



"A SAGA OF SAGADA'S SPIRIT"

by: PHOEMELA RIEL V. SECRETO

In Sagada, a lovely mountain town known for its shocking scenes and conventional Igorot culture, individuals were actively planning for the yearly celebration, "Panagbenga," an amazing occasion celebrated by the whole town with music, movie, and a devour of conventional Cordilleran food.

Anastacia, a youthful history specialist, was looking forward to the celebration. She had worked difficult for months to form an uncommon display of old artifacts and legacies that would tell the story of the Igorot individuals. But on the day of the celebration, she noticed that her most critical thing was a really ancient gold chain that was assumed to bring great good fortune to the town.

Anastacia panicked. She told her best friend Logan, a talented woodcarver who creates beautiful wooden statues, about the missing necklace. Both of them believed it had been stolen and decided to search for it. They began following clues, walking the narrow streets of Sagada, visiting its bustling markets, and even exploring the tranquil gardens of old stone houses. While searching for the necklace, Marites and Jun learned more about the history of their city and its people.

They met an old woman who told them a story about the necklace's meaning, and a young boy who said he saw a strange man near the exhibit the night the necklace disappeared. These experiences drove them to get more familiar with their culture and made them more determined to discover the jewelry.

Their look inevitably drove them to an ancient, broken down house on the edges of the city. Inside they discovered a mysterious man, Mang Lakan. He was once a famous painter, but had been forgotten over time. Mang Lakan admitted to stealing the necklace, but

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ISSN: 2704-3010

Volume VI, Issue I

August 2024

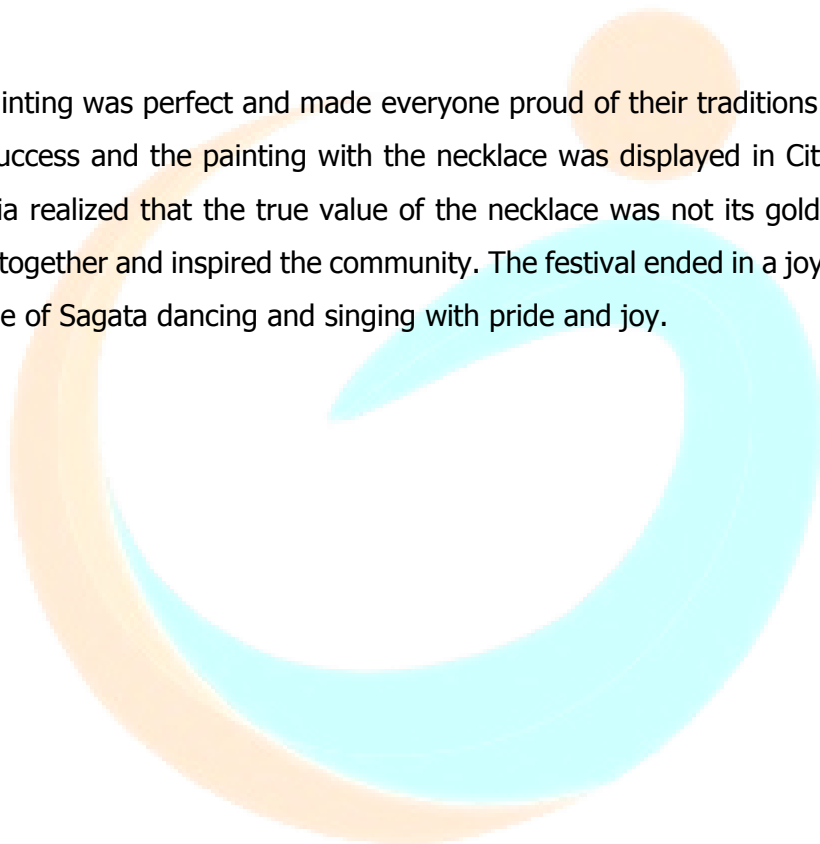
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did not totally steal it. He just wanted to use it for his final painting that would show the true spirit and history of the Igorot people.

Annastacia and Logan were surprised but intrigued. They persuaded Mang Lakan to submit his painting to an exhibition. On the day of the festival, the whole city gathered and waited eagerly. When the painting was unveiled, everyone gasped in amazement. With the gold necklace in the center, it was a beautiful picture representing the vibrant culture of the Igorot people.

The painting was perfect and made everyone proud of their traditions. The exhibition was a great success and the painting with the necklace was displayed in City Hall for all to see. Annastacia realized that the true value of the necklace was not its gold, but on how it brought them together and inspired the community. The festival ended in a joyous celebration with the people of Sagata dancing and singing with pride and joy.



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