

# The Consequences of Vice

by Bona Rae Villarta (May 10, 2012)

Background: Filipinos have a knack for being sociable, whether it is among family members or among friends. Unfortunately, vices play a key role in fortifying most social relationships. But how do some people do have strong social relationships that don't involve vice? This poem tries to find out why.

In the past, people didn't care about their health  
Simply because there was no one to warn them  
About the dangers of tobacco and alcohol.  
Yet these vices were imbued into our culture many decades ago.

Now, with many faiths that advocate  
The well-being of its members and the public as a whole  
Having a place in our society today,  
Many of us are teetotalers or abstain from all vices;  
Yet there are some who continue the tradition of vice  
And give their significant others a hard time to control them.

What is their hope for them? Is it non-existent?  
Or perhaps in the form of long shots or wishful thinking?  
So long ago, they have turned their backs on their maker  
Or while they still believe in one, they don't really follow His principles in life.

Although there are "social" vice-takers,  
No vice is still better than any at all  
That's why we need to stay clean and steer clear  
Of any temptation that nears us  
So that we all have an equal chance to be in heaven, if we believe in one,  
Where it is by choice, not by chance or fanaticism.

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