THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BALAGTAS’ “FLORANTE AT LAURA” AMONG YOUNG STUDENTS

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If Medieval Europe had William Shakespeare for its “Romeo and Juliet” as masterpiece, we, Filipinos have Francisco Balagtas’ “Florante at Laura”. But Balagtas didn’t just write it for the sake of entertaining people. It’s for a noble reason. During his time, majority of people were unhappy. This is due to the oppression of Spaniards on our native land.

As Balagtas grew up, he was able to realized the sufferings and injustices of fellow Filipinos. When he was imprisoned by rich rival, his fate served as inspiration in writing his poems specially his well-known poem,” Florante at Laura”. In That epic poem, the scenes, illustrates the sufferings of his country men which were true not only during his time but for the future generations that followed.

During Balagtas’ time, whoever criticize the government can be charge of treason. Imprisonment or death awaits the person who have been found guilty. Balagtas succeeded in his mission by renaming places in his poem to other places in foreign countries. He also used foreign names for his characters. This is the reason why “Florante at Laura” is considered a masterpiece in nationalism.

The epic poem had been translated in many different languages. Every stanza of the poem is a figure of speech. It is read by people anywhere else in the world. Young students should realize the significance and message of “Florante at Laura”. They must read it not only to be entertain or just to pass it as a subject or course. There is a deep message and nationalism involve in that poem. Once fully comprehend, the reader will
realize its message of friendship, love, betrayal and redemption. That is why it is considered one of the best epic poem ever written..

References:
Anita Bagabal (2000, June 12) Florante at Laura
Developing Reading Power 6, page 22-23