

SAFETY SECTION

A Timely Sock

By QUIRICO A. CRUZ *

Nonong and Cornelio are inseparable pals. Where one is, the other can surely be found. In the school where the two boys are studying, they are very popular because they are patrols. Nonong is the chief patrol and Cornelio is the captain. They show exceptional ability in the performance of their duties so that Mr. Rolda, the adviser of the patrol organization, always assigns them to responsible positions.

One of the most heroic deeds that these two boys did was socking a careless old woman on the jaw. "HEROIC?" I am sure you will wonderingly ask: but, strange as it may seem you will later find out that what they did was really heroic.

It was ALL SAINTS' DAY. In the evening, Nonong and Cornelio went to the NORTH

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CEMETERY. They took with them four big candles and a wreath of fresh flowers.

"Where can they be?" asked Cornelio impatiently after half an hour of waiting. The boys were waiting for their classmates, Ely, Puring, and Luz. They had agreed the day previous to meet at the main gate and all together visit and decorate the grave of one of their former teachers.

"Here they are now!" exclaimed patient Nonong.

"Did we keep you waiting long?" very sweetly from Luz.

"Not at all . . . not at all," replied Cornelio trying to wipe away from his face the expression of impatience.

"Well, let us move on," suggested active, charming-faced Ely.

"Let us go," seconded little Puring.

All five went into the cemetery and looked for their teacher's grave. It did not take them a long time to locate the place.

"Hello, Nonong! Hello, girls," greeted Armando.

"Oh! It is you. Is this your sister's grave?" asked the girls.

"Yes, I have just finished laying down those flowers. Do you have . . . ?"

"No, no," interrupted Nonong. "We came here to see you and give you these candles and flowers."

"How kind of you! I do not know how to thank you," gratefully from Armando.

"That is all right. Your sister was very kind to us. We brought these flowers to remember her," replied Luz.

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know what you are talking about, my child.

Though it breaks my heart to part with you, my beloved children, I am happy in the thought that you who are left behind will be able to help our people's cause in every way possible.

JUAN: That is true, mother. My late father Okong's wise counsels and your undying love for us are engraved in our souls, and I assure you, Inang, that, as your oldest son, I will take good care of my brothers and sisters during your absence.

SORA: Well spoken, my son. My parting advice to you, my children, is this: Fear not, work hard, be kind to your fellow-men, and continue my unfinished work. Remember that Bathala is an ever-watchful God. He is just and rewards good deeds and punishes bad deeds among men and nations. He is the strength of the weak. He blesses the just and chastises the wicked. Put your trust in Him. Our patriots have paved the way, and I see brighter days for our country and people.

Bitter it is to part, but in distant Marianas, in my prayers and in my dreams, I will always be with you, my beloved children.—The hour of parting has come: kiss me good-bye.

(SATURNINA kisses SORA'S face and hand, and JUAN kisses her hand only.)

SORA: God bless you, my children. Impart my love and blessings to your brothers and sister at home.

A TIMELY SOCK

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The children lighted the candles and arranged the flowers on their teacher's grave. While they were happily exchanging news and jokes they were startled by a sudden cry of FIRE! HELP! FIRE! They looked around and saw a woman running here and there confusedly. Because of carelessness her skirt had caught fire. The fire was fast spreading over her. Nonong and Cornelio ran to the woman.

"Stop! Don't run! Lie down!" the boys shouted. The woman lost her presence of mind and would not listen. Nonong knew what would happen if the woman would not stop running. He ran after her and gave her a sock on the jaw which rendered her unconscious. He caught her head as she fell and quickly but gently laid her on the ground. Cornelio, who had followed Nonong, took off his coat and wrapped it over the burning portion of the woman's skirt and rolled her. The fire was soon extinguished. Nonong stopped a taxi that was then passing by and requested the chauffeur to take the old woman to the hospital for first aid.

JUAN: Mother, all your wishes will be carried out.

SAT.: Inang, my brothers, sister, and I will always pray for you, and God, the Merciful, will surely bring you back to us some day.

SORA: So may it be, my child! God be with you always, darling ones: farewell!

(JUAN and SATURNINA leave the scene, and the curtain goes down.)

JOE AT THE MAGIC POOL

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"The man is playing a game and this should not go on," Joe said to himself as he left the place.

As soon as Joe reached home, he lost no time in meeting Rod. He described to the latter the scene he had just witnessed. Then together they went to the Chief of Police and told him all about it.

"The man," Joe told the Chief, "will get that money tonight when the neighborhood becomes quiet."

"That cannot be possible," the Chief argued. "The package although heavy, will have traveled far by that time."

"The package is still at the place where it first landed," Joe assured the Chief. "That there is a net at the bottom of the Pool, I have no doubt. The man is too clever to lose it."

"What do you want us to do then?" asked the Chief.

"This evening at dark," Joe said, "we shall go to the place. You and your policemen will wear ordinary clothes to avoid suspicion. When the man draws the net, you arrest him."

"We may try," was all that the Chief said.

That evening three men and two boys were walking towards the place. The men were carrying their hats and shirts. They looked like people from the corn harvest. Soon this lit-

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treatment.

Do you approve of what Nonong did? Some of you do, but some don't. You may hold a little debate on whether Nonong was right or wrong.