REFLECTIVE ESSAY ON **OUR TASK: TO MAKE RIZAL OBSOLETE" by Prof. Renato Constantino**

From the essay "OUR TASK: TO MAKE RIZAL OBSOLETE" by Prof. Renato Constantino, it tells a message that Filipinos nowadays should not only keep in mind that Jose Rizal was the National hero of the country, thus people (Filipinos) should think more about why he became the national hero. Understanding the reality of their situation at that time and reflecting on it these days.

Instead of commemorating Jose Rizal and just giving an honor, we should also continue keeping his idea and address it to the situation nowadays. Fighting for injustice, inequality, oppression, etc., that is also happening in this modern time.

An idea where modern Filipinos should engage upon seeking change in the country. Rather than Rizal being a symbol, we Filipinos should become a Jose Rizal on ourselves. On Prof. Renato's essay, I highlighted some specific sentences on different topics where I can reflect and give some ideas on it.

(1) On the topic "Tulisanes in Cadillacs", there he defined what a real hero is. According to him, a hero is he who best understands the society in which he lives. This statement gives us a better idea on how we can identify a hero. Jose Rizal understands the situation and place where he live in. He knew what was the right decision should take in order to save his fellow people. By using a pen and a notebook, writing novels and not doing violence, he shows that Filipinos don't need to use swords to fight back and claim their freedom. By looking and analyzing what Rizal (our national hero) did, we can keep on our mind that everyone of us can be a hero like Rizal too. A hero who has a principle to stand just like Jose Rizal. A hero who makes a better decision for everyone. And a hero who is willing to sacrifice just to fight for what is right.

(2) We are an uprooted race with very tenuous connections to our past, and consequently we have lost much of our national pride. On the "Without Defense" topic. It highlights the idea of Filipinos not having a strong background idea about its historical past. Due to colonization, migration, and socio-political disturbance, Filipinos faced challenges upon analyzing and understanding cultural estate. Instead of boosting its culture, it slowly adopts foreign practices. A weak national pride may cause lack of patriotism and collective action for the common good.

However, this national pride that was slowly collapsing can be rebuilt by promoting cultural education, strengthening connection from historical past, and by including the contribution of some historical people such as Jose Rizal, Filipinos can make a stronger sense of identity and belonging, rooted in an appreciation for rich and diverse culture.

(3) Lastly the sentence "It is tragic, therefore, that there are so very many Basilios among us today." in From Asocial to Anti-Social Behaviour topic. Here Professor Renato compares the modern Filipino as one of the characters of Rizal's novel. Basilio has a characteristic of being apathy where he just forgets the inhumane murder of his beloved family. Being too weak to speak, causing other citizens less knowledgeable on the reality.

Nowadays, there are still a lot of Filipinos who are like Basilio. They are already experiencing the painful truth in the country but still accept the cruelty of power rather than seeking for justice and changes. The Philippines nowadays are suffering from abusive people, taking advantage of their place and the poor are being oppressed. While we may not suffer as Filipinos did in the past, we are still being made to suffer in ways that bury us in poverty. Like Basilio, many of us have witnessed the corrupt governance of the country, yet choose to remain silent, missing the opportunity to make a stand.

In the essay it was also mentioned that Basilio was recruited by Simoun but refused to join him, he only joined when he saw an opportunity for his personal ambition. It's sad to think that there are still many Filpinos who can be compared to Basilio in the current state of the country. One of the reasons why the Philippines doesn't make any progress. Instead of helping each other, Filipinos often oppose one another.

In conclusion, the sentences I choose in Renato Constantino's essay "Our Task: To Make Rizal Obsolete" highlights the challenges facing modern Filipino society and the enduring importance of our national hero, Jose Rizal's, legacy. It tells us that commemorating Rizal as a national hero is not only about paying honor to his sacrifices but also about understanding the socio-political context of his time and reflecting on how his ideals can inspire meaningful change today.

Constantino's essay encouraged us to let our notions of heroism and national pride, urging us to be like Rizal's commitment to understanding and addressing the injustice and inequality in society. Through Rizal, we are shown that heroism or being a hero is not defined only by acts of violence but can also be done through intellectual, social reform, and moral courage.

Moreover, Constantino's point of view of some modern Filipinos deeply highlights the challenges of cultural identity, historical consciousness, and social apathy that continue to torture the nation and its people. The metaphor of "Basilios" among us serves as a reminder of the dangers of selfishness and involvement in the face of injustice and oppression.

Lastly, it inspires the Filipinos to engage the battle for justice, equality, and freedom, just as Rizal did in his time. It reflects us not to look only on Rizal's commemoration but rather to embody the principles and values that he embraces, so that his legacy remains relevant and effective in creating the future of the Philippines.