



TEACHER WARRIOR

(A Poem-Tribute for Teachers Fighting Cancer)

by: RIZA TORRES DE VILLA

For 18 years, she spent her life guiding the youth,

She now uses laptop and TV but she started with books.

In her eyes and in her hair, you'll see ages of wisdom,

But in the eyes of her students, you won't see dullness or boredom.

She creates the future in her hands while fighting her own battles;

The silent cries during treatments and the will to survive her struggles.

The moment she sets foot in the classroom, she begins the class in vibrant mood.

And always ends her discussion with values and words of wisdom.

Her students are forever grateful for the love she shares with them.

Without knowing that in her heart, it's her spirit that they are fixing.

Colleagues ask why she never stops both in teaching and in loving,

Her mind keeps the simplest answer: "This is the way I am healing".

"The classroom is my calm amidst the chaos", she says.

My humble life is dedicated to the youngsters and to the future I declare.

The biggest C I have inside is bigger than my Cancer.

For just like Christ, for my students and to the world, I am forever a TEACHER.

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If one day my fragile life ends, there'll be no qualm or regrets.

A life well-lived is all I have.

And every ounce of strength I take, I will always dedicate...

To the nation's future builders; and each of their small winnings, I will always celebrate.



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