

philippine studies

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

Almusal

Kay Edjop

Paghahanda: “Exposure Trip” sa Smokey Mountain

Leftover

Afternoon Wind

Neal Imperial

Philippine Studies vol. 43, no. 3 (1995): 491–494

Copyright © Ateneo de Manila University

Philippine Studies is published by the Ateneo de Manila University. Contents may not be copied or sent via email or other means to multiple sites and posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's written permission. Users may download and print articles for individual, noncommercial use only. However, unless prior permission has been obtained, you may not download an entire issue of a journal, or download multiple copies of articles.

Please contact the publisher for any further use of this work at philstudies@admu.edu.ph.

<http://www.philippinestudies.net>
Fri June 27 13:30:20 2008

SID GOMEZ HILDAWA

Windlow to the Wind—

A window you
are to me, a
wind-
Ocean waves be-
coming lightning skies;
wind-
Over hurriedly dropped
typhoons to un-
wind; Wind,
though thou-
sand slam/ning
doors divide,
win-
or-lose you Thunder:
"Here am I." Like
a gust of sudden
wind-
ows O-
pening wide the
Wind.

NEAL IMPERIAL

Almusal

Kapag sinisigawan
ni Tatay si Nanay
sa hapag-kainan
binabalatan, dahan-dahang
binabalatan ni Bunso
ang malasadong itlog
at nginunguya, maingat
na nginunguya ni Kuya
ang humpak na pandesal

habang unti-unti kong
hinuhugot sa hanging umid
ang kutsilyong lulutang-lutang
para hiwain
ang malinamnam na pagkain.

Kay Edjop

Sinabi nila
na nagpaligaw ka
sa tukso ng tanawin
doon sa tuktok
ng ibang bundok.

Nagpahalina ka raw
sa hamog na nakabibinat,
nagpaakit sa lilim
na nakalulunod.

Doon sa tuktok
ng ibang bundok
kung saan matalim
ang mga bato
at nakalibing ang mga ginto,
natutunan mo raw
maghukay ng lupa
na balang araw
ay lululon sa iyo
at sa iyong kapwa.

Hindi nila mauunawaan,
Edjop,
silang mapapalad
at maputi pa sa ulap
ang mga talampakan,
kung bakit naging kulay-lupa
ang iyong dugo.

At hindi namin
 mauunawaan ito,
 Edjop
 dahil may apat na dingding
 na humahadlang
 sa aming paningin.

Paghahanda: "Exposure Trip" sa Smokey Mountain

"Huwag kayong magtatakip
 ng ilong kahit masuka o maubo
 dahil gusto nating makiisa."

Huwag kayong mag-iingles
 dahil nakaiinsulto."

"Kilalanin ninyo sila nang mabuti;
 huwag kayong kukuha ng litrato."

"Huwag kayong magbibigay ng pera
 dahil hindi sila pulubi."

"At huwag na huwag kayong lalayo
 sa grupo—delikado."

Leftover

My love,
 your absence is a spider
 crawling
 up my spine, leaving
 a trail of half-moons
 behind.

You left a door half-opened
 in a room naked
 of voice and sky,
 but for your memory
 dangling the unturned knob,
 dimming the days that drag
 into nights and years.

Now numbness creeps
upon me like a blanket
in the cold bed we stained
with rose petals, the lips
of unborn flowers.

My love,
to survive the dawn
without you
I must mend my heart
with needles of tears.

Afternoon Wind

Only in the wind do we hear
the hollow silence of mailboxes,
the teeth of years nibbling
away at seasons and letters
signed in crease and faded word.

Even as our feet bleed shadow
indelible to rain or sun,
we sulk in the sunset of nostalgia,
reading with fingers the agony
of leaves rusting into pieces.

Soon the day must singe its eyes
for stars to flicker into sleep,
for moon to sing, before it fades,
in the loneliness of a pond.

But we remain clenched
like boulders bearing the weight
of distances, the chasm between
earth and sky.

We learn to envy such small things
as pebbles strewn
like bits of bones around us,
so near to dust,
weightless before the hands of wind.