



THE WRATH OF KANLA

by: AGUSTIN P. BAQUEREZA JR., LPT, MAEd

Prologue

In the 21st century Negros births supernaturally Kanla, a giant life-source goddess who dwells in Mt. Canlaon, giving her the sole power to oversee, rule, and protect every creature, great or small, impossible of her occult, including the bodies of water and the lushes.

Kanla, the mother of all creatures in Negros island, so trusting of her stewards, her people, once committed to their duties of maintaining the balance among themselves, animals, and plants in the island under their care, one day, awakens from her deep sleep, by an increasing pain she'd been feeling in her slumber, and when she opens her eyes, she glints to a sight of a burning Mandalagan and Silay forests and as she gulps, unquenches her, the draining and staining Binalbagan and Ilog rivers.

As she continues gleaning over her creations, her eyes further catch the diminishing greens of Bacolod, Bago, and Hinigaran and the thinning schools of fishes in Sagay, Cadiz, Himamaylan, and Sipalay.

On top of that, Kanla noticed the miserable plight of the dumpsites across the island, and the man-made marine biodiversity destructions in Dumaguete and the Maricalum mines that turned the lush of Sipalay into a barren land.

She then closes her eyes, tears rush driven by a heart so dense, as she...

(Poetry Begins)

Kanla:

Aaahhhhhh (screams angrily, mourns, and cries)

What have you done?!

What have you done

to my treasure island?!

You people are irresponsible of this land!

You people are too, with the waters, grand!

You...people...will be liable! Accountable!

Punishable... of this stand!

All:

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(astonished of Kanla's screaming anger and mourning and crying)

*What have we done?
Anything wrong that we've done?
What happened to the land?
Why the waters' damaged's grand?*

Kanla:

*Have I not given you sight?
To see and maintain them bright?
The beauty of nature's a delight
The life it gives must've made you right!
Sustaining it should've given you might!
Have I not given you heart?
To feel bad, worst to be sad
When your abdomens hunger for food
And your noses inhale not good!
Aren't you suffering for such a doing?
Don't you know that it's me you're killing?!*
*And in my sickening, you'll come to me wishing and praying
For the ceasing of storm to not flood
For the gnats to stop to not lose fatal blood*

All:

(look reflective of Kanla's confronting words)

*We thought we're dwelling just fine.
Trees still towering, sun still shines
Flowers do bloom time after time
Birds still fly, babies cry
The proofs of life, are they in strife?*

Kanla:

*Humans!
Enough with your poor reasoning
How could you be so insensitive?*

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*Aren't you ashamed of your clouded narrative?
You are all stewards of your common home.
All seasons responsible of it so long as you roam*

*Shame on you educators!
What have you done?
I despise you the religious!
What have you done?
Shame on you, government leaders!
What have you done!
I curse you!
Industrial people, business people!
What have you done?!
I pity you farmers and fishers!
I abhor you students and parents!*

*Repugnance on you is what I'm feeling!
Your apathy contributes to my dying!*

Educators:

*Oh Kanla, Almighty Kanla
Let your wrath be pacified
Ready, we are not, to be crucified
We teach the knowledge of the world,
you know.
Just bounded to students, we sow
to them care of nature and grow
wherever they're planted and to remember tomorrow
Your creations be at their hands
Make them better before they're sands.*

Kanla:

*Shut up! Zip your mouths!
Get ready to return into dusts!*

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Religious:

*In the name of the Divine, have mercy on us, Kanla.
We didn't mean to upset you, although
We too teach and preach the care of nature you know
Yet, out of our hands, our faithfuls' actions and so
Sometimes their freedom causes misfortune
Unfortunate looks like we failed our mission!*

Kanla:

*Of all I have the highest expectations
It's mostly from your divine devotions!
Might as well meet your palms together
And may your souls rest in peace, you utter!*

Government Leaders:

*We beg of your pardon,
Oh, honorable Kanla.
Please understand,
we have limited hands
But we passed environmental laws
and policies, you know
Waste reduction, population control, go.
Polluted waters, dying rivers are in row
Growing forests, saving fishes, follow.*

(spoiler)

*Hello? Who is this is? Hello?
Ah. Yes. What?
They cut my commission? Why?
Then tell them that that no Natural Park preservation proceeds!*

Kanla:

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*See? The nerve of you to say that in front of me?!
You, government leaders shall reap my wrath.
Withhold me not to make you all rot!*

Industrial People

*Oh, please, please, please, thy Kanla so great!
Spare us from your furious spell.
We believe we did our job so well.
For thy creations' best common home to dwell.
We built bridges, roads, seaports, and airports.
Rose scrapers, arm soldiers...
Even serve as food and services providers.*

Kanla

*You really believe that you're not part of all these...
destructions, pollutions, and deteriorations...
of your common home you ought to build...
responsibly, conscientiously, and not in greed?
You are no different from the previous ones
Just hang on until I'm finished to summon everyone.
Then I'll grind you into pieces. Done!*

Business People

*We hail and obey you, lord Kanla! Believe us!
You are the magnate of all magnates
and tycoons are in thy cocoons!
We understand that we are bound by thy powers...
and that with our power we must empower.
And yes, we did!
We did our share in nurturing
thy creations for a better living
We fund and invest in ergonomics
We keep up with the trends in economics
Where did we fall short, lord Kanla?*

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*Is it just of you to serve
Your wrath in a bloodbath?*

Kanla:

*How dare you attack my conscience...
and question my prudent judgment?
If you only used your dime
as non-concomitants of this natural crime,
then my slumber could have been deeper...
So, this conversation is now, over!
You all stop passing the buck!
Admit your fate is now out of luck!*

Farmers and Fishers

*Almighty Kanla!?
Could you be more compassionate with us?
We farmers and fishers are just but receivers...
of their policies, laws, dime, and commands...
claiming they're responding to our demands.
We aren't much gifted of intellect and wit.
We surely all want these troubles to quit.*

Students

*We, too, did the littlest things we could...
to preserve thy waters and the woods.
We sowed trees in the mountains, bold.
Unstained the waters as we're told.
But wait, great Kanla, there's more!
We joined protests of environmentalists.
We signed petitions for conservations...
of thy great creations!*

*Oh, great Kanla, hear us!
Aren't we the future of this island?*

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*If you wipe us out, who will then brand...
that Negros island's truly a land,
that values much thy creations at hand...
for posterity to best understand?*

Spare us, great Kanla! Spare us!

Kanla:

*When did you kids become so gruesome?
Practicing mediocrity, a culture of compliance?
Yes, your presence's been visible in environmental movements
But your soul...had you been truly mindful?*

*Do you even fully understand...
what you've signed?*

I know you don't, so I sighed.

*I believe when you all perish...
a fresh batch of you shall flourish...
with them hope is better, greater...
frustrations, disappointments be near to never.*

Parents:

We hear you, lord Kanla!

We agree with you.

We are pathetic! Irresponsible!

Parasites! Dispensable!

But we beg you, lord Kanla.

Have more pity for us.

*Redemption than extermination...
consideration over condemnation...*

you hold our salvation.

Who will bear the humanity?

If thy powers and sanity...

must resort to our demise?

We believe it's not wise...

of you to arrive such a decide

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All:

*We appeal to you another chance...
for our behaviors to enhance.
We apologize to interrupt...
your deep slumber, but if must...
your intention is to annihilate...
may your heart be much considerate.*

Kanla:

(screams extremely loud)

Aaaaaahhhhh

(long silence)

Epilogue

*Mt. Canlaon erupts.
Thunders boom. Lightnings strike. Heavy rain falls like a storm.
Floods dash densely. Deluge shapes as the water rises
Forests and fields submerge. Houses bottom.
Animals cry. People scream as they die.*

Kanla:

*I am not afraid for another evolution to start.
Nature can live, die, and live again.
You people aren't perennial, remember?
Without nature you are nothing.
Without a home, you are nowhere.
So, those of you who still survive.
Let this be your greatest lesson to thrive.*

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