
Man of Earth By Amador Daguio

1. What is the poet saying?

The poet is pronouncing about what certainly is the basis of our life and what the end result from that basis of life is. It speaks about the old story of “Si Malakas at si Maganda”, a Filipino story of creation. It as well says about a bamboo that can be compared to us most specially the Filipino people. Bamboo is not just an ordinary plant that we must regret. It has features and most especially its awesome characteristics that made us similar to them. And one by one Daguio reveals it. On the last part, he wants us to choose if we want to be like a man or like a bamboo. But the decision is still with us. And in this, we try to figure out the answer on the poem.

a. What are the key ideas, feelings, impressions, or events presented?

The main idea for this poem is what can be the basis of man’s individuality and characteristic. The subject matter is that we must reflect and try to dig deep to ourselves and relate ourselves with a bamboo. In what way we are comparable with the bamboo and can we have differences for that. The key idea is that the real basis of life or where we came from is from the bamboo that which is followed on the story of “Si Malakas at si Maganda”. The story is based that a man and a woman does born inside a bamboo. And the characteristics where the same with the bamboo. But how his it true and can we proved it. The feeling is to some extent is kind of confusing because at first, the poet seem to reinforce us that we came from the bamboo and to some aspect, we inherit the characteristics of the bamboo because we came from it. Because on the first stanza, it really meant for the basis of man on where it was originated. Although the poem suggested the bamboo, others distinguish it to scientific and religion theories. The impression is quite unrealistic to the fact that it has insufficient evidences that we came from the bamboo. Although we have some theories about the origin of man but this kind of thing is not yet proven by science or by religion. The event presents on how the origin of life was based. So as we can see, it is the story on how we are made and became a human being on earth.

b. What is the main idea or theme of this poem?

It put into words about a bamboo is compared to us because of its characteristics and function and one of that is its flexibility. The idea of this is that in every situation, may it is good or bad, we must be flexible at all times. Likely, we must be tough as a bamboo in order to us to survive the storm. This poem gives us a glimpse on how we are supposed to live our lives from birth until now that we are experiencing lots of struggles and dilemma.

2. How is the poet saying?

a. Who is the speaker in the poem?

The speaker of the poem is himself and the whole humanity. Because, we are all indeed want to know our basis of life or our origin. And this poem discussed one of the possibilities that we came for this source.

b. What form has the poet used? What sound techniques has the poet used?

The form used by the poet is a ballad type of poem that is a poem that tells a story similar to a folk tail or legend which often has a repeated refrain. Also he used Rhyme form wherein a rhyming poem has the repetition of the same or similar sounds of two or more words, often at the end of the line. And lastly, it is also a narrative form due to a poem that tells a story. He uses rhyming words as a sound technique that makes it more formal and artistic.

c. What appeals to the senses has the poet used? What words help the reader see, hear, feel, taste, and smell the things being described?

Images, symbolisms and emotions felt on the poem are appealing to the senses that the poet used. It uses the symbol of bamboo. And bamboo in fact has the same trait and attributes as with us. The words that for me is considered to help the reader see, hear, feel, taste, and smell things being described are bamboo, bend, flexibility, and man. These words would complete the main idea of the poem. It gain the understanding of the message that the poem must have in able for the reader to see it.

d. What figurative language has the poet used to create word pictures?

It uses metaphors as the figurative speech in this poem because of the comparison of man and the bamboo in the aspect of individuality and functions. It also has the following figurative speeches: allegory in which an extended metaphor in which a story is told to illustrate an important attribute of the subject. Then apostrophe where addressing a thing, an abstraction or a person not present. Next is hermeneia wherein repetition for the purpose of interpreting what has already been said. Lastly, innuendo in which having a hidden meaning in a sentence that makes sense whether it is detected or not.

3. What is your conclusion about the poem's meaning and effect? Was it an effective poem? What aspects of the poet's ideas and craft do you appreciate? Would you recommend this poem to a friend? Why or why not?

The poem states that we are really like a bamboo that we can adopt in every situation that we encounter and will encounter in our daily lives. It said that bamboo is so strong and flexible, it only determines that Filipinos are strong-willed and strong-faith persons that whatever happens on us, we make sure that we stood strong enough to face the most undesirable problems the we can experience. In this poem, we must choose if we want to be a bamboo or a human. But of course, we choose to be human than to be a bamboo. Why it is so? Because we have limitations unlike the bamboo that it just follows without complaining. Moreover, humans are much greater than bamboo in some aspects. Furthermore, we can appreciate more the beauty of the world if we became humans and choose to be humans. This poem also utters the difference between a myth and a creation story. Yes, it is an effective poem because I appreciate that he represent and discussed about bamboo not just an ordinary plant but a living thing that can have a relation with us, humans through characteristics and values. Determining the deeper meaning of the poem per stanza is the aspect of the poet's craft that I do appreciate. Yes. I would recommend this to all. Since this poem is a kind of reality check and somehow a basis for our best asset as a Filipino which is being tough and being "madiskarte sa buhay".

4. In a three paragraph composition, write a three-paragraph composition about the poem.

The poem is called Man of Earth written by Amador Daguio that tackles about the basis of our life which is we are came from the bamboo which is inspired by the story of "Si Malakas at Maganda". It talks about a bamboo which we originated from and we inherit this plant's function and characteristics. Flexibility is the characteristic that all Filipinos have and bamboos have. But since we are human in nature, we are much greater than bamboo. Since bamboo has limitations compared to human, we have a great advantage over it in some aspect. It differentiates the difference between myths from a story of creation.

The poem is in the ballad form which tells a story similar to a folk tail or legend. Also he used Rhyme form wherein a rhyming poem has the repetition of the same or similar sounds of two or more words, often at the end of the line. Rhyming words adds spice and artistic edge of the poem. Then we also consider to poem to be a narrative form due to a poem that tells a story. It uses symbolic representations like a bamboo and it revolves around that image. Figurative language like metaphor gave it a twist and color. Then allegory in which an extended metaphor in which a story is told to illustrate an important attribute of the subject. Then apostrophe where addressing a thing, an abstraction or a person not present. Next is hermeneia wherein repetition for the purpose of interpreting what has already been said. Lastly, innuendo in which having a hidden meaning in a sentence that makes sense whether it is detected or not. Man of Earth talks about us and we are the speaker for this poem. It makes use of representations and emotions for us to constantly understand what the poet in truth say for his message. Flexibility is one of the words that could complete the idea of the poem because for that instance, it helps the readers to know the things that are needed to be describe.

Man of Earth emphasize more not on the basis of life but on how we originated our values and characteristics. Bamboo is a great representation for it because it can bend when wind passes to it. And for the Filipinos, it is a sign of determination and urge to stand up whenever there are problems existing. Man of Earth is a very interesting yet very brilliant poem that gives us a sense of reality check of our character and personality. I learned in the poem that it is not easy to be a man for some reasons but most likely it is not that easy to be a bamboo that has limitations.

Like The Molave (Insights)

1st stanza — Not yet, Rizal,/ not yet.// Sleep not in peace://

there are a thousand waters to be spanned;//
there are a thousand mountains to be crossed;//
there are a thousand crosses to be borne.//
Our shoulders are not strong;/ our sinews are
grown flaccid with dependence,/ smug with ease
under another's wing.//
Rest not in peace;//

Meaning: Rizal cannot rest yet because we are still very dependent on others and we need to become independent.

2nd stanza — Not yet Rizal,/ not yet.// The land has need/

of young blood/ and/ what younger than your own,/
Forever spilled in the great name of freedom,//
Forever oblate on the altar of the free?//

Meaning: the Philippines needs young people's blood like Rizal so we can have the courage to fight for the country and we can have true freedom

3rd stanza - Not you alone, Rizal.//

O souls and spirits of the martyred brave,/ arise!//
Arise and scour the land!// Shed once again
your willing blood!// Infuse the vibrant red
into our thin anemic veins;/ until
we pick up your Promethean tools and,/ strong,/ out of the
depthless matrix of your faith in us,/ and on the silent cliffs of freedom,/
We carve for all time your marmoreal dream!/
Until our people,/ seeing,/ are become
Like the molave,/ firm,/ resilient,/ staunch,/
Rising on the hillside,/ unafraid,/
Strong in its own fibre;/ yes,/ like the molave!//

Meaning: Rizal cannot be alone. Heroes also need to help. They have to cleanse the land of our problems and they are inspiring us to be like them so that we can be like the molave.

4th stanza - Not yet Rizal,/ not yet.// The glory hour will come.//

Out of the silent dreaming,/ from the seven-thousand fold silence,/ we shall emerge,/ saying:/ WE ARE FILIPINOS,/
And no longer be ashamed.//

Meaning: So out of the dream, all of us filipinos will be courageous enough already saying that WE ARE FILIPINOS and no longer be worried.

5th stanza - **Sleep not in peace.**// The dream is not yet fully carved.//

Hard the wood,/ but harder the blows.//
Yet the molave will stand.//
Yet the molave monument will rise.//
And gods walk on brown legs.//

Meaning: The dream is not yet finished, we might be like the heroes but there are harder problems yet we will stand up and change that always and once and for all, we have become like gods.

Like The Molave

The main interpretation of the Filipino poem Like The Molave is one regarding how the people of the Philippines must work to make the nation stronger. The poem states that a region of the Philippines - Rizal - cannot yet rest, as there is still much work to be done to make the area successful.

At the beginning of the poem, the poet outlines how the Philippines is dependent on other nations, and must work towards becoming independent in the future in order to support its citizens. Like The Molave also highlights the importance of the younger generation, and how they must fight for their country and improve the Filipino way of living. The poet believes this will grant the nation freedom.

Further analysis

Like The Molave also talks about heroes and how they inspire regular Filipinos to be great themselves and join them on the quest to make the Philippines a more prosperous place. The poem states that whilst many Filipinos are achieving great things for their country, there is still much more to be done and more residents must contribute to the efforts. In short, Like The Molave is about inspiring the Filipino nation to improve their country and make it self-sufficient.

The Philippines

The Philippines is a country located in southeast Asia, with a population of around 95 million. Over recent decades standards of living have improved greatly in the nation, with many political and cultural changes, and the country's economy is strong. It has a large export market, which consists mainly of electrical products and petroleum fuels. Unemployment currently stands at just over 7%. In most respects the Philippines is now considered a developed nation, with a strong industrial sector.

The World Is An Apple: Meaning and Reflection

by Albert Tolentino

“You should have tried to bring home pan-de-sal, or rice, or milk---not those “delicious” apples. We’re not rich. We can live without apples.” – Gloria from the story “The world is an Apple”

I found it a little bit easy when I received such kind of task, due to the fact that it depicts poverty that is prevalently common, not only on this country, but around the world. I checked the compatibility of this line, in which it contains moral values about life in reality. I also spot these lines easily considering its striking message, which is the affordability to buy things. Then, it also depicts the gap between rich and poor, in which it was far than common.

I like it, at the same time I chose this line because it gives a striking message about the importance of affordability of food, in which life in simplicity is much better to Gloria than what Mario wants. It uses descriptive form of language in which it was easier for everybody to understand at the same time, it speaks directly to Mario, in which Gloria says that they can live without apple. It depicts the scenario that Mario allegedly stole an apple in a store, in which he claims it will give to their daughter Tita. It was in this line that Gloria said to Mario that they can live more with foods other than the apple. They are not rich and they cannot afford an apple that costs around 70 centavos.

It sends a highly significant message to me. I learned the overall simplicity of life without having to buy something expensive in order to satisfy ourselves. It really helps me how to spend less in order to satisfy myself. Like for example, in order for us to save more money, we rather tend to buy lesser expensive goods so that the excess of it can be used in the future. In this case, we can still eat more, more, and more without additional expenses and additional headaches.

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Therefore, this line provides us the importance of life itself without luxurious means. It provides a lesson among us that there are always an alternative to the things we have in this world. It will improve one's norms about how did they spend their money without having it too much.

Ballad of a Mother's Heart

The love of parents for their children is a strong trait among Filipinos, and, as is true in the Orient, generally the son is particularly dear to his mother. The poem which follows relates how forgiving and how great the love of a mother is for her son although he has hurt her very much.

Poem Summary

Line 1

“The Sonnet-Ballad,” begins with an address to the speaker’s mother. Given that in this particular case the title of the poem gives us very little specific information about the poem’s subject, it is difficult with so general an opening line to discern much about who the speaker might be. There is, however, a decent amount of compelling information in the poem that might serve to draw a reader in. For instance, the address to a parent offers the idea that the speaker is might be a child, or, at the very least, is someone’s son or daughter. This is immediately complicated though by the addition of a question which — although childlike in its simplicity — one would expect, because of its seriousness, to come from an adult. This seriousness is increased as well by the repetition of the word “mother” which gives the line a sense of pleading, and not simply asking.

This first line is an excellent example of how contrasting ideas or implications can be used to offer complexity in a poem and not necessarily confusion. In this case there is the contrast of the serious, pleading question about happiness with the implied idea of a child. Though this seems contradictory, as one moves through the poem and finds it to be about a woman who has lost her lover to war, the subject of childhood could be seen to strengthen the poem is several ways. First, it heightens the sense of loss in death by subtly offering its opposite: youth or childhood. Second, one might find the idea of childhood bringing in the feeling of vulnerability, which the speaker clearly feels later in the poem.

Line 2

With this second line the vagueness of the situation is removed as the speaker offers specific information about the situation. Her lover has been taken off to war. Notice how this line establishes a particular tone with its use of carefully chosen language. The lover did not “leave for,” or “go to” war, but he was “taken” by an anonymous “They.” This adds a sense of tragedy to the poem as it implies that the lovers had no real control in the matter. Also, it is not just the lover that departs, but the “lover’s tallness.” This change, however slight, could be seen to add human detail to our still general image of the lover. The noun provides a reader with something to begin picturing, but also implies the idea of strength. This again could be seen to add force to the already tragic experience of his being taken by establishing that he was strong, not small and weak, and yet he could not stop them from taking him.

Lines 3-4

Here, in lines three and four, the poem becomes more involved regarding both form and content. As to form, these lines are the ending of the first of the three, four-line sections of the sonnet. Notice how the end rhymes (ABAB) fit together here and solidify this as a section of the formal structure. Line 3 ends with “guess,” which of course rhymes with line 1’s “happiness,” and line 4, ending with the word “for” completes the rhyme with line 2’s “war.” This rhyme scheme will now begin again with line 5. Regarding its subject, the poem now shifts focus from the departed lover to the one left behind. She is left “lamenting,” but also wondering what good her heart might be if left empty. While this is a powerful question for the speaker to ask, and it expresses a good amount of longing and distress, Brooks goes further to invent a word combination that sharpens the effect even more. With her choice of referring to the heart as a “heart-cup” she not only accentuates the possibility of the heart being “empty” by making it easier for a reader to picture, but also offers the heart as a simple, clear object that one might use every day, and more importantly, might not be able to use from this point forward.

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Line 5

This line is quite simple and direct, but it offers the idea that the parting is somehow permanent, which one might not necessarily think to be the case. In other words, this simple line could be seen to erase any of the expected hope in such a situation. The poem then carries on in an attempt to explain or justify this lack of hope.

Lines 6-8

Here begins what could be seen as the explanation of why it is the speaker of the poem is so sure her lover will not return from the war. It is still left fairly vague in this section, which completes the second of the three, four-line sections. But it is worthy of notice to see what Brooks has done by choosing several words in particular. First, the choice of “grandly” as an adverb modifying the man’s walk in line 7. This establishes the possibility of a certain honor or code that the man might have regarding his action. That he would walk “grandly” off to war, even in a situation where he is being taken there could be seen to imply a certain resignation on his part to do his duty. Second, Brooks’s choice at the end of line 8 to liken the man’s possible death to a kind of infidelity. With this one word, “untrue,” Brooks introduces the compelling and unexpected simile of death being another woman to whom the speaker’s lover is drawn.

Lines 9-10

Brooks decides to repeat the phrase that claims the potential death to be both an infidelity and a result of destiny. The phrase itself is powerful and sounds strong, both reason enough for the repetition. But it might also be seen as another form of pleading that Brooks uses in the first and last lines of the poem. The repetition also emphasizes this potentially neglected word “have.” Such a simple, ordinary verb, it is possible that stated once it might not be more than a passive reference to a future action in the story. Stated twice though it makes stronger this idea that the lover who has gone to war is not in control of his own destiny. He has to be untrue, or in the terms of the original situation, he has to die.

The addition of the word “Coquettish” in line 10 then extends the simile of death as another woman, and increases the tragedy of such betrayal by claiming that She — death — in the end doesn’t even really have an interest in this particular man. Thus his being tempted is nothing but a deception.

Lines 11-12

In the next several lines this string of adjectives is extended in a continued effort to offer a unique and powerful image of how the speaker’s lover’s imminent death appears to her. It is also an attempt to explain why her lover might not be able to resist. It is the “strange / possessive arms and beauty (of a sort)” that cause the man to give in. This whole phenomenon is still left a bit vague, but the implication is that there is something about death, its confident, beautiful nature that makes “a hard man hesitate,” and long for it. This beauty possibly not the traditional beauty one might think of, as Brooks adds the parenthetical “of a sort” after it, it still has great power. How exactly it might cause a man to be drawn to it is left to the reader.

If one recalls the use of certain words earlier in the poem, “grandly” for instance, one might see this seduction as the lover’s attraction to pride or honor. Often people confront great odds out of sheer bravery and dedication. But Brooks leaves it more mysterious than this with the use of this word “beauty.” The idea that there is something beautiful and possessive about death, that would draw one to it, adds great weight and complexity to the poem as it approaches its end.

Lines 13-14

In this, the poem’s final couplet, there is the climax of the action and then the return to the question that began the poem. The speaker of the poem describes her lover finally giving in to death by stating the “yes.” Again the ambiguity or lack of certainty is shown with the use of the word “stammer,” as this implies the hesitation. It could also be seen as nervousness or fear at the point of death. Nonetheless, the speaker imagines her “hard man” finally answering the call of the other woman, who in this case is meant to be death. Then there is the final act of closure when the poem repeats as part of its couplet the first line of the poem. This could be seen to affect the poem in several ways. First, regarding the formal elements of the poem, it closes it up neatly and transforms the poem into almost a circle that could start again its song. The last line also though reintroduces the vulnerable pleading — again possibly child-like given the address to the mother — and sadness of the lover being in such a state. Lastly, it leaves the reader with a question that is as essential as it is unanswered. The

poem then leaves the reader to think of the speaker of the poem asking such a question, but also possibly lets the question echo in their own mind after the poem is finished.

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