READING IN PHILIPPINE HISTORY

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**COURSE&SECTION : BSIT-1F**

ACTIVITY 4

ANYARE? Assessing the Changes to the Customs of the Tagalogs

Choose one custom of the Tagalogs from Plasencia’s account. Compare it to the contemporary practices in Philippine society. Note the changes and explain in 200-400 words the factors that can account for these changes (e.g., slavery, the concept of marriage, the concept of death, and burial practices)

**WORSHIP OF THE TAGALOGS**

First, let’s work to define what true, Biblical worship is. The word “worship” comes from “worth ship”. Worshiping something means valuing it above all else. To regard it as the most important thing and behave appropriately. It is possible to worship anything. Worship is the expression of our deepest feelings and highest praise for something. God is truly worshiped when we love Him with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. It is when we value God above all things and prioritize Him in our hearts.

Back then, there were no temples or churches, however ceremonies and worships are celebrated in the house of the Dato which they call “simbahan”. The house was quite large because its purpose was to accommodate the people of the barangay during celebrations. Worship today is separated into many distinct religions such as catholic, INC, and others, and each religion believes in and worships different gods or saints. Previously, people worshiped at the Dato's house (simbahan); nowadays, worship is held in many venues or concrete structures known as churches. Bathala is one of the many idols they adore. They thought the name Bathala meant "all mighty" or "creator of all things." They also worship the sun, moon, stars (Tala), constellations named Balatik and Mapulon, Dian Masantala, patron of lovers and generation, Lacapati and Indianale, patrons of lands and husbandry, and crocodiles (Buaya), which they fear. Our almighty is now a spirit known as Lord. Also, in the religious customs of our natives they have distinguish 12 kinds of devil priest: Catolonan, Mangangauay, Manyisalat. Mancocolam, Hocloban, Silagan, Magtatangal, Osuang, Mangagayoma, Sonat, Pangatahojan, and Bayoguin. However, just a few people believe in the 12 devil priests, and until now the others have not been able to prove that this is really true. The account exposes the world to the intact culture of the people of Luzon. This report chronicles the sociopolitical situation and religious practices prior to the arrival of the Spaniards. It explains how and where the social system evolved from.  The account also emphasizes the chieftain's or Datos' importance and responsibilities.