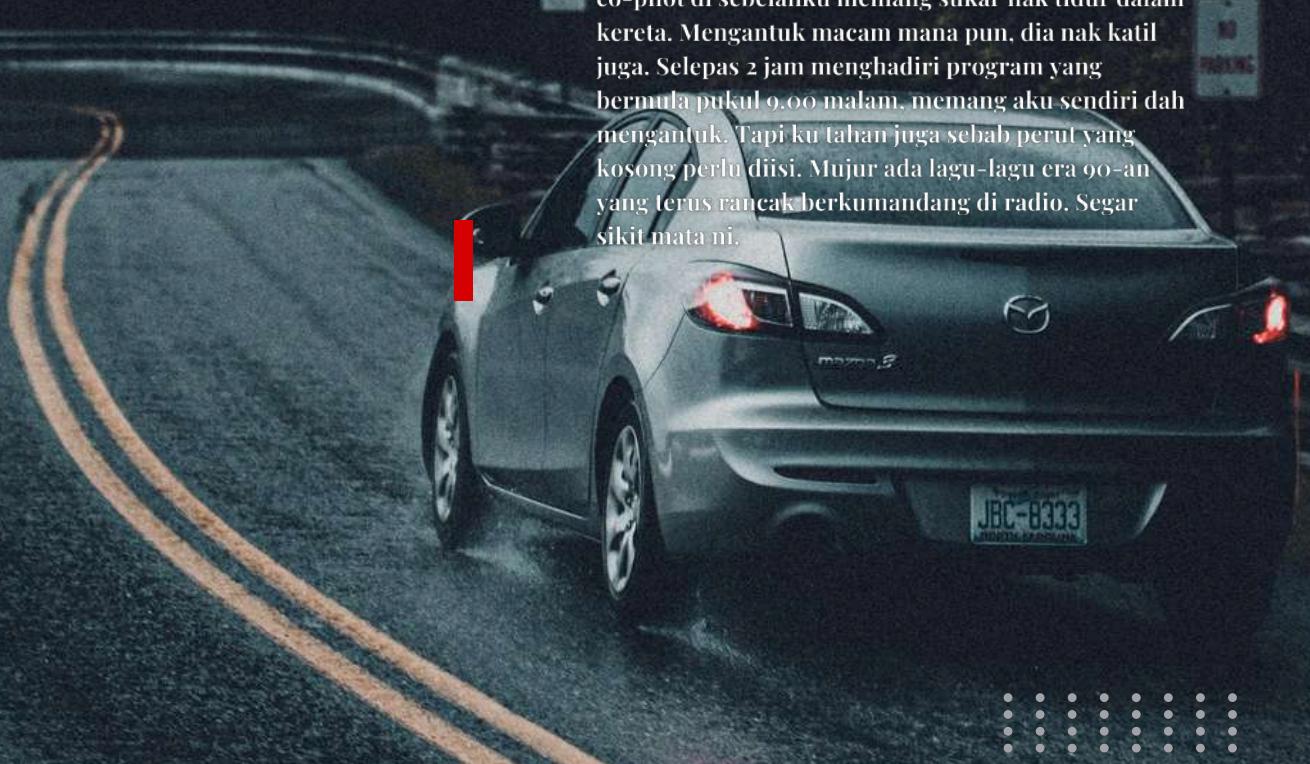
**Waktu itu, sudah pasti tiada kedai di kawasan sekitar yang masih beroperasi. Lokasi resort yang agak terpencil dan jauh dari bandar memaksa kami untuk ke kedai serbaneka 24 jam. Suasana sunyi sepi, luar dan dalam kereta. Hanya alunan lagu saja yang bermain di corong radio.**

Seusai tiba di kawasan bandar, barulah ada beberapa kenderaan. Suasana pun sedikit terang dengan cahaya lampu jalan dan dari bangunan sekitar. Dapat saja parking di bahu jalan, isteri dan anak-anak ke kedai serbaneka. Sengaja kami biar mereka memilih apa yang mereka nak makan, manakala aku ke gerai burger di luar kedai serbaneka tersebut.

Selesai urusan, kami terus bergerak semula ke resort. Sama seperti tadi, perjalanan agak panjang. Jam pun sudah menunjukkan pukul 12.30 tengah malam. Semakin kami meninggalkan bandar, suasana semakin sunyi dan gelap. Dalam kereta juga sama. Terdetik aku bertanya isteriku yang berada di tempat duduk belakang.

“Budak-budak dah tidur?”  
“Ha’ah, dari tadi lagi.”

Tinggal yang sulung saja belum tidur. Dia yang jadi co-pilot di sebelahku memang sukar nak tidur dalam kereta. Mengantuk macam mana pun, dia nak katil juga. Selepas 2 jam menghadiri program yang bermula pukul 9.00 malam, memang aku sendiri dah mengantuk. Tapi ku tahan juga sebab perut yang kosong perlu diisi. Mujur ada lagu-lagu era 90-an yang terus rancak berkumandang di radio. Segar sikit mata ni.





Tak semena-mena terdengar suara isteriku tertawa kecil seraya berkata "Ha, ni lagi sorang dah tidur."

Eh, lagi sorang? Aku spontan menoleh ke belakang dan memang benar, isteriku lena dibuai mimpi. Dia tersandar, bibirnya sedikit terbuka menandakan betapa nyenyak tidurnya. Dia dan dua lagi anakku di belakang semua dah nyenyak tidur. Aku pandang semula ke depan dan terus memandu. Leherku terasa sejuk, bulu rompa meremang. Apabila berhenti di lampu isyarat, aku tolak sekali lagi untuk pastikan isteriku benar-benar dah tertidur.

Aku panggil namanya beberapa kali, namun tidak disahut. Dia bukan tidur-tidur ayam, tapi benar-benar tidur. Tak apalah, detik hatiku. Terima kasihlah kepada yang tolong beritahu aku tadi yang isteriku dah tertidur. Aku cuma mampu berdoa agar 'dia' turun dari keretaku sebelum kami tiba ke resort.

Seperti kebiasaan jika mereka tidur dalam kereta, anak dan isteri di belakang terus terjaga sejurus kereta mula masuk ke tempat letak kenderaan. Kami masuk ke bilik dan menjamah kudapan hasil buruan di kedai serbaneka tadi. Tiadalah aku menyebut apa-apa pada isteriku. Aku cuba menyedapkan hati dengan beranggapan aku tersilap dengar suara tadi. Kalau dah terlalu penat dan mengantuk, boleh jadi aku berhalusinasi.

Mereka semua dah berkelubung dalam selimut. Suasana kembali senyap sunyi, kelam diterangi sedikit cahaya dari lampu sisi katil dan cahaya televisyen. Aku semakin asyik menonton Cast Away lakonan Tom Hanks hingga tak sedar malam semakin lewat. Tentulah, kami sampai ke bilik resort pun hampir puluk 1.00 pagi. Makan kudapan sahaja dah mengambil masa setengah jam. Tak tahulah pukul berapa aku berjaga seorang diri, melayan movie.

Dalam ruang bilik yang hampir gelap, mudah lirik mataku menangkap sesuatu pergerakan di luar tingkap. Aku menoleh, tapi tiada apa-apa. Aku terus sambung menikmati Cast Away apabila terasa ada pergerakan di luar sekali lagi. Aduh, menyesal sungguh aku turutkan hati mahu melihat. Walau hanya sepintas lalu, jelas kelibat kain putih melayang melintasi tingkap dari bilik tingkat dua yang kami inap. Seakan-akan tahu aku dah nampak, kedengaran lagi bunyi tertawa kecil menyerupai suara isteriku seraya berbisik "Ada seorang tak tidur lagi..." dan terus ketawa.

Mujur kami memang akan pulang keesokkan harinya. Cukuplah satu pengalaman saja. Usah ditanya nama resort dan lokasinya kerana kisah ini tidak lain hanyalah rekaan semata-mata.





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