

Divided over grave theories

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Sultan's mausoleum dry, while killer's tomb is flooded

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KOTA TINGGI: While the mausoleum of 17th century ruler Sultan Mahmud II remained dry during the floods, the burial place of his killer was in 1.5m of water.

Makam Laksamana Bentan, located in Kampung Kelantan by the banks of Sungai Keman, was twice hit by floods over the last four weeks.

In contrast, the freshly-painted mausoleum of Sultan Mahmud II (1685-1699), Johor's 10th Sultan, sits on a hill in Kampung Makam, about 5km from here.

Locals have come up with their own versions as to why one famous grave was unaffected by the floods while the other was inundated.

"The Laksamana killed the Sultan, so that is why he still cannot rest in peace in his tomb today," one villager commented.

According to folklore, Laksamana Bentan killed Sultan Mahmud II while he was on his way back to the palace after prayers. The Sultan had earlier sentenced Laksamana

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VILLAGER

Bentan's pregnant wife to death for eating his jackfruit and the warrior wanted to avenge her death.

"We cannot say that the Laksamana's tomb was flooded because he killed the Sultan. We must remember that it was because the Sultan killed the warrior's wife that their feud started," argued another villager.

Others, especially younger villagers, have, however, dismissed such talk as mere superstition, saying the geography of the place had more to do with the recent flooding.



Wet and dry: The grave of Laksamana Bentan in Kampung Kelantan was twice hit by floods but the mausoleum of Sultan Mahmud II (inset) in Kampung Makam was unaffected.