

HISTORY AND VALUES LEARNED IN SOLTEROS

Palawan is known as the Philippines' last ecological frontier because of the rich biodiversity and nature wonders that are threatened by various human activities. But it is not the only jewel of Palawan. My province is also rich in history. Our culture and heritage made us for what we are today. One of the most important in our culture is music, and *Solteros* is one of the popular music in Palawan. *Solteros* dance originated from Cuyo, Palawan, where the Spaniards colonized Cuyo on 16th century. *Solteros* is a Spanish influenced word to the Cuyonons and means a bachelor or single man. The song was sung in Cuyo's dialect, *Cuyunon*, it is one of the ways to preserve the music of and dialect of the Cuyonons. The song *Solteros* is about a young man who is very handsome but known as unfaithful and playboy trying to court a brave and smart young woman who doesn't get fooled easily and will never fall for the man's promises for she knows that behind her there is another woman. The young woman even said to find another girl to fool and even if they'll use her as ship's cannon ball she will never go with the young man and even the young man died, she'll bury him herself. The song only implies that there is no man who can intimidate and fool a wise woman.

I find the song very entertaining because of the tempo and the message. I have learned that the song is more than just a story of a man. It is about being faithful and being honest to the person you like. I realized how beautiful our dialect is, some people here usually speak in Tagalog and can't understand or speak in *Cuyunon*, that's why I appreciated our dialect more because of this song. I also learned that women should not settle for unfaithful men. Be smart, picky and brave when someone is courting. Flowery words and promises are just words, effort should be the thing given. Don't let men intimidate or control you. *Solteros* is more than just a song. It is something that is needed to be preserve and share to everyone.