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## RIZAL ON CHARACTER AND PERSONALITY

[From his letter to the young women of Malolos, February, 1889.]

I DO NOT propose that I be taken as an idol, a little god, and that I be believed or listened to with eyes closed, head down, and arms crossed over the chest. What I ask is that all should think and meditate, investigate and judge, in every case, through the use of reason, the things which I shall now declare:

First of all, that the tyranny of some persons is possible only because of the cowardice and negligence of others.

Second, that what makes a person despised is his lack of self-respect and his fear toward the one who despises

him.

Third, that ignorance is slavery, because what a man thinks is what he is; one who has no mind of his own will have no personality—a blind person who follows the mind of another, just as a beast which is led by a piece of rope.

Fourth. A person who likes to hide himself induces others to hide themselves because when you leave your fellowmen alone they will likewise leave you. One stick from a coconut palm is easy to break, but a bundle of them tied together to make a broom is difficult to break.—*Reprint from Panorama, Nov. 1938.*

HOROSCOPE: *Were You Born in February?* Turn to page 139.