

A
YOUNG
MAN
SPEAKS

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THE OLD do not understand us. And we are surprised. They used to be like us. They should know how it is to be young. But they don't understand us just the same.

They think we have an easier time than they had and for that they expect too much from us. However, it is not so. Youth is more difficult than old age. Adults have already formed their opinions, their views, their judgments. They have set themselves. They do not waver when they act. They have matured.

With the young it is different. It is hard for us to be firm, to maintain what we think is right, to believe in the justness of God. We are pliant. We bend to and fro, trying to find our way in this wilderness.

Each day brings a challenge. Our ideals face the constant test of the inconsistencies of the times. The dreams and hopes we cherish are sometimes shattered. The world is a maze to us and we are always groping our way.

We want to be understood and to be taken for what we are not, for what we should be. If we are guided, if we are shown the way — we will tread it. We will prove to our elders that there is hope in us. Even the high, noble and demanding trust Rizal placed on us we will fulfill.

But, first and above all, we beg to be understood.

by JUAN DEL NUEVO