

The Holy Week of the Non-Believer

by Bona Rae Villarta (April 5, 2012 Maundy Thursday)

Background: In the Philippines, Holy Week, especially from Thursday-Sunday of the week, is a time that people return home to their provinces and/or do something meaningful to enhance their faith, if they are Christian (especially if the person is a Catholic). But what about the minority, those who are members of the Iglesia ni Cristo and other similar sects, Muslims and other non-Christian faiths, agnostics or atheists? This poem tries to interpret what the minority is doing from a Christian's point of view.

This is a boring time
One that has no meaning for some people
Where almost every store is closed
And few vehicles roam the streets
That many a given day there would be many.

As they go their own way
In the counting hours of a day
They tend to continue their own spiritual lives if they have any,
While they exhibit “pasensya” to their Christian friends
By closing their businesses as well for this time.

They tend to wonder why for the Catholics,
Devotion to their religion still presides
Overpowering other things that should be done
In order to follow the pathway that is good for Heaven.

But because we are an overwhelmingly Catholic nation,
The traditions will continue on forevermore.
Despite the influence of other religions and cultures on society these days,
There are still some young people who will continue these traditions
And continue to make headaches among the non-believers.

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 Philippines License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/ph/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, 444 Castro Street, Suite 900, Mountain View, California, 94041, USA.