



SERENADE (Ode of Mother Language)

by: DR. ELYMAR A. PASCUAL

Embrace me...

Like a child seeking refuge in the arms of a mother,

A mother who persevered toward reaching dreams

And even now, as you thrive,

I continue to stand firm, unwavering

For your siblings who are just beginning to bloom

Only now, do they recognize my history and wisdom

And only now, do they realize my tireless efforts

To etch the heroes of our heritage into their minds

Some of your siblings ventured to foreign lands

They tried to change, to redefine their identity

Yet they return, seeking their own roots

For they realize the richness of your culture.

Fan the flames within me...

Like a torch in a cave dispelling darkness

Like a lamp along the path during twilight

I am the light that guides confused minds

In the heart, I bring ease; in life, beauty

Whenever I am spoken, doubts dissipate

Intentions revealed through parted lips

Ideas align harmoniously with hearing

Inner thoughts expressed through uttered voices

I am the vessel for your ancestors' grievances

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For those foreigners savaging the Motherland
I am written with a brush, published in newspapers
I weave letters with patriotic sentiments.

Revisit my songs...
And ponder how each letter was crafted
Touching the hearts of those you serenaded
Each letter not merely a piece
Not merely producing a work of art
But a manifestation of your essence as a minstrel
With a message lasting a lifetime, not fleeting
Not mere words embraced by others
But melodies intertwined with every breath
Translated by others as their own, embraced
As if a part of them, sung, savored.
So if they can sing me, how much more should you
Who eagerly awaits my chanting and celebration.

Remember me...
As part of your identity, leading you to be yourself
Without me, you would remain unheeded
Unable to connect with your surroundings, your world
And unable to progress with respect
I also shaped your admirable characters
For when you speak me, it becomes evident –
Respect for humanity, reverence
Seeing everyone as fellow creations.
I, born from the Divine and shaped by His mind,

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Arose to be of service to you.

As an honorable citizen, as a Filipino

I am the language who joined you in journeys.

Embrace me...

Fan the flames within me...

Revisit my songs...

Remember me...

You, whom I molded into your being,

A Filipino who honors the Filipino language!



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