

THE ICONOCLAST'S SECTION

By Juan Matapang

HYPOCRISY

WITH this issue of SCANDAL, I am inaugurating a column of my own. For years I have written for a number of local periodicals but circumstances beyond my control have compelled me to devote my energies to other activities foreign to the writer's craft.

We are living in an age of transition, both in national and international affairs. Great changes are expected to take place during the century that we are facing. Because of the self-evident instability in human affairs at the present time, corresponding evils come to the surface. And it is but natural that in an age of stress and storm, all the malignant qualities of human nature become patent. In our limited Philippine world, for example, in view perhaps of the vitiated social and political atmosphere in which we are living, the philosophy of the double-cross is quite dominant in the relations between men. I will make it my task to discuss these evils in this column from time to time, to expose them wherever found, and to condemn the Pharises that have desecrated the temple of the people and to suggest possible remedies.

This country is rather unfortunate in several respects. Despite the rich heritage of Latin culture and tradition which the three centuries of Spanish domination made possible for us; notwithstanding the almost improvised invasion of Anglo-Saxon ideas and forms of conduct and the amalgamation of the various moral, religious, and intellectual currents in the Philippine Islands, we remain a people weak in character, servile to those who find themselves in high places, no

matter how vile and corrupt they may be, and indifferent to the insistent clamors of the public conscience for a government of laws and not of men.

It will be my privilege to expose my views in this column and to point out specific names of the crooks and scoundrels fattening on the hard-earned taxes of the people. But before doing so, I can assure the readers that these future exposes will be based on facts and nothing else but facts, uninfluenced by considerations of any kind.

There are so many so-called loyal and faithful public servants in this country, constantly fond of preaching good government and civic purity before enthusiastic crowds, but who secretly plunder the public treasury in connivance with other minor crooks whom they use as willing tools.

There are many so-called guardians of the financial interests of Juan de la Cruz who, in public, preach the advantages of thrift and economy, but who in private, throw away thousands of tainted pesos on lovely prostitutes and expensive limousines, pesos that they have stolen from the pocketbooks of private citizens through the employment of the thieving technique of high-class bucaners. Such animals are contemptible and they will have a share of my whipping.

There are so many oratorical patriots who are accustomed to speak on the subject of defending the Fatherland from the depredations of the foreign invader, but who, in their heart of hearts, should they have the opportunity would sell their country to the highest bidder.

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INVESTIGATION OF JUDGE RASUL ASKED BY PROMINENT MOROS

HOW can a government employee with but a little over P100 a month in salary and without other visible means of income afford to live in the style of the rich—supporting an American wife and four or five other wives with children, smoking quality cigars, drinking high-priced cocktails, etc.?

The foregoing is one of the questions that a group of prominent Moro citizens will ask the higher authorities in a petition they will shortly send to the department of justice and the governor general, asking for the investigation of Gulamu Rasul, justice of the peace of Jolo, Sulu.

Young Rasul is the romantic figure of Moroland who not many years ago broke into the newspaper columns in the United States when he posed as the son of the Sultan of Sulu. He is not in any way related to the Sultan, but knowing the fascination royalty has among the Americans, he pulled that stunt to attract attention. That he succeeded was shown by the amount of newspaper space that was devoted then to his supposed colorful personality in the metropolitan dailies, and the further fact that a young American lady succumbed to his charms. Coming back to the Philippines after two years of studies in America he acted for some time as secretary to his father, Hadji Butu, former ap-

pointive senator. It was during those years that Rasul again came out in the limelight when, through clerical error, his name was included in the list of successful candidates for the bar examinations. He had actually taken the oath of a full-fledged attorney but his license was naturally revoked when the mistake was discovered. Shortly afterwards he was appointed auxiliary justice of the peace of Jolo.

According to our Jolo correspondent, there is an insistent clamor among the masses of the Jolo Moros for an investigation of Judge Rasul with the view of either removing him from his position or transferring him to another locality. The lower classes of people there have lost faith in him because of his partiality in deciding cases brought to his court for trial or amicable settlement, it is alleged. There have been cases in which he was accused to the higher authorities in Jolo for alleged graft and bribery.

"If an investigation will be ordered by the insular authorities," writes our Jolo correspondent, "plenty of sensational revelations will come out that will justify the resignation or at least the transfer of Judge Rasul. The investigator should be however from Manila as the Moro judge has the protection of the governor's office which has time and again ignored many complaints against Rasul."

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I believe that the unmasking of these social and political scoundrels will be a distinct public service, and to the measure of my capacities, I will perform this task.

The above are but a few of the things that I intend to do in this column. "With malice toward none and with charity to all", I make this initial bow to the readers of this paper.