



# Parade of Heroes

By R. L. Cruz

(A tableau most appropriate for the celebration of Bonifacio Day)

The cast includes:

Princess Urduja  
An Arabian Scholar  
Lapu-lapu  
A Slave  
Diego Silang and 4 or 5 revolutionists  
Marcelo H. del Pilar  
Dr. Jose P. Rizal  
A Spanish friar  
Three Spanish civil guards  
Andres Bonifacio and 4 or 5 Katipuneros  
Tandang Sora  
Gregorio del Pilar and 3 or 4 revolutionists  
An American officer and a soldier  
Apolinario Mabini  
President Manuel L. Quezon  
Jose Abad Santos and his son, Pepito  
3 or 4 Japanese soldiers  
President Ramon Magsaysay  
Commentator  
Chorus (Selected boys and girls — 15 to 20)

(Note: In order to make the tableau realistic, participants should be dressed in authentic costumes. One good reference where such costumes could be copied is *Philippine Saga* by Otley Beyer.)

## The Tableau

Curtain is closed: Chorus sings "Filipinas, My Motherland."

Commentator — In the history of a nation, its men and women have always played an important part. Very often a nation produces men and women of outstanding traits of wisdom, valor, patriotism, loyalty and sincere love of country. The Philippines is blessed with the lives of these noble men and women whose ardent struggles for our liberty are a priceless heritage which we should forever cherish in our hearts. Such a legacy dates back to the early times—far back in Pangasinan, a flourishing Kingdom in Northwestern

Luzon, ruled by an intelligent and brave woman, Princess Urduja. In her we see a Filipino who would not consider her race or herself inferior to any other race.

(As commentator finishes talking, curtain is opened. On the stage may be seen Princess Urduja, sitting on a make-believe throne, talking to an Arabian scholar.)

PRINCESS URDUJA — I greet you with the salutations in your own tongue. May I know why you refused my invitation?

ARABIAN SCHOLAR — Because my religion allows me not to cut with infidels and mingle with barbarians.

PRINCESS URDUJA — (in a somewhat initiated voice) Infidels! Barbarians! Bah! That's what you people from far away lands think of us. But look around you, my dear guest. Our chairs are made of sandal wood. My throne has an embroidered, silk canopy. Look at my royal robe. It is made of the richest and finest silk in the orient. My jewels are made by royal experts and goldsmiths of the Kingdom. My soldiers have swords with handles of gold.

(Enters a slave with a piece of paper, pointed stick and stick; bows to the Princess and gives her the things and leaves, all the while bowing.)

An on this paper and with this ink, which my attendant has brought me, I have written for you in Arabic letters the name of the merciful and compassionate God. Tell me, my dear traveller, are these tokens of culture found among barbarians?

ARABIAN SCHOLAR — (feeling ashamed) I beg your forgiveness for my ignorance of your country. When I go back to my country, I will tell them about the Philippines and its culture. Allow me, dear princess, to express my gratitude for your hospitality. (bows and continues to bow as he leaves the Princess. Princess Urduja stands and goes to the back side of the stage.)

Commentator — This defiance was shown again by Lapu-lapu, a Mactan chieftain. He was the first Filipino to conquer a European conqueror.

(A march is played as Lapu-lapu, proud and defiant, enters the stage. A slave enters running bearing a rolled piece of paper; bows to Lapu-lapu and hands him the paper)

SLAVE — Datu Lapu-lapu, Magellan sends you this message. (Lapu-lapu siezes the paper, unrolls it and throwing it on the ground, pieces it with his *kampilan*. Then angrily, he dismisses the slave, who bows as he exits.)

(The march is played again as Lapu-lapu goes to join princess Urduja.)

Commentator — No sooner had Spain set upon the Philippines than began a series of abuses. The Filipinos were forced to work without pay. High tribute was imposed on them. Their lands were taken away from them. Fired by a spirit of freedom, Diego Silang led the revolt in the Ilocos.

(A march is played; Diego Silang with his men enter the stage.)

DIEGO SILANG — My countrymen! For two hundred years now, the Spaniards have been our masters in our country. This is the time to show them that we can rule ourselves. We cannot continue as slaves forever. Let us be our masters. Expel all the Spaniards from the Ilocos.

REVOLUTIONISTS — Down with the Spaniards!  
(As they brandish their bolos.)

(The march is played; Diego Silang goes to join Princess Urduja and Lapu-lapu; the revolutionists leave the stage.)

Commentator — This and subsequent revolts led the Filipinos to ask for reforms. A high winter in Spain found one of our Filipino reformers in the street gathering cigarette stubs to appease the pangs of hunger and cold.)

(A piece of music quite sad in tune is played as Marcelo H. del Pilar enters, pulling his coat close to him, pretends to pick up cigarette stubs and smokes them.)

MARCELO H. DEL PILAR—(in a sad voice) At least Bulacan is warm and there is no lack of food but (making voice louder and raising his right arm in defiance) the fight must go on! I must continue to write in the *La Solidaridad* and make known to Spain the reforms my country needs. I know, someday, the victory will be ours.

(Exits to join the others on the stage as piece is played.)

Commentator — Of the Filipino reformers, the most noted and the best beloved by the Filipinos and the one that time has proved to be by far wisest was Dr. Jose Rizal. In his "Noli" and "Fili" he urges Spain to reform her government in the Philippines and points out, that unless, this is done, the Filipinos may some day rise against her. Of course, the Spaniards did not like this so they

imprisoned him in Fort Santiago. The night before December 30, we find him sitting in the cell writing his "Last Farewell."

(Chorus sings "Maria Clara's Lullaby" as Rizal enters the stage, sits at his table, takes his pen and paper and pretends to write. Once in a while, he stops to read softly what he has written or thinks of what he will write next. Then picking up his paper, he read the first and last stanzas of "My Last Farewell" in Spanish.)

DR. JOSE RIZAL — Mi Ultimo Adios . . . . .

(After reading, he folds the paper, puts out his lamp and hides the paper in it.)

Commentator — The morning of December 30, 1896, was rather cloudy. Dr. Rizal, with measured steps was led to Bagumbayan to be executed.

(Chorus sings: "Bagumbayan" as a priest and two Spanish civil guards enter; goes to Rizal; soldiers bind his hands at the back; lead him from the cell; priest walks besides Rizal. At a distance, a drum beats time and then beats rapidly as the civil guards aim to fire. At the words: "Fire", civil guards pretend to fire; Rizal kneels and drops on the stage with his face up.)

Commentator — Thus another son fell in the night. Abuse continued to be committed. Reforms were not heeded. Finally when the Filipinos could no longer bear the oppression and upon the discovery of the Katipunan, Bonifacio and his men gathered on the hills of Balintawak on August 26, 1896, to declare war against Spain.

(Chorus sings: ". . . . ." as Bonifacio bearing his flag, and his Katipuneros enter the stage.)

BONIFACIO — (Taking out and showing to his men a piece of paper) Look, this is the symbol of our vassalage to Spain. I will tear this into a thousand pieces. Tear your *cedulas* also. (Katipuneros take out pieces of paper, tear them and throw them away.) Let us put an end to their tyranny. Remember Bagumbayan! Down with Spain! Long live the Philippine Republic! (as he raises his flag and holds high his bolo.)

KATIPUNEROS — (drawing their bolos) Down with Spain! (holding bolos with points up.)

BONIFACIO — Advance! (Runs holding high his flag and his bolo at the sound of firing; Katipuneros follow. Bonifacio joins the other heroes on the stage.)

(Soft music is played as Katipuneros enter again, one or two limping; one with his hand on his head. All of them softly sighing.)

Commentator — In the hills of Balintawak, there was a patriotic woman named Melchora Aquino, popularly known in the community as Tandang Sora.

She was poor and unlettered but full of love of her countrymen. She attended to the needs of the Katipuneros by providing them with food and other necessities.

(Soft music is played again as Tandang Sora enters with a basket. From it she puts out a piece of clean cloth and some leaves and binds the legs, heads and arms of the Katipuneros; offers a drink to one or two of them. As music ends, Tandang Sora joins the other heroes while the Katipuneros one by one leave the stage.)

Commentator — The revolution spread to many provinces. At this time the Americans came. George Dewey and Aguinaldo agreed to help one another against Spain. Somehow or other, a misunderstanding arose. The Filipinos fought the Americans. Aguinaldo was forced to flee to Palawan in the north to avoid surrendering. Without taking up any rest, they went up the dangerous mountain trails until they arrived at Tirad Pass. At Tirad Pass, he called a very young general to hold the pass against the Americans.

(A march is played as General Gregorio del Pilar enters with his men.)

GEN. DEL PILAR — Come, my men! We will defend Tirad Pass to the last man!

(Advances as firing begins; all die. Enter American officer and soldier, saluting)

AMERICAN OFFICER — Mark the grave of this fellow general.

AMERICAN SOLDIER — (saluting) What shall I write, Sir?

AMERICAN OFFICER — Put these words: **General Gregorio del Pilar, Killed at the battle of Tirad Pass, December 2, 1899, Commanding Aguinaldo's Rear Guard, An Officer and a Gentleman.**

AMERICAN SOLDIER — Yes, Sir. (Salutes and leaves.)

Commentator — Thus another valiant son died with but one hope — to see the Philippines happy and free. When the Americans came, they found the yearning for freedom as strong as ever. They restored them for self-government. However, the fight for liberty was carried on. Independence missions were sent to the United States. A never-tiring, vigilant leader, distinguished orator and statesman was the late President Quezon. What stands out as a landmark to all his ceaseless efforts was the Tydings-McDuffie Act which paved the way for Philippine Independence.

(Chorus sings: "Bathala, Bless Our President" as Quezon enters carrying some papers.)

PRESIDENT QUEZON — (taking out a paper and reads a portion of the Tydings-McDuffie Law which deals on the granting of our independence.)

(Chorus sings: "Bathala Bless Our President" again as Quezon joins the rest of the heroes at the back of the stage.)

Commentator—And then came World War II. Once more the Philippines was plunged into war but with a more ruthless enemy. Plunderings, killings, stealing and spying were rampant. The Filipinos were forced to side with the Japanese or else face death. True to the ideals of a patriotic, freedom-loving people, the memory of one man stands out at this time. Rather than give up to the Japanese important papers about our government which were entrusted in his care, he preferred death. He was no other than the late Chief Justice Jose Abad Santos.

(A march is played as Jose Abad Santos, his son, Pepito and three Japanese soldiers enter; shouting once in a while; the soldiers push the old man crying "Kura-kura! Surong! Rakad" to show harshness; Pepito continues to cry. At one side of the stage, they stop.)

J. ABAD SANTOS — Do not cry, Pepito. Show them that you are brave.

PEPITO — (still crying) Y - es, Father b-but you are leaving us.

J. ABAD SANTOS — My son, I know how you feel. But look at me, Pepito. This is a rare opportunity to die for one's country. This is my chance. (Father and son kneel together, pray and then embrace each other; 2 Japanese soldiers take away Jose Abad Santos while 2 others almost drag Pepito to the opposite side of the stage.)

PEPITO (trying to loose himself as the soldiers hold him tightly) F-Father! Father! (Shots are heard off-stage.)

Commentator — At last MacArthur returned and liberated us from our enemy. Peace was restored. True to her promise, America granted us our independence. A new Republic was born on this side of the globe. The Philippines is now a member of the family of free-loving nations. Believing that the strength of a nation depends upon the masses, measures have been done to improve their conditions. Lawless elements were encouraged to become useful citizens again. Lands were distributed, more schools were opened, roads were improved and artesian wells put up even in the remotest barrios. Finally, for the first time, in the history of Malacañang Palace, its doors were opened to the people and at its entrance, was President Magsaysay, the "Great Guy" and "Lover of the Poor."

("Mabuhay" is played as President Magsaysay enters the stage; stands half-facing the audience and extends his arms in an act of welcoming.)

**PRESIDENT MAGSAYSAY** — (after piece is played) Come, my people! The palace is yours. If you can not come to the palace, just send me a letter. I will see what I can do for you.

(Mabuhay is played again as he joins the rest of the heroes and curtain is closed. Rizal and Del Pilar stand up to join the others. Abad Santos also comes in again to be with them. When all are in a line, curtain opens once showing all the heroes in the tableau.)

**Commentator** — This, my friends, is a short presentation of the legacy handed to us by our heroes. They have lighted the torch of freedom for us. Let us keep that torch burning forever!

Chorus sings: "We Love Our Heroes." At end of song, all heroes bow and curtain closes.

#### REFERENCES:

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# The Candidate and the Electorate

By **Anacoreta Ambas Chua**

## Social Studies

### Objectives

1. To appreciate the beauty and importance of election in a democracy.
2. To develop right attitudes towards the exercise of one's right of suffrage.
3. To acquire standards of values as a candidate as well as a voter.
4. To gain a broader knowledge of the rules and regulations affecting election.
5. To understand the reasons for the prohibitions stated in the election code on the use of firearms, selling of liquors, etc.
6. To know the different kinds of elections held in the country.
7. To subscribe to the idea of intelligent voting notwithstanding blood relationships.
8. To help disseminate wise election ideals to the people.
9. To be able to vote wisely in an election.
10. To justify the big sums of money utilized to finance every election by our government.
11. To be aware of the platforms presented by each political faction.

## Content:

1. Why is election important in a democracy?
2. Why is it considered a beautiful practice among democratic entities?
3. What is meant by election, suffrage?
4. What should we consider as a voter?
5. What are the faulty practices among our people in choosing their candidates?
6. What are the rules promulgated for the holding of elections?
7. What does our constitution say about the qualifications of a candidate and those of a voter?
8. What does the General Instructions related to election say?
9. What precautions are taken by our government in order to insure a peaceful and clean elections?
10. What are the different kinds of elections in our country?
11. How are they classified?
12. How do you judge an intelligent voter?
13. What should be our election ideals?
14. How much does the government spend for the holding of elections?