RESPONSE TO YOU, ME AND THE OLD IDENTITY CRISIS

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Philippine Daily Inquirer is one of the many gazettes of the country which generally circulates with a legacy of honoring Filipinos who has made the most positive impact on the life of the nation. This broadsheet has many to mention columnists who write for publication in a series that offers useful and controversial commentaries and opinions. One of which is the famous communist of the Philippine Daily Inquirer who has "Sense and Sensibility", which focuses on Philippine cultural history – Anna Maria "Bambi" L. Harper.

Harper has numerous articles, books, and essays that confidentially influence the people of the country culturally and socially. One of her articles is entitled “You, Me and the Old Identity Crisis” published at Philippine Daily Inquirer. This article focuses on the real identity of the Filipinos during the times of the colonialism of the foreign people. Filipinos can truly identify their identity due to the series of interventionism of different races. This concludes the relationship among the Filipinos, in terms of the cultural undertakings, concerning their “real” identity as a citizen.

The discussion of Harper has an alignment with the quotation “The Filipinos were in the convent for 350 years, in Hollywood for 50 years, and in malls at present.” This quotation has been discussed during the fourth week of the discussion of Dr. Guillermo Q. Roman, Jr. with his doctoral students. The discussion was summarized below as feedback and analysis to the article of Harper.

Filipinos were under the “convent” for 350 years due to the colonization of the Spaniards. Spaniards had an influence on the whole Filipino system on Catholicism that is why in 2021, the Philippines will be celebrating its 500 years of Catholicism. On an
article published by Manila Bulletin through Hermoso (2019) entitled “500 years of Christianity in PH: Celebration of faith & thanksgiving,” Manila Auxiliary Bishop Broderick S. Pabillo, chairman of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines said that colonization and the arrival of Christianity in the country are two different things which the Filipinos are very much aware of this. He also added that it has been more than a century since the Philippines regained her freedom while millions of Filipinos continue to embrace the Catholic faith until now.

The convent is to Catholicism as to Hollywood is to Entertainment. As Balinski (2018) discussed in his blog, in 1898, the United States declared war on Spain, ultimately resulting in what is called the Treaty of Paris, in which the Spanish agreed to give up the islands of the Philippines in exchange for $20,000,000. Americans are well known for their entertainment culture and this had influenced us, Filipinos, during their halt in our country for the sense of colonization. According to Johnson (2013), there were many infinite ways that amusement media or the so-called entertainment has shaped American Civilization and this civilization has influenced the Philippines’. In American times, movies became more popular, new kinds of music were introduced, and Filipinos learned to watch and play games such as boxing, basketball, and other ball games.

“…and in malls at present.” The recent years after the Spaniards and Americans had colonized our country, Filipinos are being inhabited by the powerful stimulus of malls. Rico and de Leon (2017) discussed in their publication entitled “Mall Culture and Consumerism in the Philippines,” nowhere else in the world has a population so absorbed in the shopping mall lifestyle and one cannot help but wonder why a population that is one of the poorest in Southeast Asia is so obsessed with shopping malls. We Filipinos are addicted to going to malls for entertainment and some other activities. One of the benefits of having malls is in the economic sector. Rico and de Leon (2017) disclosed that the Philippines has gradually transformed itself from being the ‘Sick Man of Asia’
into ‘Asia’s Bright Spot’. Once regarded as Asia’s economic laggard, it is now one of the region’s fastest-growing economies.

As of today, Filipinos have not identified their unique identity compared to their races which have their own identity without the sense of colonization. Besides, the “Old Identity Crisis” has not yet resolved nowadays due to the uprising power of malls. The standing of the Filipino identity today is mixed up with different cultural identities from copious races.

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