

Chapter 17

MISFORTUNES IN MADRID (1890-91)

-Early in August, 1890, Rizal arrived in Madrid

-Upon arrival in Madrid, Rizal immediately sought help of the Filipino colony, The Asociacion Hispano-Filipina, and the liberal Spanish newspaper in securing justice for the oppressed Calamba tenants

- **El Resumen**- a Madrid newspaper which sympathized with the Filipino cause, said: **“To cover the ear, open the purse, and fold the arms—this is the Spanish colonial policy**
- **La Epoca**- an anti-Filipino newspaper in Madrid
 1. Jose Ma. Panganiban, his talented co-worker in the Propaganda Movement, died in Barcelona on August 19, 1890, after a lingering illness
 2. Aborted Duel with Antonio Luna—Luna was bitter because of his frustrated romance with Nellie Boustead. Deep in his heart, he was blaming Rizal for his failure to win her, although Rizal had previously explained to him that he had nothing to do about it. Luna uttered certain unsavory remarks about Nellie, Rizal heard him and angered by the slanderous remarks, he challenged Luna, his friend, to a duel. Fortunately, Luna realized that he had made a fool of himself during his drunken state, he apologized for his bad remarks about the girl and Rizal accepted his apology and they became good friends again
 3. Rizal challenges Retana to Duel—**Wenceslao E. Retana**, his bitter enemy of the pen, a talented Spanish scholar, was then a press agent of the friars in Spain. He used to attack the Filipinos in various newspapers in Madrid and other cities in Spain. Retana wrote an article in La Epoca, asserting that the family and friends of Rizal had not paid their rents so they were ejected from their lands in Calamba by the Dominicans. Such as insult stirred Rizal to action, immediately he sent his seconds to Retana with his challenge to a duel
 4. Infidelity of Leonor Rivera —Rizal received a letter from Leonor, announcing her coming marriage to an Englishman (the choice of her mother) and asking his forgiveness
 5. Rizal-Del Pilar Rivalry —toward the closing days of 1890 here arose an unfortunate rivalry between Rizal and M.H. del Pilar for supremacy. Because of this, the Filipinos were divided into two hostile camps—the **Rizalistas and the Pilaristas**. The situation was becoming explosive and critical. Despite of winning the votes, Rizal graciously declined the coveted position
- Rizal wrote a brief note thanking his compatriots for electing him as Responsible. It was the last time he saw Madrid

Chapter 18

BIARRITZ VACATION

-To seek solace for his disappointments in Madrid, Rizal took a vacation in the resort city of Biarritz on the fabulous French Riviera. He was a guest of the rich Boustead family at its winter residence—Villa Eliada

- **February, 1891**- Rizal arrived in Biarritz
- Frustrated in romance, Rizal found consolation in writing. Evidently, while wooing Nellie and enjoying so **“many magnificent moonlight nights”** with her, he kept working on his second novel which he began to write in Calamba 1887
- **March 29, 1891**- the eve of his departure from Biarritz to Paris, he finished the manuscript of El Filibusterismo

- **March 30, 1891**-Rizal bade farewell to the hospitable and friendly Bousteads and proceeded to Paris by train
- **April 4, 1891**-Rizal wrote to his friend, Jose Ma. Basa, in Hong Kong from Paris, expressing his desire to go to that British colony and practice ophthalmology in order to earn his living
- **Middle of April, 1891**- Rizal was back in Brussels
- Since abdicating his leadership in Madrid in January, 1891, owing to the intrigues of his jealous compatriots, Rizal retired from the Propaganda Movement or reform crusade
- **May 1, 1891**-Rizal notified the Propaganda authorities in Manila to cancel his monthly allowance and devote the money to some better cause
- Rizal's notification was contained in a letter addressed to Mr. A.L. Lorena (pseudonym of Deodato Arellano)
- **May 30, 1891**-revision of the finished manuscript of *El Filibusterismo* was mostly completed
- **June 13, 1891**-Rizal informed Basa that he was negotiating with a printing firm

Chapter 19

EL FILIBUSTERISMO PUBLISHED IN GHENT (1891)

-Rizal was busy revising and polishing the manuscript of *El Filibusterismo* so that it could be ready for the press

-Rizal had begun writing it in October, 1887, while practicing medicine in Calamba, the following year (1888), in London; he made some changes in the plot and corrected some chapters already written. He wrote more chapters in Paris and Madrid, and finished the manuscript in Biarritz on March 29, 1891. It took him, therefore, three years to write his second novel

- **July 5, 1891**- Rizal left Brussels for Ghent, a famous university city in Belgium
- Rizal reasons for moving to Ghent were (1) *the cost of printing in Ghent was cheaper than in Brussels* (2) *to escape from the enticing attraction of Petite Suzanne*
- Rizal met two compatriots while in Ghent, Jose Alejandro (from Pampanga) and Edilberto Evangelista (from Manila), both studying engineering in the world-famed University of Ghent
- **F. Meyer-Van Loo Press (No. 66 Viaanderen Street)**-a printing shop that give Rizal the lowest quotation for the publication of his novel, who was willing to print his book on installment basis
- **August 6, 1891**-the printing of his book had to be suspended because Rizal could no longer give the necessary funds to the printer
- **Valentin Ventura**- the savior of the Fili
 - When Ventura learned of Rizal's predicament and immediately sent him the necessary funds
- **September 18, 1891**- *El Filibusterismo* came off the press
 - Rizal immediately sent on this date two printed copies to Hong Kong—one for Basa and other for Sixto Lopez
- Rizal gratefully donated the original manuscript and an autographed printed copy to Valentin Ventura
- **La Publicidad**- a Barcelona newspaper, wherein it published a tribute eulogizing the novel's original style which "**is comparable only to the sublime Alexander Dumas**" and may well be offered as "**a model and a precious jewel in the now decadent literature of Spain**"

- **El Nuevo Regimen**- the liberal Madrid newspaper that serialized the novel in its issues of October, 1891
- Rizal dedicated *El Filibusterismo* to Gom-Bur-Za (Don Mariano Gomez, 73 years old; Don Jose Burgos, 35 years old; Jacinto Zamora, 37 years old)
- The original manuscript of *El Filibusterismo* in Rizal's own handwriting is now preserved in the Filipiana Division of the Bureau of Public Libraries, Manila. It consists of 270 pages of long sheets of paper
- Two features in the manuscript do not appear in the printed book, namely: the **FOREWORD** and the **WARNING**. These were not put into print to save printing cost
- The title page of *El Filibusterismo* contains an inscription written by Ferdinand Blumentritt
- *El Filibusterismo* is a sequel to the *Noli*. It has little humor, less idealism and less romance than the *Noli Me Tangere*. It is more revolutionary, more tragic than the first novel
- The characters in *El Filibusterismo* were drawn by Rizal from real life. **Padre Florentino** was Father Leoncio Lopez, Rizal's friend and priest of Calamba; **Isagani**, the poet was Vicente Ilustre, Batangueno friend of Rizal in Madrid and **Paulita Gomez**, the girl who loved Isagani but married Juanito Pelaez, was Leonor Rivera

COMPARISON BETWEEN NOLI and FILI NOLI ME TANGERE EL FILIBUSTERISMO

>Noli is a romantic novel

>it is a "work of the heart"—a book of feeling"

>it has freshness, color, humor, lightness, and wit

>it contains 64 chapters

>Fili is a political novel

>it is a "work of the head"—a book of the thought

>it contains bitterness, hatred, pain, violence, and sorrow

>it contains 38 chapters

- The original intention of Rizal was to make the *Fili* longer than the *Noli*
- The friends of Rizal and our Rizalistas today differ in opinion as to which is the superior novel—the *Noli* or the *Fili*. Rizal himself considered the *Noli* as superior to the *Fili* as a novel, thereby agreeing with M.H. del Pilar who had the same opinion
- **September 22, 1891**-four days after the *Fili* came off the press, Rizal wrote to Blumentritt: "I am thinking of writing a third novel, a novel in the modern sense of the word, but this time politics will not find much space in it, but ethics will play the principal role."
- **October 18, 1891**- Rizal boarded the steamer *Melbourne* in Marseilles bound for Hong Kong
-during the voyage, Rizal began writing the third novel in Tagalog, which he intended for Tagalog readers
- The unfinished novel has no title. It consists of 44 pages (33cm x 21 cm) in Rizal's handwriting, still in manuscript form, it is preserved in the National Library, Manila
-The story of this unfinished novel begins with the solemn burial of Prince Tagulima. The hero of the novel was Kamandagan, a descendant of Lakan-Dula, last king of Tondo
-It is said that Rizal was fortunate not to have finished this novel, because it would have caused greater scandal and more Spanish vengeance on him

- **Makamisa-** other unfinished novel of Rizal in Tagalog written in a light sarcastic style and is incomplete for only two chapters are finished. The manuscript consists of 20 pages, 34.2cm x 22cm
- **Dapitan-**another novel which Rizal started to write but it is unfinished, written in ironic Spanish. He wrote it during his exile in Dapitan to depict the town life and customs. The manuscript consists of 8 pages, 23cm x 16cm
- A novel in Spanish about the life in Pili, a town in Laguna, is also unfinished. The manuscript consists of 147 pages, 8" x 6.5", without title
- The beginnings of another novel are contained in two notebooks—the first notebook contains 31 written pages, 35.5 cm x 22 cm and second 12 written pages, 22cm x 17cm. this unfinished novel is written in Spanish and style is ironic

Chapter 20

OPHTHALMIC SURGEON IN HONG KONG (1891-1892)

-Rizal left Europe for Hong Kong, where he lived from November, 1891 to June, 1892. His reasons for leaving Europe were (1) *life was unbearable in Europe because of his political differences with M.H. del Pilar and other Filipinos in Spain* (2) *to be near his idolized Philippines and family*

- **October 3, 1891**-two weeks after the publication of Fili, Rizal left Ghent for Paris, where he stayed a few days to say goodbye to the Lunas, the Pardo de Taveras, the Venturas and other friends; Rizal proceeded by train to Marseilles
 - **October 18, 1891**- Rizal boarded the steamer Melbourne bound for Hong Kong
 - **Father Fuchs-** a Tyrolese, Rizal enjoyed playing chess. Rizal describe him to Blumentritt as **"He is a fine fellow, A Father Damaso without pride and malice"**
 - **November 20, 1891**-Rizal arrived in Hong Kong
 - Rizal established his residence at No. 5 D' Aguilar Street No. 2 Rednaxola Terrace, where he also opened his medical clinic
 - **December 1, 1891**- Rizal wrote his parents asking their permission to return home.
- On the same date, his brother-in-law, Manuel T. Hidalgo, sent him a letter relating the sad news of the **"deportation of twenty-five persons from Calamba, including father, Neneng, Sisa, Lucia, Paciano and the rest of us."**
- The Christmas of 1891 in Hong Kong was one of the happiest Yuletide celebrations in Rizal's life: For he had a happy family reunion
 - **January 31, 1892**- Rizal wrote to Blumentritt, recounting pleasant life in Hong Kong
 - To earn a living for himself and for his family, Rizal practiced medicine
 - **Dr. Lorenzo P. Marques-** a Portuguese physician, who became Rizal's friend and admirer, who helped him to build up a wide clientele. In recognition of Rizal's skill as an ophthalmic surgeon, he turned over to him many of his eye cases
 - Rizal successfully operated on his mother's left eye so that she was able to read and write again.

BORNEO COLONIZATION PROJECT

- Rizal planned to move the landless Filipino families to North Borneo (Sabah), rich British owned island and carve out of its virgin wildness a **"New Calamba"**

- **March 7, 1892-** Rizal went to Sandakan on board the ship Menon to negotiate with the British authorities for the establishment of a Filipino colony
 - Rizal looked over the land up the Bengkoka River in Maradu Bay which was offered by the British North Borneo Company
 - **April 20, 1892-** Rizal was back in Hong Kong
 - Hidalgo- Rizal's brother-in-law, objected to the colonization project
 - **Governor Valeriano Weyler-** Cubans odiously called "**The Butcher**"
 - **Governor Eulogio Despujol-** the Count of Caspe, a new governor general after Weyler
 - **December 23, 1891-** first letter of Rizal to Governor Despujol
 - **March 21, 1892-** Rizal's second letter and gave it to a ship captain to be sure it would reach Governor Despujol's hand
- in this second letter, he requested the governor general to permit the landless Filipinos to establish themselves in Borneo
- Despujol could not approve the Filipino immigration to Borneo, alleging that "**the Philippines lacked laborers**" and "**it was not very patriotic to go off and cultivate foreign soil.**"

WRITINGS IN HONG KONG

- "**Ang Mga Karapatan Nang Tao**- which is a Tagalog translation of "The Rights of Man" proclaimed by the French Revolution in 1789
 - "**A la Nacion Espanola**" (**To the Spanish Nation**)- Rizal wrote in 1891, which is an appeal to Spain to right the wrongs done to the Calamba tenants
 - "**Sa Mga Kababayan**" (**To my Countrymen**)- another proclamation written in December, 1891 explaining the Calamba agrarian situation
 - **The Hong Kong Telegraph-** a British daily newspaper whose editor is Mr. Frazier Smith, a friend of Rizal
- Rizal contributed articles to this newspaper
- "**Una Visita a la Victoria Gaol**" (**A Visit to Victoria Gaol**)- Rizal wrote on March 2, 1892, an account of his visit to the colonial prison of Hong Kong
- in this article, Rizal contrasted the cruel Spanish prison system with the modern and more humane British prison system
- "**Colonisation du British North Borneo, par de Familles de Iles Philippines**" (**Colonization of British North Borneo by Families from the Philippine Islands**)- an article in French which Rizal elaborated on the same idea in another article in Spanish, "Proyecto de Colonizacion del British North Borneo por los Filipinos" (Project of the Colonization of British North Borneo by the Filipinos)
 - "**La Mano Roja**" (**The Red Hand**)- Rizal wrote in June, 1892, which was printed in sheet form in Hong Kong
- it denounces the frequent outbreaks of intentional fires in Manila
- **Constitution of La Liga Filipina-** the most important writing made by Rizal during his Hong Kong sojourn, which was printed in Hong Kong, 1892
- to deceive the Spanish authorities, the printed copies carried the false information that the printing was done by **the LONDON PRINTING PRESS**
- **Domingo Franco-**a friend of Rizal in Manila whom the copies of the printed Liga constitution were sent

