

## AGE AND IMMORTALITY

One day, at the foothill of Kinabalu National Park, the Director of Sabah Parks gave a presentation about the guide system in the Park. Gunting Lagadan was a famous tour guide to climb Kinabalu Mountain in Sabah, Malaysia. Almost all of the well known pioneer westerners climbers were guided by him. The most interesting fact for me was that Gunting Lagadan died in 1966, at the age of unbelievably 144 years (or 114? Sorry, I am not sure)!

At the foothill of Tampomas Mountain in West Java, several years ago after Lebaran, I met a gentleman. Maybe he was about 60 years old. His face still lack of wrinkle, his hair was no grey, his body was slim, his tight muscles peeked from underneath his short batik sleeves. He was visiting my relative, whose age was 70. My relative greeted him and said: 'I am honored that you come to my home. It should have been me, to visit the elderly'.

What? Say it again?

Is that means that the gentlemen was older than 70? Come on...

'I am still young, just celebrate my 86th birthday last week' the man explained when I asked about his age. Wow..

Eighty six is young?

'My older brother just passes away. He was 98. My late uncle died at 104. So, I am considered young..' he explained calmly.

Human still pursue the secret to fight the old age. Maybe human indeed is able to live long, as history clearly mentioned that prophets (Nabi) lived several hundred years on Earth.

A Chinese movie entitled 'The Myth' (starred by Jackie Chan) was about a harsh battle in searching the formula for immortality. The legend of the immortality was dated back to the year 200 BC (right, Before Christ) when the Emperor Qin Shihuang was seeking the immortality secret.

Immortality... Does human qualify for it? Or immortality is actually designated for God and Goddess (Dewa) only?

The searching for long age and immortality goes on and on...

Let's forget the immortality and focus on the long age. When you are fifty and your friends begin deceased one by one, you will start to think about the remaining time you have, while wishing for a longer, healthy life. Trust me on this, sister...