

Life and Works of Rizal

The Morga and Rizal's Search for Origins

PACTO DE SANGRE (Blood Compact)

- 1565 (Bohol)
 - the blood compact (Sikatuna and Legazpi)
 - friendship and allegiance” between a conquistador and a chief who was “undoubtedly merely a local datu”.
- Pacto de Sangre
 - was one of the “principal points emphasized” in the historical writings of Ilustrados, the well-educated early Filipino Nationalist.
 - “custom among the ANCIENT Filipinos of sealing a TREATY of alliance and friendship by mixing the blood taken from an incision in the arms of the two leaders entering into alliance” in alcoholic drink that both leaders drank.

PACTO DE SANGRE

- Two nations (Spain and the Philippines) came into an agreement, through blood compact, for purposes of friendship and alliance.
- Treaty or agreement is a very serious matter for both parties because the act of drinking mixed blood into a cup of wine meant a lot than just a simple promise to keep.
- Pacto de sangre was used to signify the right of Filipinos to withdraw from the pact their ancestor had entered into.
- This is the same intention of the blood compact that took place during the Katipunan for wanting to withdraw from the hands of the spaniards.

Morga's Views of the Preconquest Past

- Schumacher emphasizes the understanding of Spain's failure to abide by the agreement between King Sikatuna and Legazpi justified the position that "Filipinos are no longer bound by the pacto de sangre, and not subject to Spanish sovereignty."
- According to Gregorio Zaide, at Limasawa, Legazpi was well received by Bankaw, king of the island. At Bohol, he made a blood compact with two Filipino kings of the island-Sikatuna and Sigala. For Zaide, Legaspi did not just have blood compact to Sikatuna but also to another chieftain in the name of Sigala.

Morga's Views of the Preconquest Past

- **The writers of Tadhana** mentioned the SANDUGO (literally unified blood) ceremony of Legazpi with Sikatuna and Sigala, as well as that of KOLUMBU and Magellan.
 - To the Filipino, the blood compact was an agreement between EQUALS a pledge of ETERNAL fraternity and ALLIANCE.
 - According to Ocampo- blood compact or Sandugo between Sikatuna and Legazpi
1. Stressed, can be seen not only as the first bond of friendship between the Philippines and Spain, but also the first international TREATY between the Philippines and a foreign country.
 2. Contends, merging the historic event with the book of the same title, pacto de sangre is symbolic of the cultural transfusion ,is largely one-side.

Ancient Blood Oaths

- The foraging of an alliance in the context of preventing bloodshed or ending a feud or warfare involved a ceremony in which drops of blood from the persons entering into this relationship were mixed in an alcoholic drink, which they then drank.
- Another reason was to end up a feud between Spain and the Philippines.
- Laura Lee Junker- prefers to call this ritual a *blood oath*.
- It was a procedure by which two men, not necessarily enemies, became blood brothers, vowing to stick together through **thick and thin, war and peace**, and to observe mourning restriction whenever they were separated from one another. The friendship between two nations signifies their brotherhood.

The Blood Oath of Legazpi and Sikatuna

- Legazpi's forces landed Bohol in mid-March 1565, they were in dire need of provisions and their flagship needed major repairs.
- Legazpi sent soldier named Santiago, together with the Moro (cooperative captive) to meet Sikatuna (who could be found near a river two leagues away from where they had anchored). He then gave them a warm reception: He gave him food and told him to make a blood compact and sealed their friendship .Both drank the blood mixed with wine.

Morga's Views of the Preconquest Past

- Morga's Sucesos de las Islas Filipinas- a work that appeared in late 1889.
- Sikatuna- Filipinos
- Legazpi- Spaniards
- Floro Quibuyen- superior of Spain/Legazpi
- Paul Zafaralla- superior of Sikatuna

El Pacto de Sangre (Juan Luna)

- The use of the word “pacto” and its usual English translation as “compact” has reinforced the interpretation of the blood oath as legal treaty.
- The position of the Philippines as a “annexed territory” in need of redemptive assimilation indicated it was in subordinate position, even as Del Pilar argued Filipinos should not be regarded as a racially inferior.

Bonifacio: The Fall in the Plot of Nationalist History

- The moment of recovery begins with the rise of Nationalist Consciousness, which eventually leads to the birth of the nation. Rizal did his part envisioning the pre-Hispanic past in his annotation of Morga and his essay “On the Indolence of the Filipinos”. Bonifacio, built on the ilustrados’ Golden Age and finally provided an explanation for the fall.
- Ang dapat mabatid ng mga tagalog (What the Tagalog should Know), it signified “ the condition of wholeness of the Pre-Spanish past.
- “Kaginhawaan bago ang pananakop. Ang pagbagsak dahil sa sanduguan.”

The Coming of Spaniards

- The coming of Spaniards, according to Manifesto, was purportedly to offer friendship, but their actions were full of deceit:
- Because of the pacto de sangre, which resulted in banishment from paradise. The dark ages came upon the Philippines. the Manifesto concluded that the light of truth must prevail. The tagalog must realize the source of their misfortune and unite, and realize that reason dictates justness of separating from Spain.

Conclusion

- The late 19th century views on the Pacto de Sangre of Sikatuna and Legazpi all averred that the Spaniards came to the Philippines to offer friendship only for them to betray it.
- The event in Bohol in 1565 was presented in a manner that explicitly advanced a political agenda- from Del Pilar assimilation to Bonifacio's revolution- in the process constructing the plot of nationalist history that would seek final realization in the revolution.