

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY  
and  
NEWS OF THE DAY**

15 January 1943 – 17 February 1944

ZAKIAH HANUM



**adhicipta (m) sdn. bhd.**

1 9 7 9 1 7 T

Kuala Lumpur

1997

© **adhicipta (m) sdn. bhd.**, 1997

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording or any information storage or retrieval system, without the prior permission in writing from Adhicipta Sdn Bhd.

Published by:

**adhicipta (m) sdn. bhd.**

1 9 7 9 1 7 T

23-2 Jalan Telawi Dua

Bangsar Baru

59100 Kuala Lumpur

Cover Design by Mukhlis Nor

Drawing by Zakiah Hanum done soon  
after Japanese Occupation in Malaysia.

Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia

Cataloguing-in Publication Data

Zakiah Hanum, Dato'

Thought For Today and News of The Day: 15 January 1943 –  
17 February 1944/ Zakiah Hanum.

ISBN 983-9113-05-4

I. Malaya-History-Japanese occupation, 1942-1945.

II. Title

III. 959.5150

Printed by:

Percetakan Jiwabaru Sdn. Bhd. (18264-U)

Lot 14 No.2, Jalan P/8, Kawasan MIEL FASA 2,

Bandar Baru Bangi, 43650 Bangi,

Selangor Darul Ehsan.

M

955038<sup>R</sup>

16  
959.5150  
ZAK

5 AUG 1998

Perpustakaan Negara

MALAYSIA

## PREAMBLE

One day while going through the Malai Sinpo (the name given to the Malay Mail during the Japanese Occupation period), I was attracted to a small corner on the front page of the newspaper with the title "Thought For Today", giving a fascinating saying selected for the day. The first saying was by Goethe, followed by others including E.F. Benson, Seneca, Talleyrand, Addison and Gautama, covering a period of more than one year.

After looking at several issues of the Malai Sinpo and finding the sayings relevant to the Japanese Occupation period as well as today, tomorrow, and the future, I decided to reproduce them in this little book. I chose to extract the "News of the Day" to complement the sayings as well as to report on what happened in Kuala Lumpur, Selangor and other states on those days.

The corner for "Thought For Today" was started on 15 January 1943 and ended on 17 February 1944. It was produced in almost every issue and printed in slightly bold letterings. Anyone reading the issue would perhaps have given the "thought" for the day.

I am happy to be able to share the information collected with those who are interested in looking back at our history, particularly during the Japanese Occupation period, of which very little information is available. Most of us came to know of what happened during the short but stimulating period of Malaysia's history from accounts by those who remembered incidents happening in this country at the time. What fascinated me most were newspaper reports giving us details of what happened day by day. Some people say newspapers often tell the truth but others believe they only highlight matters that are light and bright.

My own memory and impression of the Japanese Occupation period were relatively vague, as I was only four years old when the Japanese entered the Malay Peninsula through my home state, Kedah on 12 December 1941. From the minor recollections that I have of the period, there were some incidents which I consider interesting and would like to include in this book. As a little girl I remembered having to bow low everytime we passed by places where there were Japanese security guards. These were some of the compulsory

items of respect for the Japanese everywhere in this country. Our gestures of respect pleased the Japanese tremendously. I remembered being given packets of sugar soon after showing respect to the Japanese soldiers and guards on duty.

Another interesting incident was the case of the Japanese head of the Land Office in Kedah. My father, who had been working in the Land Office for many years, had the Japanese as his boss during the Japanese Occupation. One day the boss came to our home and was served with durians after lunch. It must have been the first time he ate durians as he enjoyed the fruit so much. He ate them for many hours until he fell asleep on a couch in the sitting room. He slept for an exceptionally long time which was from lunch-time until breakfast time the next day. My mother was worried over his long sleep, fearing that he might die at our house. If that were to happen, my father would have been severely punished for his negligence.

Let me take this opportunity to record my appreciation to the National Archives of Malaysia for allowing me to use resources from the Malai Sinpo. I would not have been able to produce this book had there been strict control on the use of archival materials for research and publication. I appreciate the assistance given by Puan Azimah Mohd. Alias, Encik Riad Asmat and Puan Lailatool Badriah for the production of this book. I would also like to record my appreciation to the Malay Mail for allowing me to use the information extracted from the Malai Sinpo and the Japan Cultural Centre (The Japan Foundation) and Encik Anuar Hamzah for providing meaning of the Japanese words.

I would like to dedicate this book to my late parents, brothers and sisters, and friends at the National Archives. I cannot end up this little note without dedicating this book to my own family members, husband Mohd. Nor, children Mukhlis, Farha, and Haiz, daughter-in-law Mil Amalia, son-in-law Rozely, and grandchildren Leyla, Raeda and Jehan.

Zakiah Hanum,  
7 May, 1997.



Zakiah Hanum, born in Alor Setar on 15 September, 1937, is the fifth of nine children. She grew up in a rich milieu of Malay tradition and Muslim piety, amidst a large household of family and servants where, Kedah-style, there was much uninhibited talk and laughter. As a girl she feasted on a cornucopia of family lore and classical Malay yarns spun by her maternal grandmother, the family's master storyteller.

Zakiah's formal education began in 1947 at the Kampung Baru Girls' School (subsequently renamed Sultanah Asma Girls' School). She attended Form Six at the Methodist Boys' School, Penang (1956-1957) and proceeded to the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur (1957) and later in Singapore (1958-1960) and back to Kuala Lumpur (1960-1961). She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Hon.) in Malay Studies.

Zakiah began her career as an archivist in the Public Records Office in 1961 (later renamed the National Archives in 1963). She attended a year-long diploma course at the National Archives of India in New Delhi where she acquired the skills of her profession. In 1977 she was appointed the Director-General of the National Archives and stayed at the helm until her retirement in October 1995.

During her tenure as an archivist, Zakiah had been directly involved in projects such as the Memorial Tun Abdul Razak, Kuala Lumpur; Pustaka Peringatan P. Ramlee, Kuala Lumpur; Rumah Lahir P. Ramlee, Pulau Pinang; Memorial Pengisytiharan Kemerdekaan, Melaka; Rumah Lahir Dr. Mahathir, Alor Setar; Memorial Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra, Kuala Lumpur; Pustaka Perkhidmatan Awam, Kuala Lumpur and Galeria Perdana, Langkawi. Currently she is involved in the development of Memorial Tun Hussein Onn, Johor; Pustaka Warisan Seni; Pustaka Wira Negara and Memorial Tun Dr. Ismail.

Zakiah has also made a name for herself as a writer and social worker. Indeed, she is a prolific author of several books, drama scripts and articles for local magazines and newspaper. She also participates in radio programmes (Warisan Budaya - weekly and Secalit Tinta Seuntai Kata: Senandika Tok Wa - monthly).