

READING TIME FOR YOUNG FOLKS**WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY**

By PACIFICO M. ODULIO *

*Success had crowned his efforts.*

JUANITO CAPALAD was one of the graduates of the elementary school who was afraid he could not continue going to school after his graduation. "An education in the elementary school is good as far as it goes, but it's not enough," said Juanito to his parents.

Juanito was a very bright pupil, and during his school days in the elementary grades had been a top-notch. His parents were poor. His father was a tenant on one of the big estates of that part of the country. His father did not see how he could possibly send his boy off to school. He felt he could do nothing more than utilize the boy's help in his farm work.

So Juanito staid on the farm during his vacation and helped his parents. In

May he heard that his other classmates were getting ready to study in the high school or the trade school of their province. How Juanito wished he could do so, too!

"Father," said Juanito one night before going to bed, "may I go to Manila and try my luck? I might be fortunate in Manila and get a job as a houseboy for some wealthy man who would send me to school if I would work hard to earn what he might give me."

"How can I consent to let you go and try your luck in such a big city as Manila with the small earnings of a houseboy?" replied his father. "Why not stay with me here and help me in my work in the rice field?"

"Oh, Father," said Juanito, "won't you give me permission to go to Manila and see what I can do? I want very much to have a better education, and I wish to go and try to help myself. Do let me go, Father."

With much hesitation and many misgivings Juanito's father finally consented. So about the middle of May Juanito left his home and went to Manila, as the story books say, "to seek his fortune."

On the very day of his arrival in Manila he started out to look for a job. He went down one of the business streets. He saw a boy with a shoe-shiner's box. He called to the boy. "Where can I get one like it," Juanito said.

"I'll sell you this one for twenty-five centavos. You can get black, white, and yellow paste across the street if you want to go into business."

Juanito bought the shoe-shiner's box

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and the necessary 'paste. Polishing cloths and brushes had been given with the box, so now Juanito was ready for work.

Just then a man saw him with his shoe-shining outfit. "Here, boy, shine my shoes quick and I'll give you fifty centavos if you'll do a good job."

"What luck!" thought Juanito. So he polished the man's shoes until they shone like a mirror. Sure enough the man gave him fifty centavos.

"He is certainly generous," thought Juanito.

The boy continued walking down the street and secured two more customers, each of whom paid him ten centavos.

Presently he came to a large, attractive looking building. Over the door was a sign: Saint Catherine's Hall for Young Women.

Juanito entered the gate and rang the porter's bell. The matron answered the ring. Noticing the neat appearance and smiling countenance of Juanito, she said, "What can I do for you, my boy?"

"Will you please give me a job working in this dormitory as a houseboy?"

"How did you know that I am in need of a houseboy at this very moment? It is lucky that you came just now. You look like a good boy, so I'll give you a chance." Juanito got the job.

He was industrious and did his work well. Each afternoon he had several hours for himself, and then he went out on the street to shine shoes. He earned from twenty to fifty centavos almost every afternoon.

The time for the opening of classes in the high schools and colleges was fast approaching. Young college women were coming to the dormitory to live. As soon as a taxi or a *calesa* loaded with

baggage stopped in front of the dormitory, Juanito rushed to meet the coming student. Each student always gave him ten or twenty centavos for his help.

With an eye to business, Juanito made a contract with a number of different students to polish their shoes. Every day he added to his small but rapidly increasing hoard of "school money."

The school year came and went. By the following June Juanito had earned and saved enough money to start to high school. He arranged to continue his work as a houseboy at St. Catherine's Hall and attend high school at the same time.

It was a proud day for Juanito when, four years later, he graduated from high school.

He was given a better job at the dormitory—the position as head boy, or as the Chinese would say, Number One Boy. He enrolled in a school of technology and in the course of time graduated from that institution.

He soon passed a civil service examination and it was not very long until he had a good position.

Before taking over his new duties, he went to his home for a few days. Every one knew the story of Juanito's success, and everybody in the barrio respected and admired the boy, for success had crowned his efforts.

"How did you do it, Nito?" asked one of his former classmates. "High school, technical school, and now a good job under the civil service."

"I just did it—same as anybody could do. You know the old saying, Where there is a will, there's a way."

Young reader, do you believe in that old proverb? A good many boys have

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VERDI

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How was it first produced?

15. How many operas did Verdi write?

16. Have you ever heard a grand opera?

17. Have you heard songs from any of Verdi's operas?

18. Tell of Verdi's character.

19. Read this article again, and then answer these questions.

WHERE THERE'S A WILL

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tested it and found that it is true. WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

1. Do you think Juanito was right when he said, "An education in the elementary school is good as far as it goes, but it's not enough"? Why do you think so?

2. Why do you think Juanito was determined to have an education?

3. Why was Juanito willing to shine shoes and be a houseboy? Would you be willing to do that if necessary to get an education?

DRAGONS

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The family history of the lizard is interesting because of its many relationships with birds and mammals. At about the same time the lizards were appearing, nature was also producing from the much the same type of primitive reptiles, the first birds and the early mammals.

REVIEW

1. How many species of lizards are there?

2. What can you say of the sizes of lizards?

3. Describe some species.

4. Where are lizards found?

5. What is the food of lizards?

6. What can you say of the tail of some species of lizards?

7. How do some lizards run?

8. Tell of the "flying" lizard.

9. The frilled lizard.

10. How are some lizards useful?

11. Why is the family history of the lizard interesting to scientists?

12. How many different kinds of lizards have you seen in the Philippines?

MORO MARRIAGES

(Continue from page 98)

charges a fee—usually five pesos or more. If the groom is rich, he may have some ten *panditas* to solemnize his marriage.

If either of the contracting parties lives near a river, gaily decorated launches with flags and streamers of many colors may be hired for the occasion. On top of the launches grotesque animal heads sway in the air. Bands of musicians are always aboard the launches to furnish the music.

During the marriage celebration fire-crackers are lighted, guns are fired, and men and women shout at the top of their voices.

A Moro *datu* or *kagui* can have as many wives as he wishes, provided he can pay the dowries asked. An ordinary Moro is limited to four wives. A Moro who has many wives is considered rich. A Moro who has many daughters will become rich, because of the dowries that are sure to come for his daughters.

Such are some of the Moro marriage customs—commonplace to Moros, but strange to Filipinos who are not accustomed to them.