

The Legend of Timun Mas

Once upon a time, there lived an old woman named Mbok Srini who really wanted a child. One day, a giant named Buto Ijo gave her a cucumber seed. From that seed grew a golden cucumber, and inside it was a baby girl named Timun Mas. Buto Ijo told Mbok Srini that he would take the girl back when she turned sixteen.



(Illustration of timun mas)

When Timun Mas grew up, the giant came to take her. Mbok Srini was very sad and asked a hermit for help. The hermit gave her four magical items: cucumber seeds, needles, salt, and shrimp paste. When the giant chased Timun Mas, she used each item to stop him.

The cucumber seeds became a field, the needles became sharp bamboo, the salt turned into the sea, and the shrimp paste became boiling mud. The giant fell into it and died. Timun Mas and Mbok Srini lived happily ever after.