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BSIT 4C

Make a comparison of Rizal and Dr. Antonio de Morga's view of pre-colonial Filipino culture. Write a 200 to 300 word essay on these comparisons.

Rizal and Dr. Antonio de Morga, a Spanish historian, provide contrasting views of pre-colonial Filipino culture in their respective works. While Rizal's writings highlight the richness and sophistication of indigenous Filipino culture, Dr. Morga's perspective is rooted in the Spanish colonial narrative. Let's delve into these comparisons in more detail.

Dr. Jose Rizal, a Filipino national hero, celebrated and admired the pre-colonial Filipino culture in his writings. In his novel "Noli Me Tangere" and his essay "Indolence of the Filipino," Rizal depicted the ancient Filipino society as advanced, with a complex political and social structure. He emphasized the achievements of indigenous Filipinos in areas such as agriculture, trade, arts, and governance. Rizal's writings aimed to instill a sense of pride in the Filipino identity and counter the negative stereotypes perpetuated by colonial powers.

On the other hand, Dr. Antonio de Morga, a Spanish historian who wrote "Sucesos de las Islas Filipinas" in the late 16th century, portrayed pre-colonial Filipino culture from a European colonial perspective. His work primarily focused on the Spanish conquest and colonization of the Philippines. Dr. Morga's account presented the indigenous Filipinos as uncivilized, barbaric, and in need of Spanish intervention for progress and development. His narrative aimed to justify the Spanish colonization and assert Spanish superiority over the native population.

The comparison between Rizal and Dr. Morga's views of pre-colonial Filipino culture reveals a stark contrast in their perspectives. Rizal celebrated the achievements and sophistication of the indigenous Filipino society, seeking to reclaim the positive aspects of pre-colonial heritage. In contrast, Dr. Morga's account reflected the biased lens of Spanish colonialism, emphasizing the need for Spanish intervention and denigrating the local culture.

In conclusion, Rizal and Dr. Morga present opposing views on pre-colonial Filipino culture. Rizal's writings highlight the richness and complexity of indigenous Filipino society, while Dr. Morga's perspective is rooted in the Spanish colonial narrative. Understanding these different perspectives allows us to critically examine the historical context and challenge the biases that influenced the portrayal of pre-colonial Filipino culture.