Republic of the Philippines

**BOHOL ISLAND STATE UNIVERSITY**

Calape, Bohol

**Life, Works, and Writings of Rizal**

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**Present Jose Rizal's Biography**

José Rizal (June 19, 1861 – December 30, 1896) was a Filipino patriot, physician, and author who became a symbol of the Philippine nationalist movement. Born in Calamba, Philippines, he was the son of a prosperous landowner. Rizal was highly educated, studying in Manila and later at the University of Madrid. A skilled medical student, he focused on reforming Spanish rule in the Philippines, though he did not seek independence for his country.

Most of Rizal's influential work was done in Europe, where he lived between 1882 and 1892. His first novel, Noli me tangere (1887), revealed the social ills under Spanish colonial rule. The sequel, El filibusterismo (1891), solidified his position as a leading voice for reform. He also published an annotated edition of Antonio Morga’s Sucesos de las Islas Filipinas (1890), to demonstrate the Philippines’ rich pre-colonial history.

Rizal became a key figure in the Propaganda Movement, contributing to the publication La Solidaridad in Barcelona. His political goals included making the Philippines a province of Spain, securing representation in the Spanish parliament, replacing Spanish friars with Filipino priests, and ensuring legal equality for Filipinos.

In 1892, Rizal returned to the Philippines and founded the Liga Filipina, a nonviolent reform organization. He was soon exiled to Dapitan in Mindanao. In 1896, the Filipino nationalist group Katipunan initiated a revolt against Spain. Although Rizal was not involved in the uprising, he was arrested, tried for sedition, and executed by a firing squad in Manila on December 30, 1896. His death fueled the movement for Philippine independence.

Before his execution, Rizal wrote Último adiós ("Last Farewell"), a poignant farewell to his country and people, which remains a literary masterpiece.

Today, José Rizal is celebrated as a national hero in the Philippines, recognized for his intellect, courage, and significant contributions to the nation’s fight for independence.

**Family Tree of Jose Rizal**

**Parents:**

* **Francisco Mercado:** Born May 11, 1818, in Biñan, Laguna, youngest of 13 children. He was a landowner and Dominican tenant. He emphasized discipline and moral education for his children.
* **Teodora Alonso Realonda:** Born November 9, 1827, in Manila, second of five children. She was a cultured and educated woman, influencing Rizal's intellectual development.

**Siblings:**

1. **Saturnina (1850–1913):** Eldest sister, married to Manuel Hidalgo. Published the Tagalog translation of *Noli Me Tangere*.
2. **Paciano (1851–1930):** Only brother, served as Rizal’s mentor and a revolutionary leader.
3. **Narcisa (1852–1939):** Married to Antonio Lopez, discovered Rizal’s burial site and marked it as "R.P.J."
4. **Olimpia (1855–1887):** Married to Silvestro Ubaldo; acted as a confidante for Rizal.
5. **Lucia (1857–1919):** Married Mariano Herbosa, suffered persecution for her ties to Rizal.
6. **Maria (1859–1945):** Married Daniel Faustino Cruz and received many of Rizal's letters.
7. **Jose (1861–1896):** National hero of the Philippines.
8. **Concepcion (1862–1865):** Died young, a source of grief for Rizal.
9. **Josefa (1865–1945):** Unmarried, suffered from epilepsy, and supported Rizal’s ideals.
10. **Trinidad (1868–1951):** Unmarried, safeguarded Rizal’s *Mi Ultimo Adios*.
11. **Soledad (1870–1929):** Youngest sibling, married Pantaleon Quintero.

**Ancestry:**

* **Paternal Line:** Descended from Domingo Lamco, a Chinese immigrant who adopted the surname "Mercado."
* **Maternal Line:** Traced back to Rajah Lakandula and includes Spanish, Chinese, and Japanese ancestry.

**Academic Background of José Rizal**

José Rizal, a brilliant Filipino polymath, exhibited academic excellence and a deep passion for learning throughout his life. His educational journey reflects his dedication to self-improvement and his commitment to helping his country. Below is an overview of Rizal's educational background, from his early schooling to his advanced studies in Europe.

**Early Education: The Influence of His Family**

1. **Dona Teodora (His Mother)**  
   Rizal’s first teacher was his mother, Dona Teodora Alonso Realonda. She was not only his mother but also his first tutor. She recognized his early intellectual abilities and nurtured his talent for poetry. She patiently taught him to read and write, instilling a love for learning in him from an early age.
2. **Private Tutors**  
   As a child, Rizal was also tutored by private instructors:
   * **Maestro Celestino**
   * **Maestro Lucas**
   * **Leon Monroy** These tutors helped Rizal in his early education, and he excelled under their guidance.

**Education in Biñan, Laguna**

In June 1869, Rizal went to Biñan, Laguna, to further his education. He was accompanied by his older brother, Paciano.

* **Maestro Justiniano** was his teacher in Biñan.
* Rizal excelled in his studies, outshining his classmates in subjects like **Spanish**, **Latin**, and other academic disciplines.

**Life and Studies at Ateneo Municipal de Manila**

* **Entrance to Ateneo (1872)**: In 1872, Rizal entered the Ateneo Municipal de Manila, a Jesuit institution, where he was placed in a class with Spaniards, mestizos, and Filipinos.
* **Fr. Jose Bech** was his professor.
* Initially, Rizal was considered an inferior student and placed at the bottom of his class, but by the end of the month, he had proven his skills and achieved high academic standing.
* **Graduation**: By the time he finished his fourth year, Rizal had earned **five medals** and graduated **summa cum laude** (with the highest honors) at the age of 16, receiving a **Bachelor of Arts** degree on **March 23, 1877**.

**Extracurricular Involvement in Ateneo**

During his time at Ateneo, Rizal was actively involved in several extracurricular activities:

* He was a **campus leader** and was dubbed the “emperor” of his class.
* He was an **active member of the Marian Congregation**, a religious society, and served as its secretary.
* He was also a member of the **Academy of Spanish Literature** and the **Academy of Natural Sciences**.
* Rizal’s artistic talents flourished at Ateneo. He studied **painting** under **Agustin Saez**, a well-known Spanish painter, and **sculpture** under **Romualdo de Jesus**.
* His physical fitness was important to him, and he engaged in **gymnastics** and **fencing** under the supervision of his sports-minded uncle, **Tio Manuel**.

**Medical Studies at the University of Santo Tomas (1877-1882)**

* After graduating from Ateneo, Rizal enrolled at the **University of Santo Tomas (UST)** in 1877, where he initially studied **Philosophy and Letters**.
* In 1878, he shifted to studying **Medicine**, a course he chose primarily to cure his mother's failing eyesight.
* Rizal’s studies at UST were marked by his intellectual curiosity and pursuit of academic excellence. He won several literary awards during his time there.
* **Pre-Med Course**: Rizal completed a preparatory course in **Physics, Chemistry**, and **Natural History**, known as the **Curso de Ampliacion**. Out of 28 students, only Rizal and three others were granted the privilege to take the preparatory course alongside the first year of medical studies.
* Rizal underwent **practical medical training** at the **Hospital de San Juan de Dios** in Intramuros.
* In his final year at UST, Rizal earned **Notable** grades (Very Good) in all his subjects and ranked second among seven students who passed the medical course. However, he chose to study further in Spain before completing his doctorate.

**Academic Journey to Spain (1882-1885)**

* **Departure to Spain**: Rizal’s departure for Spain in 1882 was kept secret from Spanish authorities and even from his mother, who disapproved of the move. He used the alias **Jose Mercado** to avoid detection.
* **Universidad Central de Madrid**: Upon arriving in Spain, Rizal enrolled in the **Universidad Central de Madrid** in **1882**, where he studied **Philosophy and Letters** and **Medicine**.
* In **1884**, Rizal received a **Licentiate in Medicine** from the Universidad Central de Madrid after completing his medical studies, although he did not submit the required thesis for his Doctorate.
* **Philosophy and Letters**: Rizal also completed his studies in **Philosophy and Letters** and graduated with **excellent** marks, receiving the **Licentiate in Philosophy and Letters** degree on **June 19, 1885**

**Opthalmology Studies and Travels in Europe**

* After earning his degree in Medicine, Rizal specialized in **Ophthalmology** in **Paris** and **Germany**, aiming to cure his mother's eye condition.
* **Paris (1885)**: Rizal went to **Paris** in 1885, where he studied ophthalmology under **Dr. Louis de Weckert**. He gained valuable experience in the field.
* **Germany (1886)**: In **February 1886**, Rizal traveled to **Heidelberg, Germany**, where he worked at the **University Eye Hospital** under the supervision of **Dr. Otto Becker**, a renowned ophthalmologist.
  + During his stay in Heidelberg, Rizal composed the poem **A Las Flores de Heidelberg** (To the Flowers of Heidelberg) on **February 3, 1886**, inspired by the blooming flowers along the Neckar River.
* Rizal also traveled to **Leipzig**, where he attended lectures on **history** and **psychology** at the **University of Leipzig**.

**Contributions and Final Years**

* **Noli Me Tangere**: It was during his time in Europe that Rizal began writing his famous novel, **Noli Me Tangere**, a powerful critique of Spanish colonial rule and the injustices faced by Filipinos.
* **Further Studies**: Rizal continued to improve his medical and scientific knowledge, associating with leading scholars, scientists, and intellectuals across Europe.
* Rizal’s travels, studies, and interactions with progressive thinkers of Europe played a crucial role in shaping his views on freedom, justice, and the need for reform in the Philippines.

**José Rizal's Travels and Studies Abroad**

José Rizal’s travels and studies abroad were pivotal in shaping his intellectual development, providing him with new ideas, and offering him the opportunity to observe the political and social systems in Europe. These experiences significantly influenced his revolutionary works, especially his novel *Noli Me Tangere*, which would ignite the flames of reform and resistance to Spanish colonial rule in the Philippines. Below is an overview of Rizal’s journeys and academic pursuits outside the Philippines.

**1. First Journey to Europe (1882)**

* **Departure from the Philippines**: Rizal left Manila on **May 3, 1882**, aboard the Spanish steamer *Salvadora*, bound for **Singapore**. He kept his departure a secret from the Spanish authorities, the friars, and even his mother, who strongly opposed the idea of him going abroad. He used the alias **José Mercado** to conceal his identity.
* **Objective**: His goal was to continue his medical studies and further his education in Europe. He also sought to observe and study the conditions of the people in Europe, particularly the political and social landscape in preparation for his future work for reform in the Philippines.

**2. Spain (1882-1885)**

* **Arrival in Spain**: Rizal arrived in **Barcelona** on **June 16, 1882**, and proceeded to Madrid where he enrolled in the **Universidad Central de Madrid** to pursue studies in **Medicine** and **Philosophy and Letters**.
* **Universidad Central de Madrid**: Rizal focused on completing his medical degree, ultimately earning a **Licentiate in Medicine** in **1884**, despite not completing the thesis for his doctorate. Additionally, he earned a **Licentiate in Philosophy and Letters** in **1885**, receiving excellent marks.
* **Other Academic Pursuits**: During his time in Madrid, Rizal attended lectures, read widely, and interacted with prominent Spanish intellectuals. His exposure to progressive European ideas strengthened his resolve to fight for Philippine reform and independence.

**Key Accomplishments in Spain**:

* Studied **Philosophy**, **Medicine**, and **Literature** at the university.
* Published essays and articles in European newspapers and periodicals, voicing his opinions on Philippine reform.
* Began writing his seminal novel **Noli Me Tangere** in Madrid, which would later be published in Berlin.

**3. France (1885)**

* **Specialization in Ophthalmology**: After completing his studies in Madrid, Rizal moved to **Paris** in **1885** to specialize in **Ophthalmology**. He studied under **Dr. Louis de Weckert**, a noted ophthalmologist, who helped him refine his skills.
* **Motivation for Ophthalmology**: Rizal chose this field primarily because he wanted to help cure his mother, **Dona Teodora**, who had been suffering from failing eyesight.
* **Medical Work in Paris**: During his time in Paris, Rizal also took the opportunity to visit other medical institutions and interact with various medical professionals, further expanding his knowledge in his chosen field of specialization.

**4. Germany (1886-1887)**

* **Heidelberg, Germany**: In **February 1886**, Rizal moved to **Heidelberg**, where he worked at the **University Eye Hospital** under the supervision of **Dr. Otto Becker**, a renowned German ophthalmologist. He gained further experience and honed his skills in eye surgery.
* **Poem "A Las Flores de Heidelberg"**: During his stay in Heidelberg, Rizal wrote the beautiful poem **"A Las Flores de Heidelberg"** (To the Flowers of Heidelberg) in **February 1886**. The poem expressed his admiration for the blooming flowers along the **Neckar River**, symbolizing his appreciation for the peaceful and progressive atmosphere in Germany.
* **Leipzig, Germany**: In **August 1886**, Rizal traveled to **Leipzig**, where he attended lectures at the **University of Leipzig** on **history** and **psychology**. His exposure to academic discussions in Europe deeply influenced his intellectual and philosophical development.

**5. Other Travels in Europe**

Throughout his time in Europe, Rizal traveled widely to explore various countries and further his studies:

* **Belgium**: Rizal briefly visited **Brussels**, where he continued writing and revising his novel *Noli Me Tangere*.
* **Austria**: He also visited **Vienna**, where he took the opportunity to study political theories and observe the social conditions of Europeans.

During these travels, Rizal gained a broader perspective on European politics, history, and culture, all of which influenced his revolutionary ideas and his desire to see change in the Philippines.

**6. Rizal's Social and Intellectual Engagement in Europe**

* **Connections with Intellectuals and Reformists**: Rizal befriended many influential individuals and intellectuals during his travels, including:
  + **Maximo Viola**, a Filipino who became Rizal's close friend and helped finance the publication of *Noli Me Tangere*.
  + **Dr. Louis de Weckert**, Rizal’s mentor in Paris.
  + **Senor Eusebio Corominas**, a Spanish journalist and fellow reformist.
  + **Don Miguel Morayta**, a Spanish historian and liberal thinker.

These relationships helped Rizal gain insights into European philosophies, which were critical in the development of his reformist views.

* **Writing and Publications**: During his travels in Europe, Rizal continued to write articles, essays, and critiques on the situation in the Philippines and the injustices of Spanish rule. His writings appeared in various newspapers and journals, contributing to the reform movement.

**7. Major Literary Work – *Noli Me Tangere* (1887)**

Rizal’s time in Europe was crucial for the development of his literary and political works. While in Berlin, **Germany**, Rizal completed and published his first novel, ***Noli Me Tangere* (Touch Me Not)**, in **1887**. The novel was a powerful critique of Spanish colonial rule, the Spanish friars, and the corruption in the Philippine social structure. It exposed the hardships of Filipinos under Spanish oppression and called for social reform.

* **Publishing the Novel**: With the financial help of his friend, **Maximo Viola**, Rizal published the novel in **Berlin** after finalizing the manuscript in **1886**. The novel was later smuggled into the Philippines, where it became a catalyst for the Filipino nationalist movement.

**8. Final Years in Europe (1888-1891)**

After completing his studies and publishing *Noli Me Tangere*, Rizal continued his travels across Europe, meeting influential intellectuals and discussing revolutionary ideas. In 1888, he visited **England** to further immerse himself in the works of English philosophers, and in **1891**, he returned to **France** and **Belgium** before returning to the Philippines.

* **Second Novel – *El Filibusterismo* (1891)**: During his time in Europe, Rizal wrote his second novel, ***El Filibusterismo* (The Reign of Greed)**, which was darker and more revolutionary in tone. It continued the narrative from *Noli Me Tangere* and called for more drastic changes in Filipino society and governance.

**José Rizal's First Homecoming**

José Rizal’s first return to the Philippines after his studies and travels abroad marked a significant turning point in his life. It was during this period that Rizal’s ideas and writings began to take a more focused direction towards reforming Filipino society and challenging the oppressive Spanish colonial rule. His homecoming was not just a personal reunion with his family and country, but also the beginning of a deeper involvement in the Philippine nationalist movement.

**1. Departure from Europe**

Rizal’s decision to return to the Philippines was motivated by several factors. After completing his studies in Europe, publishing *Noli Me Tangere*, and becoming more involved in political discussions, Rizal felt a stronger sense of responsibility to contribute to the reform of his country. However, his return was also prompted by the need to address personal matters, particularly the health of his mother, **Dona Teodora**, who was suffering from eyesight problems.

In **June 1887**, Rizal made the decision to return to the Philippines, despite the potential dangers of doing so. The Spanish authorities were already aware of his growing influence, and his writings were becoming increasingly controversial. Rizal decided to make his journey back home in secret, as the Spanish authorities had already banned *Noli Me Tangere* in the Philippines.

**2. Arrival in Manila (June 26, 1887)**

José Rizal arrived in **Manila** on **June 26, 1887**, aboard the steamer **Djemnah**. Despite the political risks involved, his arrival was relatively low-key, as he was still using the alias **José Mercado**, a name he had adopted during his time in Europe to avoid recognition by the Spanish authorities.

Rizal was warmly welcomed by his family and friends upon his return. However, the news of his return did not go unnoticed by the Spanish authorities. Rizal was under surveillance by the colonial government, and he knew that his time in the Philippines might be limited.

**3. Reconnection with Family and Friends**

Upon his return, Rizal spent much of his time reconnecting with his family, particularly his mother, **Dona Teodora**, who had been suffering from failing eyesight. Rizal quickly set to work, treating his mother’s condition with his medical knowledge and performing an eye surgery on her. His mother’s eyesight improved significantly, which gave him immense satisfaction and strengthened his resolve to pursue his career in medicine.

Rizal also rekindled his relationships with his friends and fellow reformists, including **Marcelo H. del Pilar**, **Graciano Lopez Jaena**, and **Antonio Luna**, who were all working towards political and social reforms. They shared Rizal’s vision for a better Philippines, and their collective efforts would later form the foundation of the Philippine reform movement.

**4. Political and Social Involvement**

During his first homecoming, Rizal continued his efforts to promote reform in the Philippines. Although he was a proponent of peaceful reform rather than violent revolution, his writings and actions began to raise concerns among the Spanish authorities.

* **Involvement with La Liga Filipina**: One of Rizal’s most significant contributions during his first homecoming was the founding of **La Liga Filipina** on **July 3, 1892**. La Liga Filipina was a progressive organization that aimed to unite Filipinos in the fight for equal rights and reforms under Spanish rule. The society's objectives included advocating for political and civil rights, promoting education, and seeking reforms in government.
  + Rizal’s goal was to push for reforms through peaceful means, including representation in the Spanish Cortes (Parliament), equal treatment for Filipinos, and an end to the abuses of the friars.
  + **Founding members** of La Liga Filipina included prominent reformists such as **Andres Bonifacio**, **Mariano Ponce**, and **Apolinario Mabini**.
* **Public Speaking and Advocacy**: During this period, Rizal also used public speaking and his writings to call for reforms. His lectures and essays focused on the need for Filipinos to be treated equally to Spaniards, and he condemned the corruption, abuse, and greed of the Spanish colonial officials and the friars.

**5. Arrest and Exile to Dapitan**

Rizal’s activities did not go unnoticed by the Spanish authorities. His association with La Liga Filipina, along with his critical writings and public advocacy, led to growing suspicion.

On **July 6, 1892**, only three days after founding La Liga Filipina, Rizal was arrested by the Spanish authorities for his involvement in the reform movement. Although he was not directly involved in any violent revolutionary activity, the Spanish government viewed his peaceful advocacy for reform as a threat to the colonial status quo.

* **Exile to Dapitan**: In **July 1892**, Rizal was exiled to **Dapitan**, a remote town in **Mindanao**, where he was placed under strict surveillance. The Spanish authorities hoped that isolating him from the rest of the country would diminish his influence. Despite this, Rizal continued to make significant contributions during his exile:
  + He practiced medicine and provided free treatment to the poor in Dapitan.
  + Rizal also engaged in community development work, improving the infrastructure of the town, and establishing a school for local children.
  + During his exile, Rizal wrote **"Sobre la Indolencia de los Filipinos"** (On the Indolence of the Filipinos) and continued to make significant intellectual contributions to the reform movement.

**6. Impact of the First Homecoming**

Rizal’s first homecoming was crucial in cementing his role as one of the foremost advocates for Philippine reform. His return to the Philippines marked the beginning of his active involvement in the fight against colonial oppression.

* His experiences during this time further shaped his ideas on freedom, human rights, and the need for educational and political reforms.
* The founding of **La Liga Filipina** was particularly significant, as it laid the groundwork for the Philippine Revolution and the later formation of the **Katipunan**, the revolutionary group that would fight for Philippine independence.
* Rizal’s decision to remain peaceful in his approach, even in the face of exile and oppression, solidified his reputation as a hero committed to change through education, dialogue, and non-violent action.

**1. Rizal’s Return to Europe (1888)**

After his first homecoming in 1887, José Rizal quickly realized that the political environment in the Philippines was becoming increasingly dangerous. His activities, especially his founding of **La Liga Filipina** and his growing influence as a reformist, had drawn the ire of the Spanish authorities. Rizal was aware that his activism could put him in harm's way, so he decided to return to Europe in **1888** to continue his studies and to avoid further persecution.

* **Departure**: Rizal left the Philippines on **April 3, 1888**, aboard the Spanish ship **Ciriaco**. He made his departure quietly, knowing that his actions in the Philippines had made him a target of the Spanish colonial authorities. His departure was also influenced by his desire to continue his studies in Europe and expand his intellectual horizons.
* **Route and Stops**: During his return to Europe, Rizal traveled extensively across the continent, visiting several countries, including **Hong Kong**, **Japan**, and **Singapore**. In **Hong Kong**, he made his first stop, where he spent a brief time meeting fellow Filipinos and learning more about the Asian societies that he had read about while in Europe.
* **Arrival in Europe**: Rizal arrived in **London** in **May 1888**, where he would spend a considerable amount of time. While in London, he worked on revising and preparing his second novel, **El Filibusterismo** (The Reign of Greed), which was darker and more revolutionary in tone compared to his first novel, *Noli Me Tangere*. Rizal also studied the works of English philosophers and scholars and continued his ophthalmological studies.
* **Social and Intellectual Engagement**: In Europe, Rizal associated with several prominent intellectuals and reformists who helped him further develop his ideas. He frequented libraries and bookshops, engaging in deep reading and discussions. His time in London also allowed him to meet with fellow Filipinos who shared his vision for a free and reformed Philippines. He continued to advocate for Filipino rights through articles, speeches, and correspondences.

**2. Rizal’s Trip Back Home (1892)**

By **1892**, Rizal had established himself as one of the leading reformists in the Philippines and Europe. However, the political situation in the Philippines had become increasingly volatile, and Rizal knew that he had to return to his country to continue his advocacy for reforms.

* **Decision to Return**: Rizal’s decision to return was partly driven by his desire to help his countrymen. His advocacy for peaceful reform, through education and social justice, had won him admiration in Europe, but Rizal realized that the Filipino people needed more than just intellectual movements. They needed action and leadership on the ground.
* **Departure from Europe**: Rizal boarded the **S.S. España** in **June 1892** and set sail for the Philippines once again. He arrived in Manila on **June 26, 1892**, after a brief stop in **Hong Kong**. Despite the political dangers of returning to the Philippines, Rizal was determined to continue his reform efforts. At this point, his writings, including *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo*, had already earned him recognition as a key figure in the movement for Philippine reform.
* **Reestablishment in the Philippines**: Upon his arrival in Manila, Rizal immediately became involved in the reform movement. He founded **La Liga Filipina**, a progressive society aimed at fighting for Filipino rights and securing reforms in governance, education, and representation. However, his political activism soon caught the attention of the Spanish authorities.
* **Arrest and Exile**: Rizal’s involvement with La Liga Filipina led to his arrest by the Spanish authorities, who viewed his activities as subversive. On **July 6, 1892**, he was arrested and charged with sedition. Despite his peaceful approach to reform, the Spanish government saw him as a threat. As a result, Rizal was exiled to **Dapitan**, a remote town in **Mindanao**, where he would spend the next **four years** in isolation under strict surveillance.

**3. Rizal’s Final Journey (1896)**

By **1896**, the political climate in the Philippines had shifted dramatically. The **Katipunan**, a revolutionary group led by **Andres Bonifacio**, had begun an armed struggle against Spanish rule. Rizal, although still committed to peaceful reform, became increasingly embroiled in the growing movement for Philippine independence. His involvement with La Liga Filipina, combined with his writings, made him a target for the Spanish authorities.

* **Arrest and Execution**: In **1896**, the Spanish authorities, fearing Rizal’s influence over the Filipino masses, falsely accused him of being involved in the **Katipunan’s** uprising, despite his firm stance against violence. Rizal was arrested on **November 3, 1896**, and charged with **rebellion** and **conspiracy**. After a brief trial, he was sentenced to death by firing squad.
* **Journey to Bagumbayan (Luneta)**: On the morning of **December 30, 1896**, José Rizal was led to **Bagumbayan** (now **Luneta**), where he faced a firing squad. His final journey was marked by courage, as he walked calmly to his execution site. Despite the unjust charges and the brutal treatment he had received, Rizal maintained his dignity and remained a symbol of hope for the Filipino people.
* **Legacy of Martyrdom**: Rizal’s execution was a turning point in Philippine history. His death galvanized the Filipino people and further fueled the revolution against Spanish colonial rule. He became a martyr for Philippine independence, and his death inspired the **Philippine Revolution** to intensify.

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