

philippine studies

Ateneo de Manila University • Loyola Heights, Quezon City • 1108 Philippines

From the Maid

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Philippine Studies vol. 53, no. 2&3 (2005): 427

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Fri Jun 27 13:30:20 2008

AGUSTIN MARTIN G. RODRIGUEZ

From the Maid

I cannot understand why your houses are so big
but I understand why you need us.
Dust is stronger than stone,
even the very polished stone of marble.

If it gathers and is given a chance to rest
it will turn the bright into dark and grey.

Our houses are small, soft, and damp so
they invite dust to settle and darken everything
that is why everywhere is stench there.

You do not want that stench in your world.
You do not want our grayness in your world.
It seeps into your bones and makes you understand
that pain can emerge from within you
and seep out like vapors to cloud your mind.

That's why you need us to keep the dust away,
the vapors away, so that things stay bright,
so that things stay fresh and clean, and your minds can dwell in
crisp and clear air where love is exciting, where people look
always so loveable and the dark is kept in its place.

JOSEPH T. SALAZAR

Humuhunos ang Tatlong Dekada

Gaya ng alamat,
hindi ko pinatatawad
ang pagkakabinbin ng panahon
sa palad.