

Rizal's Early Years

- ❑ The Birth of a Hero
- ❑ Childhood Years in Calamba
- ❑ Early Education in Calamba and Biñan

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Sa Aking mga Kabata



Kapagka ang baya'y sadyang umilbig
Sa langit salitang kaloob ng langit
Sanlang kalayaan nasa ring masapi

Katulad ng ibong nasa himpapawid
Pagka't ang salita'y isang kahatulan
Sa bayan, sa nayo't mga kaharian

At ang isang tao'y katulad, kabagay
Ng alin mang likha noong kalayaan.
Ang hindi magmahal sa kanyang salita
Mahigit sa hayop at malansang isda

Kaya ang marapat pagyamanin kusa
Na tulad sa inang tunay na nagpala
Ang wikang Tagalog tulad din sa Latin,

Sa Ingles, Kastila, at salitang anghel,
Sapagkat ang Poong maalam tumingin
Ang siyang naggagawad, nagbibigay sa
atin.

Ang salita nati'y tulad din sa iba
Na may alfabeto at sariling letra,
Na kaya nawala'y dinatnan ng sigwa
Ang lunday sa lawa noong dakong
una.

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The Birth of a Hero



- Jose Rizal was born on a Wednesday midnight, June 19, 1861, in Calamba, Laguna
- On June 22, 1861, he was baptized "*Jose Rizal Mercado*" at the Calamba Catholic Church by its parish priest Reverend Father Rufino Collantes
- Rizal's godfather/sponsor was also a priest, Father Pedro Casañas

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The Birth of a Hero




- Rizal came from a typical middle class (principalia) family who owns an agricultural business of rice and sugar
- They lived in a house made of adobe and hardwood situated in a prime and huge lot



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The Birth of a Hero



- His complete name is *Jose Protacio Rizal Mercado Y Alonso Realonda*
- His father was *Francisco Mercado Rizal*
 - He was born on May 11, 1818
 - He studied Latin and Philosophy at the College of San Jose in Manila
 - He died on January 5, 1898 in Manila at the age of 80
- His mother was *Teodora Alonso*
 - She was born on November 8, 1826 in Manila
 - She studied at the College of Santa Rosa
 - She died on August 16, 1911 in Manila at the age of 85

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The Birth of a Hero



The Rizal Children

- **Saturnina** (1850-1913) - nicknamed Neneng, she was the oldest of the Rizal children; she married Manuel T. Hidalgo of Tanawan, Batangas
- **Paciano** (1851-1930) - he was the older brother and confidant of Jose Rizal; although he died as an old bachelor aged 79, he had two children by his mistress Severina Decena
- **Narcisa** (1852-1939) - nicknamed Sisa, she married Antonio Lopez, a school teacher of Morong
- **Olimpia** (1855-1887) - nicknamed Ypia, she married Silvestre Ubaldo, a telegraph operator from Manila
- **Lucia** (1857-1919) - she was married to Mariano Casanas, the nephew of Father Casanas from Calamba; Herbosa died of Cholera in 1889 and was denied of Christian burial because he was the brother-in-law of Rizal

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The Birth of a Hero



The Rizal Children

- **Maria** (1859-1945) - nicknamed Biang, she married Daniel Faustino Cruz of Biñan Laguna
- **Jose** (1861-1896) - nicknamed Pepe, during his exile in Dapitan he lived with an Irish girl from Hong Kong named Josephine Bracken whom he had a son with; unfortunately, this baby-boy died a few hours after his birth
- **Concepcion** (1862-1865) - nicknamed Concha, she died of sickness at the age of three
- **Josefa** (1865-1945) - nicknamed Panggoy, she died an old maid at the age of 80
- **Trinidad** (1868-1951) - nicknamed Trining, she also died an old maid aged 83
- **Soledad** (1870-1929) - nicknamed Choleng, she married Pantaleon Quintero of Calamba

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The Birth of a Hero



Rizal's Ancestry

- Composition of Rizal's blood: Negrito, Indonesian, Malay, Chinese, Japanese, Spanish
- His ancestor on his father's side was *Domingo Lamèò*, a Chinese immigrant from Fukien City, Changcow China who arrived in Manila about 1690; he married a Chinese Christian girl named Ines de la Rosa and assumed the surname Mercado in 1731
- Doña Teodora's family descended from *Lakan Dula of Tondo*; she also had a blood from her Japanese ancestry (Eugenio Ursua) who married a Filipina named Benigna

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Childhood Years in Calamba



Hometown: Calamba

- On the southern part of Calamba lies Mount Makiling, where there are several hot springs and breath-taking sceneries
- Laguna de Bay is located on the eastern part of the town
- Calamba's name was based on a town legend when a Spanish *guardia civil* asked a woman (carrying a water jar in a nearby river) about the name of the place; because the woman was confused on what to say, she uttered "kalan-banga" (pertaining to the water container); since then, the town has been called "Calamba"

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Childhood Years in Calamba



- Barely three years old, Rizal learned the alphabet from his mother
- Because of Doña Teodora's influence, Jose Rizal grew up as a devout Catholic; he participated in daily prayers such as the Angelus; he was also able to read the Bible (in Spanish) at an early age of five
- Jose prayed the Rosary almost every night at their *azotea*
- Jose was eight when he first visited the Antipolo Church; this was his mother's pilgrimage when the latter promised to the Blessed Virgin should she and her child survive the ordeal of delivery which nearly caused her life
- Jose enjoyed walking in the town especially at night; he was usually accompanied by his *aya* (nurse maid), who occasionally narrated him some stories about supernatural entities like *tikbalang*, *aswang*, *nuno*, etc.
- Jose also loved to walk in the field with his pony; he was fond of having lengthy walks in the fields and by the side of the lake tagging along his black dog named *Usman*

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Childhood Years in Calamba



Rizal's Influences

- **Hereditary Influence** - refers to inherent qualities that a person inherits from his ancestors and parents
 - *From Malayan ancestors* - love for freedom, innate desire to travel and indomitable courage
 - *From Chinese ancestors* - somber personality, prudence, fortitude, and affection for children
 - *From Spanish ancestors* - sophistication of bearing, compassion to rudeness, and valor for ladies
 - *From his father* - profound sense of self-respect, love for work and the habit of independent thinking
 - *From his Mother* - religious nature, spirit of self-sacrifice and passion for arts and literature

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Childhood Years in Calamba



Rizal's Influences

- **Environmental influences** - refers to places, associates and events that affect the nature of a person
 - *From Paciano* - moral values and passion for education
 - *From Tiyo Jose Alberto* - artistic influence; Jose Rizal carved an image of The Virgin Mary on a piece of *batikuling* with his pocket knife
 - *From Tiyo Manuel* - helped develop his frail body through physical workout, including horseback riding and wrestling
 - *From Tiyo Gregorio* - reading books; Jose's favorite books were *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexander Dumas, *Universal History* by Cesar Cantu, and *Travels in the Philippines* by Dr. Feodor Jagor, among others
 - *Father Leoncio Lopez* - research and rational sincerity

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Childhood Years in Calamba



Sorrowful events in the early life of Rizal

- The death of Concha in 1865
- The imprisonment of his mother
- The Spanish abuses and cruelties which he witnessed
- Execution of Fathers Mariano Gomez, Jose Burgos and Jacinto Zamora in 1872

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Early Education in Calamba and Biñan



Rizal and the Story of the Moth

- Rizal's passion for education enabled him to see that people who are ignorant are in more serious danger of losing their lives than those who have knowledge
- Rizal also realized that religion was only used by the Spaniards to abuse, bully, and enslave the Filipino people
- The teachings of the Church at that time restricted the Filipinos to think and read materials that explain liberal ideas
- Jose Rizal used his two novels, *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo* to encourage his fellow Filipinos to pursue knowledge so that their sufferings would cease
- Jose Rizal viewed that education is the only key to free oneself from slavery and abuse; freedom and self-empowerment can be achieved through education
- Contrary to the popular notion that knowledge killed Rizal, it was his contemporaries' ignorance and immaturity (meaning morally, emotionally, and mentally undeveloped) that killed him

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Early Education in Calamba and Biñan



Early Education in Calamba

- Jose's private tutors who gave him lessons at home
 - Maestro Celestino
 - Maestro Lucas Padua
 - Leon Monroy

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Early Education in Calamba and Biñan



Rizal in Biñan

- In June, 1869 (Sunday), Paciano and Rizal left Calamba to study in the village school of *Maestro Justiniano Aquino Cruz*
- Paciano and Rizal spent one and a half hours of travel before they arrived at their aunt's house in Biñan, Laguna
- The school was just a small *nipa* hut with a distance of 30 meters from their aunt's house
- Rizal described Maestro Justiniano as a thin man, with long neck, sharp nose, a slightly bent forward body, and always wore *sinamay* shirt

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Early Education in Calamba and Biñan



Rizal in Biñan

- Rizal also recalled that Maestro Justiniano Aquino Cruz asked him if he can speak Spanish; he replied that he had little knowledge about the language; Pedro, who was identified as the Maestro's son, laughed at his answer
- During their siesta break, Jose Rizal challenged Pedro to a brawl (because the latter laughed at his answer); because of his physical training with Tiyo Manuel, Rizal prevailed over his bully schoolmate
- Because of his superior intellectual ability, Rizal topped all his classmates, especially in the language subjects such as Spanish and Latin
- Rizal finished his elementary studies in 1870

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