

## **PRO TIPS** – September 25, 2008

### **From Exile to Excellence**

Jose Rizal was 31 years and 18 days old when he was exiled in Dapitan. This was in July 7, 1892. He spent 4 years in exile and during that period Rizal was able to accomplish what probably some of us would never accomplish in a life time.

Ano ang mga nagawa ni Rizal sa apat na taong pamamalagi sa Dapitan:

- 1) He helped the less fortunate residents of Dapitan.
- 2) He taught the youth, practical arts and how to become good Filipinos.
- 3) He planted fruit trees.
- 4) He continued his practice as an eye doctor and built a clinic that also served as a dormitory for the youth.
- 5) He wrote letters and collected shells which he sent to his dear friend in Austra, Ferdinand Blumentritt.
- 6) He beautified the plaza.
- 7) He developed a Tagalog grammar book.
- 8) And even in exile, Rizal had time for love. He spent meaningful and memorable moments with his beloved Josephine Bracken.

Sa halip na magmukmok, sa halip na mawalan ng kumpiyansa sa sarili, Rizal used his exile to propel him to excellence. How did he do it?

I believe that he learned to overcome 4 of life's common shorteners. Anu-ano ang mga ito? Regret, Blaming others, laziness and self-pity. We will never excel in our careers if we allow these four to take residence in our lives.

Si Rizal, sa halip na mamuhay sa panghihinayang, he moved on and continued living excellently in Dapitan. Para sa kanya, ang opportunity ay hindi lamang makikita sa Maynila o sa Europa, maging sa Dapitan ay marami ding pagkakataon at oportunidad na magbubukas para sa kanya. Rizal did not dwell on regrets.

He also overcame the blame game. He did not use his energy blaming others for his lot. Marami siyang pwedeng sisihin, pero sa halip na manisi, inisip niya kung ano ang buting pwede niyang gawin para sa mga taga-Dapitan. If you want a miserable life, go ahead and blame others for your situation and condition now. But if you want to be fruitful, stop the blame game and take responsibility for our decisions and actions.

Isa pang life-shortener na pinaglabanang ni Rizal ay katamaran. Laziness robs us of the feeling of fulfillment and satisfaction for a job well done. Pwedeng idahilan ni Rizal na, in exile naman nila ako, bakit pa ako magsusumikap sa buhay. He didn't use his exile as an excuse to be lazy, mas lalo nga siyang nagsipag. He created opportunities to make a difference in Dapitan. In the same manner, kung sakaling mawalan tayong trabaho, huwag sana tayong mag-give-in sa katamaran. Mas lalo tayong dapat na magsipag at magsusumikap.

And lastly, Rizal's exile in Dapitan turned into excellence because he refused to wallow in self-pity. May karapatan ba siyang mag-pity party? Meron! Pero hindi niya ito binigyan ng puwang sa buhay niya.

Are you experiencing a season of exile in your life or career right now? Siguro mayroon kang hinahangad na promotion na napunta sa iba? Baka mayroong project na gusto mo pero hindi naman sa iyo ibinigay? Baka may palpak na nangyari sa opisina at lahat ng sisi ay lumagpak sa iyo. Learn from Rizal. Your exile can be an opportunity for excellence.

Be a blessing in the workplace today.