

## THE STUPID BOY

A Story of a Stupid Boy  
Who Became a Hero

by Josefina V. Reyes

"YOU stupid boy!" cried Aunt Rosa. And with that remark she closed the door with a mighty "bang", while Pepe looked at her disappearing fat figure. She had already closed the door, but Pepe still looked and looked at the door with big, round eyes. Then suddenly he turned his back to the door and faced his mother.

"Mother," he began.

"Yes, Pepe?" answered his mother.

"What did . . . what did Aunt Rosa say, Mother?"

"She said that you are a stupid boy," said his mother.

"A what . . . Mother?" he asked again with a frown.

"A stupid boy," said his mother again very slowly.

"Stupid? What is 'stupid', Mother?"

"Why, 'stupid' means . . . 'stupid' means one who asks too many questions," his mother answered abruptly.

"One who asks too many questions? Then . . . then, Mother, I know one who is very very stupid."

"Who is it?" his mother asked.

"My teacher . . . she asks too many questions.

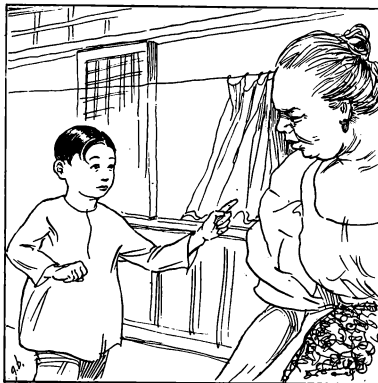
"Now, Pepe," and his mother grasped a broom, "go out and play before I lose my patience."

"Your what, Mother?"

"Go out," shouted his Mother.

Pepe was a little boy who was called 'stupid' by Aunt Rosa and Aunt Maria. He had no friends. Cousin Lino would not play with him. His classmates, too, would run away whenever he approached them. And they often shouted, "Stupid! Stupid!" So he often watched the other children play while he sat on a big stone beside their door.

He was sitting there one day when Aunt Maria came near him and said,



"Come Pepe, I will tell you something. You know, you have now a new sister. She is there in that room with your mother. Don't go there now. Your mother is not well. You can call your new sister Baby."

"Baby? Why Baby?" asked Pepe.

"Because she is very little. That is what we call little people."

"But . . . but why don't you call Uncle Kiko Baby? He is little also," Pepe asked again.

"Oh!" Aunt Maria said and in a moment she had run away.

Days passed, and while Baby became prettier each day, Pepe became more stupid. Baby was called "Pet" by Aunt Maria, "Darling" by Mother, and other beautiful names by Aunt Rosa and Uncle Kiko and all their neighbors, while Pepe was known by only one name . . . "Stupid Boy."

One day Aunt Rosa was about to take the children for a walk. They had already gone out of their house when Pepe began talking.

"Aunt Rosa, our lesson today is about the elephant. Do you know what an elephant is, Aunt Rosa?"

"Why, don't you know, Pepe?"

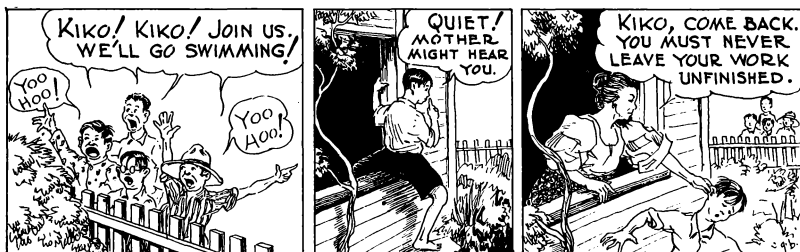
"No, Aunt Rosa, I don't know. I haven't seen one yet," he exclaimed.

"It is an animal . . . a big, fat animal, with . . ."

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## KIKO'S ADVENTURES -- Caught in the Act

by gilma baldovina



## THE ORDER OF THE

## WHEN THEY WERE

## THE STUPID BOY

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"They . . . ." answered the assistant.

"They what! Come on, talk!"

"They tried to take off my pants."

The director could not help but laugh. He continued,

"But why?"

"I tried to take back the tin can they stole from your table. They jumped upon me—all seven of them—and tried to undress me.

"Oh! I see."

The director stopped for a while and began to think. He then whispered something to the ear of his assistant. His face brightened. They went to their tent and began to laugh. They were careful though not to wake up the campers. They finally fell asleep with smile still on their faces. The order of the Short Pants were left outside wondering why, after all, the two were laughing so merrily.

Very early the next morning the bugle was sounded. The boys got up and fixed their beds. They then lined up for the morning assembly. As usual the director was at his post ready to begin the morning warm-up. Much to the surprise of all, seven leaders were missing. Finally they came out of their tents.

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and then supervising teacher and qualified in the "senior teacher examination." One time he was offered the superintendent's position in Zambales. He declined the offer to accept the pensionado ship to the United States to pursue courses in education.

While a teacher, he took the high school course by correspondence, but could not cover the laboratory subjects. He finished the five-year course leading to the master of Arts degree in the Columbia University in three years taking at the same time a few high school subjects.

A man of high principles and a lofty sense of duty, he always sets a high standard of work for his subordinates, who have to keep pace with him always, such is the tremendous influence of his personality. At all times firm, upright, and fearless, Florentino Cayco has won the respect of his colleagues, the admiration of his subordinates, and the esteem of everybody who knows him.

What a sight! One was trying to hide his swollen lips. Another had his hands in his pockets. The others were trying to cough off something which seemed to be stuck in their throats.

It turned out that the cake they feasted on was full of big red ants

*(Continued from page 143)*

"Oh, I know, Aunt Rosa. I know now. A big, fat animal. It is like . . . like you, is it not, Aunt Rosa?" Pepe asked earnestly.

"Go back and tell Aunt Maria to take the two of you for a walk, stupid!" And with that she left a surprised Pepe standing beside Baby's carriage. But suddenly Pepe's eyes grew round and big, for he could see a horse running very very fast without anybody on its back. And before he could think another little thought the horse was almost on Baby's carriage. So he gave Baby's carriage a big, big push, and then everything became black.

When he opened his eyes, he was on his Mother's bed with Aunt Rosa, Aunt Maria, Mother, and many others around him. And all he could hear were the words "my darling", "my brave pet", "my dear", and many other beautiful names by which he had never been called before. He was waiting for "stupid boy", but it never came, so he gave them a sweet, sweet smile and closed his big, round eyes.

—a reason why it was left on the table unguarded.

The Order of the Short Pants did not meet anymore.