FILIPINOS AND THEIR PASSIONS

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“Every great dream begins with a dreamer…”

The Philippines is a country bathed with rich folklore, culture, and traditions. Oral traditions that depicted the beliefs of Filipinos are transferred from one generation to another generation. Traditions like Bayanihan, Pistang Bayan, Pabasa, Araw ng mga Patay, Christmas, and New Year’s celebration are among the most-awaited and mostly sought events in the Philippine Islands.

These traditions characterized the distinct culture of Filipino people. But what makes Filipino unique among other nations? According to Al Saba (2015), Philippine culture was a fusion of various cultural influences brought by previous colonization. Hispanic culture taught the Filipinos to love God. From the Americans, we learned the value of education. On the other hand, the Japanese implemented the value of strict discipline. Despite these dominant features inherited from different colonizers, Al Saba (2015) pointed out that Filipinos retained the old Asian way of life as seen in their culture and beliefs.

If we look back at the history of our country, we can say that Filipinos are passionate, compassionate, brave, and patriotic. We dream big dreams and we fight for these dreams even if they lead to our deaths. Remember, Lapu-lapu dreamt of a free country devoid of colonizers and he fought Magellan till the very end. Andres Bonifacio led the Indios to fight for their rights against the tyrant Spaniards and his cause cost his dear life. On the other hand, Jose Rizal dreamt of a free and equal country. He wrote Noli Me Tangere and El Filibusterismo that resulted in his execution in Bagumbayan. But what
was the common denominator between the three? They were ALL DREAMERS! They believed that even if the answers to their queries were beyond their wildest imaginations. Even the tumultuous circumstances had pushed them to their limits, they endured.

Unfortunately, only a few millennials had understood the essence of their fight. The battles they’ve won and even the ones that they’ve not won! It is a disturbing fact that only a few 21st Century Filipinos had encountered and even remembered the perils that they had experienced just to gain the freedom that we have today.

As an educator, my heart is bleeding for the lost passion and burning compassion for our fellowmen and our country. When I look at the eyes of my students, their eyes mirrored a human being with less compassion for their country. What I’ve seen are self-entitled individuals who valued the fast-paced society but forgot the true essence of the world.

In line with this, 21st Century learners should learn the value of education and its importance in molding a holistic individual equipped with the knowledge, skills, correct attitude, love for family, country, and fear of God (DepEd Vision).

At present, we need to be visionaries before we become effective and efficient educators. We need to DREAM FIRST before we inspire DREAMERS. We need to be PASSIONATE EDUCATORS in order to develop COMPASSIONATE LEARNERS. We need to be BRAVE to mold COURAGEOUS STUDENTS. We need to LOVE OUR COUNTRY FIRST so that our STUDENTS WILL LOVE OUR COUNTRY MORE!

You should not forget that life is a vicious cycle, what comes around goes around. So, if we want to have Quality Students, we need to be Quality Teachers First! The digital natives that we teach right now are highly competitive inhabitants of the VUCA World. As teachers, we already prepared them with knowledge and skills, but we should not forget to teach them the correct and positive attitude towards the world. Let us redirect them to the path of a dreamer whose courage never wanes despite perilous tracks.
To cap things up, remember what Superman had said, “So many of our dreams at first seem impossible, then seem improbable, and then, when we summon the will, they soon seem inevitable.”

References:

