

SAFETY SECTION

A Skillful Swimmer

By QUIRICO A. CRUZ *

"Andoy has disappeared. Where could he be?" asked one of the five boys bathing in Sampilok Lake.

"He is just hiding underwater. He is our best swimmer and champion diver. He can stay long under water. What is your worry?" replied Pedrito. And the boys continued swimming, diving, and chasing one another in water. When they were about to go home, Andoy was still missing. The boys suspected something wrong. They turned pale when the horrible thought of Andoy's being drowned came into their minds. Angel, who was the biggest of them all, ran at once to some nearby houses and called for help. Three fishermen came and asked where they last saw Andoy. The boys pointed to the place.

The fishermen dived into the lake and after a long tedious search they found Andoy practically lifeless. They took him ashore and without a moment's delay administered artificial respiration. It took them a long while to revive Andoy. They brought him to a hut; gave him some hot coffee, and wrapped him in a thick blanket.

Andoy's companions were only too glad to see that he was safe. In spite of this, they still

were silent. They were so badly shocked by the accident that they didn't know what to do or say.

"Have you ever gone swimming in this lake before?" asked one of the fishermen.

"No, sir. This is our first time to bathe here," replied Cosme.

"Well, boys. Next time never attempt to take a bath in a place you do not know anything about. Do you see this wound?" the fisherman asked, pointing to a wound on Andoy's forehead. "In this lake there are big sharp rocks. Your friend bumped his head on one of them and lost consciousness. However skillful a swimmer you are you can not do anything when you lose consciousness."

Andoy was taken to his home when he fully came to himself again. He thanked the fishermen who saved his life and assured them that he would always remember their advice.

Do you suppose the boys ever attempted to bathe in unfamiliar swimming places again?

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