

KURT PUA

SOCIALIZATION, OUR LIFELONG JOURNEY GOING FROM EMPTY VESSEL TO A PAINTED CANVAS

"MAN IS BY NATURE A SOCIAL ANIMAL; AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS UNSOCIAL NATURALLY AND NOT ACCIDENTALLY IS EITHER BENEATH OUR NOTICE OR MORE THAN HUMAN," A QUOTE BY ARISTOTLE. EVER SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME, WE HUMAN BEINGS HAVE PROGRESSED BY BEING IN GROUPS. CIVILIZATIONS, CULTURE, AND MANY OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS HAVE BEEN OBSERVED THROUGH THE FORMATION OF ALLIANCES. IT IS OBVIOUS TO SAY THAT HUMANS ARE SOCIAL BEINGS. WE PROGRESS VIA COLLABORATION AND COMMUNICATION, NOT BY BEING CONSUMED BY SOLITUDE. SOCIETY IS MADE UP OF INDIVIDUALS, INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE SHAPED BY CULTURE AND SOCIAL INTERACTIONS. CONSEQUENTLY, SOCIETY IN ITS ENTIRETY SHAPES ITS PEOPLE. FROM THE WAY A PERSON TALKS, ALL THE WAY TO THE MOST SPECIFIC OF QUALITIES, IT IS DETERMINED BY THEIR SOCIETY. IN A VIDEO ENTITLED "CULTURAL DIFFERENCES NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC," WE CAN OBSERVE HOW IMPACTFUL A PERSON'S CULTURE IS ON HOW THEY DISCERN OR UNDERSTAND DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES AND EVENTS. WHAT'S NORMAL FOR YOU MAY BE VERY PECULIAR FOR A PERSON ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GLOBE. IT'S OBSERVABLE IN THE VIDEO HOW SOCIETY PLAYED A ROLE IN THE WAY THE SUDANESE PEOPLE THINK AND INTERACT WITH OTHERS.

ONE IMPACTFUL QUOTE IN THE VIDEO IS "WHAT A SHAME." THIS LINE IS SHORT BUT ENCAPSULATES A LOT OF DISSATISFACTION. THE LINE HIGHLIGHTS THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF THE SUDANESE PEOPLE OVER THE DIFFERENCES IN HUMAN INTERACTIONS IN AMERICA COMPARED TO SUDAN. IN THEIR HOME COUNTRY, PEOPLE TREAT EACH OTHER WITH KINDNESS AND WITH A BRIGHT SMILE, SHOWCASING THEIR WELCOMING AND HOSPITABLE NATURE. IN OUR CASE, FILIPINO CULTURE TEACHES A LOT OF THINGS, ESPECIALLY OUR RESPECTFUL MANNERISMS LIKE MANO AND THE USE OF PO AND OPO, THAT SOME KIDS ARE PROUD OF (INQUIRER.NET, 2015). THE VIDEO ALSO EMPHASIZES THE THINGS THAT A PERSON MAY CONSIDER AS FACTS OR TRUTH. IT IS SURPRISING HOW THE CONCEPT OF SHOWERS, APARTMENTS, AND HAVING ONE WIFE IS SOMETHING THAT IS BOTH ASTONISHING AND UNBELIEVABLE TO THEM. I BELIEVE THAT THIS SHOWCASES THE DIFFERENCES A PERSON'S SURROUNDINGS CAN HAVE ON THEIR CONCEPT OF REALITY.

IT IS FASCINATING TO THINK THAT EVEN THOUGH SOCIETY DICTATES THAT INDIVIDUALS BE A PARTICULAR SOMETHING, WE AS HUMAN BEINGS STILL POSSESS SOME QUALITIES THAT MAKE US UNIQUE. QUALITIES THAT DIFFERENTIATE US FROM OTHER PEOPLE. BUT WE CANNOT DISCOVER THESE DISTINGUISHABLE CHARACTERISTICS WITHOUT SOCIALIZATION. EACH OF US HAS A TALE TO TELL, AND WITH THIS, WE ALL HAVE OUR OWN SOCIALIZATION STORY. WE BECOME WHO WE ARE BECAUSE OF MULTIPLE FACTORS. IN MY CASE, RELIGION, ENVIRONMENT, UPBRINGING, AND THE PEOPLE WHO SURROUND ME HAVE BEEN THE BIGGEST DETERMINANTS OF MY CHARACTER. I BELIEVE IF I WERE TO DESCRIBE MYSELF IN THE MOST HONEST WAY POSSIBLE, I AM VERY ENERGETIC AND SOCIALE. OUR PREVIOUS JOHARI WINDOW ACTIVITY HAS BEEN MY WAY OF VERIFYING THIS THROUGH THE LENSES OF OTHER PEOPLE. EVEN IN MY YOUNGER YEARS, MY RELATIVES HAVE ALWAYS LOOKED AT ME AS SOMEONE FRIENDLY. THE BIGGEST FACTOR IN ME BEING THE WAY I AM TODAY IS MY FAMILY ITSELF. THEY CAN BE DESCRIBED AS MY "PRIMARY SOCIALIZATION." I SAY THIS BECAUSE EVER SINCE I WAS BORN, THEY HAVE BEEN MY IMMEDIATE INTERACTION AS A HUMAN BEING. THEY TAUGHT ME EVERYTHING THAT I NEED TO KNOW BEFORE I SET OFF FOR THE REAL WORLD. WITHOUT MY FAMILY, I AM NOTHING. THEY ALLOWED ME TO FLOURISH AS A SOCIAL BUTTERFLY. THE FIRST THING A PERSON NEEDS WHEN IT COMES TO DISCOVERING THEMSELVES IS A SUPPORT SYSTEM. THEY DIDN'T RESTRICT ME FROM INTERACTING WITH OTHERS. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, WE ALWAYS HAD FAMILY TRIPS AND GATHERINGS FREQUENTLY. WHEN I INTERACTED WITH PEOPLE IN MY AGE GROUP, I ALWAYS MADE FRIENDS. I BELIEVE I CONTINUED BEING THIS WAY BECAUSE MY FAMILY NEVER STOPPED ME. THIS IS WHERE I MADE A DISCOVERY: I AM SOMEONE WHO CAN INTERACT WITH OTHER PEOPLE WITHOUT ANY EFFORT. IT MAY SOUND SIMPLE, BUT IT'S WHAT DETERMINED EVERYTHING. IN OUR CULTURE, WE COMMONLY OBSERVE AMONG THE ELITES THAT THEY RESTRICT THE INTERACTION OF THEIR OFFSPRING WITH OTHERS, MORE COMMONLY WHEN THE OTHER KID IS SOMEONE OF A LOWER CLASS. THE MOST COMMON LINE WE WOULD HEAR IS "PSST! WAG KA MAKIPAGLARO DYAN!" AND THIS SINGLE LINE WILL CONTINUE TO ECHO IN THE MIND OF THEIR KID. AS A RESULT, THEY GROW UP UNABLE TO CONNECT WITH OTHERS. THIS IS WHY I THINK THAT THE LACK OF RESTRICTION BY MY FAMILY IS OF IMMENSE EFFECT. THEY DO NOT RESTRICT ME FROM SOCIALIZING WITH OTHER INDIVIDUALS; AS A RESULT, HUMAN INTERACTION HAS BECOME A NORMAL PART OF MY LIFE. I NEVER WOULD HAVE BECOME THE MAN I AM TODAY WITHOUT THE PEOPLE WHO SURROUND ME. THIS IS WHY MEAD'S THEORY HIGHLY RESONATES WITH ME; HE STATES THAT "THE SELF IS NOT THERE FROM BIRTH, BUT IT IS DEVELOPED OVER TIME FROM SOCIAL EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES" (CITED FROM SAST MOD 7, 2018). THIS REMINDS ME OF A QUESTION A FRIEND FROM UPD ASKED ME BEFORE: "WITHOUT YOUR EXPERIENCES, ARE YOU STILL THE SAME PERSON?"

PUA NEW EDITION!

THE QUESTION ASKED BY MY FRIEND MADE ME THINK VERY DEEPLY. IT MADE ME QUESTION A LOT OF THINGS ABOUT MYSELF. I CAME FROM A FAMILY THAT HAS IMMENSE DEVOTION TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, AND WHEN CONFLICTED, WE ASK GOD. WE HAVE THE BIBLE. IN TIMES WHEN WE QUESTION LIFE, WE CATHOLICS KNOW THAT WHEN ADAM AND EVE WERE CREATED, THEY ALREADY HAD INTELLECT. THE CHRISTIAN FAITH ALREADY HAS A STRUCTURED EXPLANATION OF HUMAN LIFE. IT CONTRADICTS THE QUESTION AT HAND. MY CHRISTIANITY HAS A LOT OF EFFECT ON HOW I DEAL WITH THINGS AND THE WAY MY MIND WORKS. IT'S LIKE BEFORE I CAME UP WITH A RESPONSE, OR BEFORE I DO AN ACTION, I THINK IF IT'S MORALLY RIGHT. DOES IT LEAD TO SIN? MY CHRISTIANITY IS A GREAT SOCIAL AGENT OF MINE; IT IS ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL FACTORS IN MY LIFE. I HAVE ATTAINED DIFFERENT VALUES FROM MY CHRISTIAN FAITH. I AM GUIDED BY THE CONCEPTS AND TEACHINGS OF OUR RELIGION. IT GOVERNS MY ACTIONS IN EVERYDAY LIFE. MY MORALITY, OBEDIENCE, AND EMPATHY, MY MENTIFACTS, ALL STEM FROM MY FAITH. IT AFFECTS MY PERSONALITY SIGNIFICANTLY. IT IS ALREADY A GIVEN THAT I AM A MAN OF GOD. ON THE SURFACE LEVEL, IT IS EVIDENT THAT MY SOCIAL AGENTS ARE MY FAITH, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNITY. BUT IF I DO DEEP INTERNALIZATION, THE SO-CALLED "SECRET AGENT" THAT I HAVE WOULD BE MY EXPERIENCES. I MAY NOT PROVIDE AN EXACT PERSON AS AN AGENT, BUT MY EXPERIENCES HAVE BEEN KEY TO UNLOCKING A LOT ABOUT MY PERSONALITY. SOME OF IT BROUGHT ME IMMENSE JOY, SOME GAVE ME FORGETTABLE EVENTS. BUT NO MATTER HOW THE EXPERIENCES WERE, ALL OF THEM CONTRIBUTED TO THE PIECES THAT COMPLETED MY JIGSAW PUZZLE. WE ARE BORN INTO THIS WORLD AS MERE MEDIUMS. EMPTY VESSELS THAT ARE WAITING TO CONSUME INFORMATION. WE BECOME THE INDIVIDUAL THAT WE ARE DUE TO THE DIFFERENCES IN THE THINGS THAT WE EXPERIENCE. BY THE INSTITUTIONS WITH WHICH THEY ARE ASSOCIATED, WITH THEIR COLLECTIVE NORMS ("RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY," N.D.). I AM NO DIFFERENT; I AM AS CONFIDENT AS I AM TODAY DUE TO THE INTENDED CRITICISM THAT MY HIGH SCHOOL FOES BROUGHT UPON ME. THEY BULLIED ME RELENTLESSLY TO THE POINT THAT MY SELF-ESTEEM PLUMMETED. THIS HAS BEEN A GREAT TURNING POINT IN MY LIFE; SOME PEOPLE MAY EVEN CALL IT MY "DEVELOPMENTAL SOCIALIZATION." IT LED ME TO BELIEVE THAT ENOUGH IS ENOUGH, THERE NEEDS TO COME A POINT WHERE I SHOULDN'T HIDE ANYMORE, THAT I SHOULD STOP BEING A COWARD.



TO SOME, THIS MIGHT BE A POINT OF NO RETURN, BUT I USED IT AS FUEL FOR THE BETTERMENT OF MYSELF. ANOTHER OBSTACLE THAT I ENCOUNTERED IN MY LIFE WAS MY SURGERY. WAY BACK ON FEBRUARY 14, 2020, JUST BEFORE THE ONSET OF THE PANDEMIC, I HAD SURGERY. THIS OPERATION WAS LONG OVERDUE; THE SYMPTOMS LASTED FOR ALMOST AN ENTIRE YEAR. AN ENTIRE YEAR FILLED WITH REPEATED HOSPITALIZATIONS. IT CAME TO A POINT THAT I FELT THAT IT WOULD JUST NOT END. THEN IT CAME FEBRUARY, THE PAIN COULD JUST NOT BE CONTAINED ANYMORE, THE DOCTOR SCHEDULED THE OPERATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THANK GOD THE OPERATION WAS A SUCCESS. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS SIDELINED ME FOR TWO LONG YEARS OF RECOVERY DUE TO A COMPLICATION IN MY SKIN. I AM GRATEFUL THAT MY DOCTOR WAS SUPPORTIVE; HE NEVER LEFT ME UP UNTIL I MADE A FULL RECOVERY. THIS OPERATION LEFT ME DEPRESSED FOR A WHILE; THE EMOTIONAL TRAUMA WAS JUST TOO MUCH TO HANDLE. IF IT WERE NOT FOR MY SUPPORT SYSTEM, I WOULD HAVE GIVEN UP ENTIRELY. I HAVE MY FAMILY AND MY FRIENDS WHO HAVE NEVER LEFT MY SIDE. AND OF COURSE, I HAVE GOD TO GUIDE ME THROUGH THIS VERY UNFORTUNATE TIME IN

MY LIFE. IF IT WERE ANOTHER PERSON, THIS SURELY WOULD HAVE BEEN THE REASON FOR ENDING IT ALL. WHAT THIS STORY TRIES TO TELL ME IS THAT I AM VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE THE PEOPLE IN MY LIFE. HENCE, THEY ARE MY MOST INFLUENTIAL AGENTS WHEN IT COMES TO SOCIALIZATION. THEY MADE ME WHO I AM TODAY. THIS IS WHY I THINK THAT THE SUPPORT THAT A PERSON RECEIVES IS THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE MAKER. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE POSITIVE OPPORTUNITIES THAT WERE GIVEN TO ME IN HIGH SCHOOL PLAYED AN INTEGRAL PART IN MY DEVELOPMENT. MY TIME IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL, MY SHORT VARSITY STINT, AND MY CLOSE INTERACTIONS WITH MY TEACHERS ALL CONTRIBUTED TO MY CHARACTER. THIS IS WHY UP TO THIS DAY, I'M STILL TAKING PART IN LEADERSHIP ROLES, AND I WILL CONTINUE TO STRIVE TO IMPROVE UNTIL I BECOME THE LEADER THAT I WANT TO BE. GIVEN THIS, THESE EXPERIENCES HELPED MOLD ME INTO WHO I AM TODAY. THESE EXPERIENCES, BOTH POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE, HAVE BEEN A LARGE REASON FOR SOME OF THE NOTABLE QUALITIES THAT PEOPLE DISTINGUISH ME FOR. MY RESILIENCE, MY EXTROVERTED NATURE, MY CONFIDENCE, AND MANY OTHER THINGS WERE GAINED THROUGH MY EXPERIENCES. WITHOUT IT, I WOULD BE AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT PERSON.

REFLECTION SPECIAL EDITION

GIVEN ALL OF THE PREVIOUS THINGS I'VE STATED, THE BOTTOM LINE IS HOW IMPORTANT THESE SOCIALIZING AGENTS ARE IN MOLDING THE PERSON'S ENTIRETY. GOING BACK TO THE VIDEO ENTITLED "CULTURAL DIFFERENCES NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC." IT IS FASCINATING TO SEE HOW DIFFERENT CULTURES IMPACT THE PEOPLE OF THEIR RESPECTIVE REGIONS. A PERSON'S SURROUNDINGS

MAY VERY WELL BE THEIR CONCEPT OF REALITY. AND EXPANDING ON THE EARLIER QUESTION, EXPERIENCES AND HUMAN INTERACTIONS ARE THE DETERMINING FACTORS AS TO WHY WE BECOME OURSELVES. THE SOLE REASON WHY WE HAVE THE CONCEPT OF BEING A HUMAN BEING IS NOT INNATE. IT IS AN ONGOING PROCESS THAT IS GAINED THROUGH OUR LIFETIME, AND IT IS CALLED SOCIALIZATION (CITED FROM SAS1 MOD 1, 2018). WE CANNOT DISMISS THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIALIZATION WHEN IT COMES TO A PERSON KNOWING WHO THEY ARE. IF WE NEVER INTERACT WITH OTHERS, WE WILL NEVER HAVE A WAY TO DETERMINE WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE. THE FACTORS THAT DIFFERENTIATE US FROM OTHERS. WE WILL ONLY BE BEINGS, NOT MUCH MORE THAN THOSE THAT LACK INTELLECT. WHEN WE LOOK AT CASES LIKE GENIE, SHE WAS NEVER ALLOWED TO INTERACT WITH OTHER HUMAN BEINGS; AS A RESULT, SHE GAINED NO SENSE OF BEING A HUMAN (CITED FROM SAS1 MOD 1, 2018). THE WAY SHE BEHAVED WAS ANIMAL-LIKE, AND THIS STRENGTHENS MY POINT FROM EARLIER. WE ARE MERE VESSELS WHEN BORN INTO THIS WORLD; EXPERIENCES ARE THE DETERMINING FACTOR THAT DETERMINES YOUR IDENTITY. WHEN YOU FELL TO THE GROUND AS A KID, WHEN YOU DISCOVERED YOUR SECONDARY SEXUAL CHARACTERISTIC, WHEN YOU HAD YOUR FIRST FIGHT, WHEN YOU HAD YOUR FIRST KISS, ALL OF THESE DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES, THOUGH THEY APPEAR NEGIGIBLE, CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR OVERALL IDENTITY.

ALONG WITH YOUR AFFAIRS, THE COLLECTIVE BODY THAT YOU'RE PART OF IS ALSO INTEGRAL TO YOUR UNIQUENESS. IN OUR CASE, THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT CONTROLS MANY INSTITUTIONS THAT DETERMINE A CHILD'S CHARACTER. THE BIGGEST BEING THE EDUCATION SYSTEM. FROM THE ARTICLE BY JOSEPH PUYAT (2005), THE GENERATION OF TODAY HAS A DISTINGUISHING ELEMENT: THEY ARE A GENERATION THAT POSSESSES GREAT ADAPTABILITY AND SELF-ESTEEM. GIVEN THESE GREAT QUALITIES, THERE IS A FLAW THAT IS CONTINUOUSLY BEING IGNORED. NOT ALL PEOPLE GAIN AN EDUCATION. THERE IS A QUOTE THAT IS ENGRAVED IN OUR CULTURE FROM OUR PARENTS, "PINAKA MALAKING PAMANA KO SAYO ANG PAGAARAL MO!" BUT WHAT IF, DUE TO LIFE'S CIRCUMSTANCES, THIS EDUCATION JUST CANNOT BE PROVIDED BY THE PARENT? ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, THIS IS THE MAJOR FLAW THAT THE YOUTH OF TODAY GO THROUGH. THE SECOND HOME, WHILE IN THE DEVELOPMENTAL STAGE, SHOULD BE OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE. THE YOUNG GENERATION SPENDS MOST OF THEIR LIVES IN IT, AND IT IS WHERE EXPERIENCES ARE GAINED. THIS INSTITUTION IS WHERE SELF-DISCOVERY IS MADE. THIS INSTITUTION IS WHERE THE YOUTH FIND AND DEVELOP THEIR PERSONALITY. IF THE SYSTEM WERE TO REMAIN FLAWED, ALL OF THESE IMPORTANT STAGES WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE. EDUCATION IS A MAJOR DETERMINANT THAT HELPS PEOPLE DISCOVER THEIR INNATE SKILLS, TALENTS, AND SPECIALTIES. IN AN ERA IN WHICH PEOPLE EXPERIENCE IDENTITY CRISES, SELF-DISCOVERY BECOMES A BIGGER CHALLENGE IF THE SYSTEM DOES NOT CHANGE.

REFLECTION SPECIAL EDITION



THE SAME WAY THAT WE ARE SHAPED BY SOCIETY, WE AS INDIVIDUALS ALSO DICTATE HOW SOCIETY FUNCTIONS. WE ARE WHAT DICTATES THE WAY SOCIETY BEHAVES. WE ARE THE COGS THAT KEEP THE MACHINERY RUNNING. GIVEN THIS, WE SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR ACTIONS. WE MUST CONSIDER THE EFFECT THAT IT HAS NOT JUST ON US, BUT ON OTHERS AS WELL. IN ONE OF THE PREVIOUS MODULES, WE DISCUSSED EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE. THE WAY WE DISCERN HOW THE PEOPLE SURROUNDING US ARE AFFECTED BY OUR PRESENCE IS A VALUABLE SKILL. SELF-AWARENESS AND SENSITIVITY ARE SOME RESPONSIBILITIES THAT WE OFTEN OVERLOOK. WITH EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE, WE WOULD BE ABLE TO GAUGE NOT ONLY OUR EMOTIONS BUT ALSO THE EMOTIONS OF OTHERS AS WELL. IT HELPS US BE BETTER HUMANS BY BEING ABLE TO JUST READ THE ROOM. THAT IS OUR MOST BASIC RESPONSIBILITY TO BE ABLE TO BE A PERSON WHO DOES NOT CAUSE OTHER PEOPLE PAIN BY THEIR ACTIONS. SELF-ASSESSMENT SHOULD BE A THING OF EMPHASIS WHEN IT COMES TO THIS. WE SHOULD ALWAYS STRIVE TO MAINTAIN GOOD CONNECTIONS WITH OUR PEERS BY BEING PEACEFUL AND BY BEING A GOOD COMPANION. IN MY CASE, JUST BEING ABLE TO CONTROL ONE'S EMOTIONS AND TEMPER GOES A LONG WAY. I BELIEVE THAT MY JOURNEY TO HAVING MORE SELF-CONTROL IS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. IT NOT ONLY BENEFITS ME BUT ALSO THE PEOPLE AROUND ME. THIS IS OUR MOST BASIC RESPONSIBILITY: TO BE AN OBEYDIENT AND LAW-ABIDING CITIZEN WHO ADVOCATES FOR PEACE AND AGAINST IRREGULARITIES. PAY TAXES, HELP THE COMMUNITY AS MUCH AS YOU CAN, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE. ON A DEEPER LEVEL, ASIDE FROM ALL OF THESE BASIC RESPONSIBILITIES THAT SHOULD COME AS INSTINCTIVE, WE AS UP STUDENTS HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO LEAD. WE SHOULD POSSESS THE QUALITIES OF WHAT MAKES A GOOD LEADER. IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY NOT TO WASTE THE ALLOCATED FUNDS FROM THE PEOPLE JUST FOR OUR EDUCATION. IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ALWAYS BE REMINDED THAT WE SHOULD PRIORITIZE SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE ABOVE ANYTHING ELSE. TO ALWAYS BE INSPIRED TO DO BETTER AND IMPROVE THE SKILLS THAT WILL POSITIVELY IMPACT SOCIETY. WE SHOULD BE THE ADVOCATES OF CHANGE, THE PEOPLE WHO WILL BE THE VOICE OF THE POWERLESS. THAT IS WHAT THE STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES ARE ALL ABOUT. THOSE WHO MAKE IT A POINT TO ALWAYS BE RESPONSIBLE ENOUGH NOT TO FORGET THEIR MISSION. TO BE CONTRIBUTORS TO PROGRESS. WE, ISKOLAR NG BAYAN, SHOULD BE THE REMINDER THAT IF WE WANT CHANGE, IT IS A STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS. FROM INDIVIDUAL, TO BARANGAY, TO MUNICIPAL, TO THE COUNTRY, AND THE ENTIRE WORLD. IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO BE THE GROUP THAT STARTS CHANGE IN A POSITIVE DIRECTION.

IN SUMMARY, SOCIETY MOLDS US AS INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT US NOTICING. OUR PERCEIVED CONCEPT OF REALITY IS DICTATED BY OUR SURROUNDINGS. WHAT MAY BE TRUE TO YOU MAY BE SOMETHING OBLIVIOUS TO SOMEONE WHO LIVES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GLOBE. WE HAVE DIFFERENT CULTURES, INSTITUTIONS, AND EXPERIENCES THAT HELP DETERMINE OUR IDENTITY. WE ARE MERE EMPTY VESSELS ONCE BORN IN THIS WORLD; WE ONLY GAIN A SENSE OF SELF THROUGH SOCIALIZATION THAT OCCURS THROUGHOUT OUR LIFETIME (CITED FROM SAST MOD 7, 2018). GIVEN THIS, A SUPPORT GROUP IS IMPORTANT FOR A PERSON'S COMPLETE DEVELOPMENT AND DISCOVERY OF SELF-IDENTITY. WE GAIN MORE AND MORE ABOUT OURSELVES THROUGH EXPERIENCES AND HUMAN INTERACTIONS. THESE SOCIALIZATION AGENTS ARE WHAT MAKE YOU WHO YOU ARE. YOU ARE AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS MADE UP OF DIFFERENT FRAGMENTS THAT ARE UNIQUE TO YOU. THIS IS WHY WE SHOULD ALL BE COMFORTABLE IN OUR OWN SKIN. WE ARE BEAUTIFULLY MADE WITH SPECIFIC INTENT BY A POWERFUL BEING, OUR CREATOR.

AS MEMBERS OF A GREATER WHOLE, WE SHOULD ALL BE RESPONSIBLE AND ACCOUNTABLE FOR OUR ACTIONS. WE ARE NOT THE ONLY LIVING BEINGS, SO WE SHOULD NOT HAVE A FALSE SENSE OF BEING THE MAIN CHARACTERS. PEOPLE WHO DO NOT CARE ABOUT THOSE SURROUNDING THEM. WITH THIS, WE SHOULD ALWAYS REMEMBER OUR GREATEST RESPONSIBILITY, TO LOVE OTHERS AND BE KIND.

