Topic 6

Jose Rizal’s First Homecoming and Second Departure

**Introduction:**

After 5 productive years in Europe, our Hero decided to go home to check how his works give impact to the Filipino people. His sojourn abroad allows him to understand the alarming situation in the Philippines that he needs to put on action his desire to help his countrymen.

**Learning Objectives**: At the end of the lessons the learners were able to:

1. Validate the reasons of Rizal’s First homecoming
2. Evaluate the caused of Rizal’s second departure
3. Compare the first and second departure of Dr. Jose Rizal

FIRST HOMECOMING

* Rizal lived five years of his life abroad and away from his loved ones. He left Rome and rode the train going to Marseilles, France on July 3,1887. He then boarded the Djemnah, the vessel that ferried him to Saigon, and from Saigon, he transferred to the steamer Haiphong in Vietnam and reached Manila on August 5,1887. He stayed in Manila for three days.
* REASONS of Going Home

1. To operate the ailing eyes of his mother
2. To serve his countrymen who had been long oppressed by the Spaniards
3. To find out how his First novel affects the Filipino people
4. To find out the reasons of Leonor Rivera’s silence

LIFE IN CALAMBA

* Upon his arrival in Calamba on August 8, 1887, there were rumors spreading that Rizal was a German spy, a mason and many more. Because of these, Rizal received death threats each day and his family was worried about the possible consequences of such. So Paciano accompanied him whenever he goes out— even his father, Don Francisco, had hesitations on allowing Rizal to go out of their house.
* Nevertheless, Rizal kept himself busy while in Calamba. He established a medical clinic and his first patient was his mother. He cured the sick and soon he was known to be an eye specialist and surgeon. Rizal successfully removed the cataracts on his mother’s eyes. In the town, Rizal was called Doctor Uliman, because he was mistaken for a German. On August 30, 1887, Rizal left Calamba and went to Manila for he was invited to see Governor-General Emilio Terrero as regards his Noli.
* He opened a gymnasium for the young people of Calamba so that they will be away from harmful pastimes.
* He introduced to the people of Calamba European sports like fencing and shooting to discourage them from cockfighting and gambling.
* The Governor-General asked for a copy of the novel and so Rizal gave him the copy that was worn out. The former did not see anything wrong with the novel. On the same day, the Archbishop of Manila recommended that the importation, reproduction, distribution and possession of the book should be stopped. The Governor-General, concerned about the safety and security of Rizal, assigned Lieutenant Jose Taviel de Andrade to protect him. Terrero requested Jose Rizal to leave the country, but Rizal refused and stayed at his hometown.
* At about the same time, Terrero wanted to have an investigation to solve the Calamba agrarian problems. The Dominican-owned hacienda in Calamba was one of the properties owned by the friars that were affected. Rizal led the group of Calamba tenants to represent for the investigation. Rizal presented the following findings to Terrero for actions (Zulueta 2004):

1. The hacienda of the Dominican Order comprised not only the lands around Calamba but the whole town of Calamba;
2. There were increased profits of the Dominican order because of the arbitrary increase of the rentals paid by the tenants;
3. The hacienda owner never contributed for the celebration of the town fiesta, for education of the children, and for the improvement of agriculture;
4. Tenants who spent more labor in clearing the lands were dispossessed of the said lands for a weak reason;
5. For delayed payment of rentals, high rates of interest were charged to the tenants;
6. Work animals, tools and farm implements of the tenants were confiscated by the hacienda management if the rentals were not paid by the tenants.

* In effect, the friars were furious so they commanded the Malacañang to order the departure of Rizal to leave the country. But Terrero did not mind the friars’ request. As a result, the friars demanded his deportation. Then again, Terrero adviced Rizal to leave the country for good. The same counsel was given to Rizal by his family and relatives for his own safety.

SECOND DEPARTURE (1888-1892)

* Reasons

1. His presence in Calamba was jeopardizing the safety and happiness of his family and friends.
2. He could fight better his enemies and serve his country’s cause with greater efficacy by writing in foreign countries.

* Before leaving Calamba on February 3,1888, a friend of Rizal from Lipa requested him to write a poem to celebrate the conversion of Lipa from a pueblo (town) to a villa (city). The poem, Himno al Trabajo or Hymn to Labor (Osias, 1948) depicts Rizal’s appreciation for men’s efforts and compliment the country’s wealth and energy. He believed that hardwork or labor is the country’s blood, health and life.

TRIP TO HONG KONG

* Rizal arrived in Hong Kong on February 8,1888. His fellow Filipinos namely Jose Maria Basa, Balbino Mauricio and Manuel Yriarte, who were all exiled in 1872, met Rizal. In Hong Kong, he was able to study the Chinese language, Chinese drama and theater, Chinese cultures and Chinese values. Rizal even became friends with some Spaniards that were based in Hong Kong.
* Terrero’s former secretary, Jose Sainz de Varranda, followed Rizal in the said British colony, and was believed to be commissioned by the Spanish authorities to spy on the hero
* He Discovered in Hongkong that the richest among the religious orders is the Dominican order.
* Two days after, he left for Japan on Board the SS Oceania on February 22, 1888.

TRIP TO JAPAN

* Rizal arrived in Yokohama, Japan and stayed at Tokyo Hotel on February 28, 1888 For a few days. He was then invited by Juan Perez Caballero to live at the Spanish Legation for a month. On March 7,1887, he left the hotel and lived at the Spanish legation. During his stay in Japan, he studied the Japanese language or Nippongo, Japanese culture, theatres, martial arts and visited Japanese provinces. Rizal appreciated the cleanliness, politeness, and industry of the Japanese.
* Rizal then met O-Sei-San and their romance began when he lived at the Spanish legation. They became friends and later on developed to become lovers. O-Sei-San or Seiko Usui and Rizal fell in love for each other. Because of this, Rizal thought of staying in Japan for good. Nonetheless, Rizal had duties to fulfill for his country. So, he decided to leave Japan and said his goodbyes to O-Sei-San.
* Rizal’s bad impression to Japan was the mode of transportation called Rickshaw for him it is a form of slavery.

TRIP TO USA

* Aboard a steamer Belgic on April 28,1888, the entire boat was quarantined when it stopped in San Francisco because accordingly, the ship came from a country where cholera was epidemic. Rizal knew that this was not the fact — he found out that the ship was halted for the Chinese and Japanese laborers who accepted cheap labor, replacing the American laborers.
* On May 4, 1888, after a week of the quarantine, some passengers were allowed to disembark, except for the Japanese and Chinese passengers who were quarantined for a longer period. Rizal went to different cities in America like Reno, Utah, Colorado, Nebraska, Chicago, Albany, and New York City. He was very much impressed with all the cities for its natural beauty, the hardworking Americans, the material progress and the high standard of living, and the opportunities offered for poor immigrants for a better life.
* The negative impressions include the lack of racial equality and the presence of racial prejudice against other nations. The Americans valued money more than human life and fairness and justice were only offered to white people.

TRIP IN LONDON

* After Rizal’s trip to the United States of America, he left New York City on May 16, 1888 and arrived in Liverpool, England on May 24 of the same year. He stayed for a day at Adelphi Hotel and left for London the following day. He was welcomed by Dr. Antonio Ma. Regidor on May 25, 1888 and stayed as a guest in their home. Dr. Regidor was an exile of 1872 and a practicing lawyer in London.
* Rizal had reasons why he chose to live in London. First, he wanted to enhance his knowledge on the English language; he sought to have further study on Antonio Morga’s Sucesos de las Islas Filipinas; to do research on the Philippine history; and to continue to write for La Solidaridad in defense of his people against the Spanish tyranny.
* Jose Rizal then met Dr. Reinhold Rost, the librarian of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in England and also an authority on Malay languages and customs. Dr. Rost was the one who allowed Rizal to undertake research at the British Museum. Thankful to Dr. Rost, Rizal had the time to read Morga’s Sucesos de las Islas Filipinas. The doctor was also the one who inspired Rizal to contribute two articles in the Asian Studies Journal Trubner’s Record on May 1889. The first was entitled, Specimens of Tagal Folklore (a collection of 14 proverbs, 8 puzzles and 2 verses) and the second was Two Eastern Fables (a comparison of Japanese fables with the Filipino fables). At that time, he transferred and became a boarder of the Beckett family. Unfortunately, he still received good and bad news from the Philippines while he was in London.
* Bad and Good News from Home

1. Persecution of his fellow Filipinos who signed the Anti-Friar Petition of 1888 that was submitted to Queen Regen for the expulsion of the friars in the Philippines;
2. Persecution of the tenants of Calamba, including the Rizal family and relatives because of their petition for the reforms in the government;
3. The exile of Rizal’s brother-in-law, Manuel T. Hidalgo, in Bohol;
4. 4. Furious attacks of the Spanish senators;
5. 5. The arrest of Rizal’s friend, Laureano Vida, for keeping copies of Noli Me Tangere in his home;
6. 6. The good news that Rev. Vicente Garcia defended the Noli against the attacks of the friars.

* Earlier in September 1888, Rizal went to Paris to continue his research on the Philippine history in the Bibliotheque Nationale or the National Library in Paris. There he polished the annotated version of Antonio Morga’s Sucesos de las Islas Filipinas. Rizal stayed in the house of Valentin Ventura. Despite the good life that he had in Paris, Rizal kept himself busy at the National Library. He also studied the French language and made plenty of lesson drills for the students.
* On December 24,1888, Rizal spent his Christmas and New Year with the Beckett family. That time, Rizal was attracted to another woman, Gertrude Beckett, known by her nicknames Tottie and Sissie. Like Segunda Katigbak, Gertrude was small and chubby. This just goes to show that Rizal’s love for Leonor Rivera was not that deep. But unlike Leonor, Gertrude was not as appealing. Rizal was interested with Gertrude because they had close relationship and have a happy family. Rizal, however, prevented his feelings for Gertrude when he knew that she was falling in love with him.
* Rizal was also welcomed by Juan Luna and his wife in London. Rizal visited Madrid and Barcelona again on December 1888 and there he first met Marcelo H. del Pilar and Mariano Ponce, the leaders of the Propaganda Movement. Rizal became more active in the Propaganda Movement with his fellow illustrados. In the face of Rizal’s absence, he was still chosen to be the Honorary President during the inauguration of Asociacion La Solidaridad on December 31,1888, which was founded by Graciano Lopez Jaena in Barcelona on February 15,1889.
* Objectives of the Propaganda movement

1. for the Philippines to be made a province of Spain so that the native Filipinos would have equal rights accorded to Spaniards;
2. To have a representation of the Philippines in the Spanish Cortes; and
3. Secularization of parishes. Rizal became busy in writing articles and essays that were published in the Propaganda Movement’s newspaper, La Solidaridad. Rizal had translated into Tagalog the letter to The Women of Malolos on February 22,1889 as requested by Marcelo H. del Pilar.

* Rizal founded the Kidlat Club and the Indios Bravos on March 19,1889 to prove that the Filipinos are not only capable of excellence but can also be the best in terms of intellectual and physical aspects. Another society that Rizal founded in Paris in 1890 was the R.D.L.M. (Redencion de los Malayos), its acronym revived the Malay race, for the purpose of increasing the knowledge of the people in the Philippines. To continue his writings for La Solidaridad, Rizal contributed articles such as the “Filipinas Dentro de Cien Años (The Philippines a Century Hence) and the essay “Sobre la Indolencia de los Filipinos” (On the Indolence of the Filipinos) in 1890. In Paris, Rizal published Por Telefono, using the screen name Dimas Alang, to answer the attacks of the Spanish friar, Fr. Salvacion Font against the novel Noli Me Tangere.

IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

* On January 28,1890, Rizal left Paris for Brussels, Belgium. He was accompanied by Jose Alberto when he moved to Brussels. When Jose Alberto left the country, an engineering student, Jose Alejandro stayed with Rizal at the boarding house owned by Suzanne and Marie Jacoby. Aside from the cost of living in Paris, which was too much, Rizal cannot focus on writing his second novel El Filibusterismo because of the social life in Paris that interfered with his writings. While doing the chapters of the novel.
* Articles Published by Rizal in the La Solidaridad

1. “ A La Defensa” (To la Defensa) on April 30, 1889 as his answer to an Anti-Filipino writing of Patricio de la Escorura;
2. “La Verdad Para Todos” (The Truth For All) on May 31, 1889 as his reply against the Spanish accusations that the Filipino officials were ignorant and immoral;
3. “Vicente Barrantes’ Teatro Tagalo” on June 15, 1889;
4. Barrantes’ ignorance on the theatrical art of the Tagalog;
5. “Una Profanacion” (A Profanation) on July 31, 1889 as his attack against the friars for ignoring and not allowing Christian burial for his brother-in-law, Mariano Herbosa;
6. “Crueldad” (Cruelty) on July 31, 1889 defending Blumentritt from mocking and insulting attacks of his rivals;
7. “Verdades Nuevas” (New Truths) on August 15, 1889, that because of the letter written by Vicente Belloc Sanchez, saying that if reforms were granted, it will start in the destruction of the peaceful ruling of the friars in the Philippines;
8. “Diferencias” (Differences) on September 15, 1889 in response of the attacks of the article, saying mean and bad comments to the Filipinos who were then protesting for reforms from the Spanish government;
9. “Inconsequencias” (Inconsequences) on November 30, 1889 to defend Antonio Luna against the attacks of Pablo Mir Deas’s article in El Pueblo Soberano, a newspaper in Barcelona;
10. “LLanto y Risas” (Tears and Laughters) on November 30, 1889 as Rizal’s way of saving the Filipinos from the Spaniards racial prejudice;
11. .“Ingratitudes” (Ingratitudes) on January 15, 1890 in response to Governor General Weyler’s words, that people of Calamba should not be fooled by empty promises of their ungrateful sons.

* To sustain his living condition in Brussels, Rizal practiced and treated patients as a surgeon. Unlike the Noli Me Tangere, Rizal spent too much time in writing his second novel El Filibusterismo and articles for La Solidaridad. Rizal had been hearing news from Juan Luna and Valentin Ventura that his fellow Filipinos in Spain were too much into gambling. With this, Rizal sent a letter to Marcelo H. del Pilar on May 28,1890, asking him to remind the Filipinos in Madrid that they are not to gamble in Europe but to work for the freedom of the Philippines.
* On the other hand, Rizal received bad news coming from home that his family and relatives were forced to leave and go to different places because the Calamba land problem had worsened, that the Dominican management raised the rents for the land. This was the reason why the tenants, including Rizal’s father, refused to pay the rent, which resulted for the filing of a case by the Dominicans to strip the ownership of Calamba land from the Rizal family.
* The illegal eviction of his family angered him and made him depressed. Rizal planned to go home to the Philippines because he could not bear the pain about what happened to his family. Rizal then wrote a poem entitled “A Mi Musa” (To My Muse) to address his disappointments on the land problems of Calamba. This poem was published in La Solidaridad with Laong Laan as Rizal’s pen name on December 15,1890.

IN MADRID

* Rizal failed to defend the case against the Dominicans and justice was not received for his family and the tenants of Calamba. While in Madrid, Rizal attended a gathering of Filipinos where he had a fight with Antonio Luna and dared Wenceslao Retana to a duel. Retana, was a Spanish scholar and Rizal’s rival in writing.
* While in Madrid, Rizal asked for the help of the former members of the ministry who were liberal Spanish statesmen, but they only gave him a pat on the shoulder and sympathized with him. The Asociacion Hispano Filipino was formed, led by Dr. Miguel Morayta, a Spanish professor and a mason grandmaster. To decide what is the goal of the propaganda, they initiated an election who the leader will be. There were ninety participants, all were Filipinos. The competition was between Jose Rizal and Marcelo H. del Pilar and during the first two canvass, M.H. del Pilar was leading the votes and it was Rizal who won in the end. But Rizal chose to leave rather than divide the Filipinos in Madrid.

IN PARIS FRANCE

* In On February 1891, Rizal arrived in Biarritz, France. He was entertained by the Boustead family. The one-month trip to France made him forget all his bad experiences in Madrid and on his vacation, he once again had an affection to Nelly Boustead. He finished his second novel El Fili on March 29,1891 and on March 30,1891, the revision of the novel was completed, ready to be published anytime soon.

IN BELGIUM

* March 30, 1891 the revision on the novel was completed and on September 18, 1891 his second novel El Filibusterismo was published in Ghent Belgium.

El Filibusterismo (Reign of Greed)

* Dedicated to the three martyred priests GomBurZa, expressing conviction that their treatment and deaths at the hands of the Spanish authorities was unjust.
* First written in October 1887 in Calamba Laguna, Finished in France on March 29, 1891 revised completely on March 30, 1891 and published in Ghent Belgium on September 18, 1891.

IN HONGKONG

* Due to his unpleasant experiences in Madrid, Rizal planned on leaving the political life in Europe to focus on his mission instead. On November 20,1891, he arrived in Hong Kong. He then decided to practice medicine, through his association with Dr. Lorenzo P. Marquez, so he applied for a license and the license was eventually granted. His family went to Hong Kong and celebrate Christmas with his family for the first time outside the Philippines.
* Another marked event during Rizal's stay in Hongkong was his plan to move the landless Filipinos to Borneo and transform the said wilderness into a “New Calamba” through the so-called Borneo Colonization Project. In April 1892, he visited Borneo and negotiated with the British authorities who are willing to provide 100,000 acres of land for the Filipinos. Many Filipino patriots found this project amusing, thus, promoted the said project. However, there were a number who objected it, one of which was Rizal's brother-in-law, Hidalgo. Twice did Rizal wrote a letter addressed to Governor General Eulogio Despujol informing his Borneo colonization project, with whom he received no response. Instead, Despujol commanded the Spanish consul-general in Hongkong to notify Rizal that such project was very unpatriotic, and by immigrating Filipinos to Borneo, the Philippines will surely be lacking of laborers.
* Despite the many oppositions from friends and relatives, he decided to return to Manila on the following reasons: to discuss with Governor General Despujol his Borneo colonization project; to form the La Liga Filipina in the Philippines; and to prove that Eduardo de Lete's allegations on him and his family in Calamba were wrong.
* Before his departure, he wrote three more letters – the first addressed to his parents and friends; the second one, to the Filipinos; and the last to Governor General Eulogio Despujol. Instead of having the protection he desired, Rizal and his sister, Lucia, fell into the Spanish trap – a case was secretly filed against Rizal, and Despujol ordered his secretary, Luis de la Torre, to verify whether the patriot had naturalized himself as German citizen or not. And so the siblings sailed across the China Sea without prior knowledge of what awaits them in the Philippines.

Activity 1. Write the constructive and adverse effects of the following works, involvements and decisions of Dr. Jose Rizal. (Bullet answers is preferred than paragraph answers)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Actions and Accomplishments | Positive Outcome | Negative Outcome |
| 1. Membership in the Free Masonry |  |  |
| 1. Publication of the Noli Me Tangere |  |  |
| 1. His investigation to the Calamba Agrarian problems and his involvement as a spokesperson to the Calamba farmers. |  |  |
| 1. His decision to leave the country for the second time. |  |  |
| 1. His Plan to Establish a Filipino Colony in Borneo |  |  |

Activity II- Make a comparison of these Dr. Jose Rizal’s works and decisions

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **NOLI ME TANGERE** | **EL FILIBUSTERISMO** |
|  |  |
| **FIRST DEPARTURE** | **SECOND DEPARTURE** |
|  |  |