RESPONSE TO LETTER TO A GRANDDAUGHTER

by:

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The book Nation, Self and Citizenship (An Invitation to Philippine Sociology) encompasses many essays and compositions that mirror different milieus of the Philippine setting. One of which is a dispatch about the EDSA People Power Revolution II, also known as the EDSA DOS. The title of the composition is "Letter to a Granddaughter." The letter is an experience-oriented letter of a grandfather to his granddaughter telling the details of the revolution.

There were three (3) passages from the words of the grandfather that gives essence and an eye-opener to the readers: (1) “For the second time in our short history as a nation, we have rescued our society from the pits of demoralization.”; (2) “My sweet Julia, you belong to a great nation, a nation that is just beginning to wake up to the magic of its gifts.”; and (3) “Take care of the legacy, a precious gift from your ancestors. Do not be afraid to use it. Never lose hope.”

“For the second time in our short history as a nation, we have rescued our society from the pits of demoralization.” The grandfather discusses that our nation, the Philippines, had experienced once again a disheartenment. The nation once tested by the oneness of the Filipino people. It was explained that despite the hardships of the Filipinos, the nation can conquer the difficult crisis it faced back then. The two revolutions took the
place of history by marking the same event at the same place. Each was a confluence of unplanned events participated in by both the middle class and the masses and with the active support of the Church and the military. In short, there was a realization on the part of the child, Julia, in which the nation was very courageous enough to face challenges and crises that tried to grasp the democracy of the nation.

“My sweet Julia, you belong to a great nation, a nation that is just beginning to wake up to the magic of its gifts.” Julia was a juvenile member of the nation that victoriously passed the attempt of demoralization of EDSA DOS. She is just starting the long and winding journey of life as a Filipino. The journey is considered to be the “cross” of Julia along with her experiences that guide her as she learns with the lessons of life. These lessons will become Julia’s magic from the gift of life. Similarly, the letter also has the symbolism of “Julia” which pertains to the youth of today. The youth of today must be inspired by the lessons that the elders experienced from a great nation that is waking up for these young generations.

“Take care of the legacy, a precious gift from your ancestors. Do not be afraid to use it. Never lose hope.” This passage from the grandfather to Julia denotes that the youth of today should not be afraid to use the lessons from the experiences of the elders who witnessed the details of the history. These precious and dear gifts from their ancestors will be useful for the young generation in tracking their future.

Generally speaking, the letter serves as a historical marker that highlights the experiences of the elders from the remarkable EDSA DOS. This connotes that “Julia” (pertains to the juveniles) should not follow the wrongdoings of the cause of the revolution. The letter reminds the existing generation not to possibly formulate EDSA TRES. Also, the letter prompts the readers to use the lessons of the revolution with legacy and conviction to generate people who will preciously nurture history.
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