

CHAPTER 4
Our Lives Depend On Them

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It is easy to take for granted the functions that FRUITS serve us and animals. Try to imagine a life without your favourite breakfast of nasi lemak (coconut rice) if you are a Malaysian, cereals and bread if you are from United Kingdom or United States of America. What rice, cereals and bread have in common is that they all are fruits from the Grass family (Poaceae). Thousands of years of careful selection, breeding and cultivation have created the optimal varieties for human needs; from nutritional content, to desirable looks and ease of harvest by mechanization. The artifact Grassy Starch will astound the viewers with an appreciation of the inherently simple yet spiritual beauty from the humble cereals.

From being a staple food for billions of Earth's inhabitants, we now go to a very primitive sense that humans and animals have; that of the smell. The ability to smell is an important sense for survival and pleasure. FRUITS provide us with a myriad of essential oils that tantalize our olfactory system. The next time you enter a supermarket, take note of the number of personal care and household products that contain fruity smells. A few examples I will mention here: strawberry toothpaste, mango shower gel, kiwi handwash, apple floor cleaner, and lime washing liquid. We will be re-energised with the refreshing aroma of the citrus oils in the artifact-Cognitive Energizer.

Malaysia is blessed with its Golden Crop – the oil palm. The use from this palm is extending into the Green industry. Efforts have been made to recycle its empty fruit bunches into fibreboards. These boards are biodegradable and would be a suitable alternative for sustainable lifestyle. The artifact Fibre Wealth will educate us on the multiple uses of this amazing plant.

There is the artifact that reveals the secret of being youthful. Anti-aging is synonymous with anti-oxidants. Anti-oxidants are on the mind of many who are concerned about health and beauty because they help to fight cancer and maintain the conditions to remain young. The audience would be surprised to see the fruit with the highest anti-oxidant.

The Herbarium keeps a record of plant species that exist and had existed. In this day and age of massive land clearings, sometimes the only evidence that a particular tree had been growing in a certain place can be found only in such an archive. The art of preserving is a skill not many possess; the viewers will appreciate this artifact for its functional aesthetics.

To see a plant in a miniature form is a wondrous experience. The artifact on the dragon fruit serves to educate the audience on the biotechnological advances that has a huge role to play in the agriculture sector.

This is but a small illustration of how our lives are dependent on FRUITS. They feed us, excite us, keep us healthy, and provide ways for us to leave sustainably. It is with wonderful anticipation we await further delights that FRUITS will bring us.