

A PHILOSOPHICAL ANALYSIS OF PHILIPPINE POPULAR VALUES

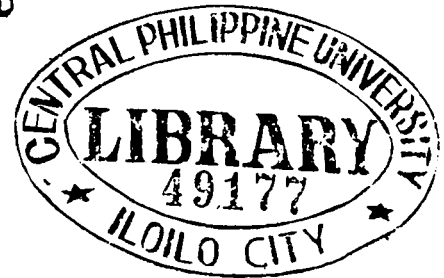
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CHAPTER I

THE FILIPINO SOCIAL STRUCTURE

It is the purpose of this thesis to analyze Filipino popular values from a philosophical point of view. These values are: pakikisama, euphemism, go-between, utang na loob, amor proprio, hiya, and bahala na. In order to get a deeper insight into these values it seems necessary to discuss first the Filipino social structure which greatly influences the formation and functioning of the Filipino value system. Hence, this chapter.

To understand Filipino social structure, the writer will present first the meaning and importance of the study of social structure followed by the meaning and importance of kinship system in general; then, the Filipino kinship system and family will be discussed. Thus, this presentation will be divided into four sections:

- I. Meaning and Importance of the Study of Social Structure
- II. Meaning and Importance of Kinship System
- III. The Filipino Kinship System
- IV. The Filipino Family

The essay entitled "Filipino Social Structure and Value Orientations" by F. Landa Jocano which appeared in the number two lecture series of the Filipino Cultural Heritage¹ will be utilized mainly in this study.

¹F. Landa Jocano, "Filipino Social Structure and Value Orientations," Filipino Cultural Heritage, Lecture Series No. 2 (Manila: Philippine Women's University, 1966).

I. Meaning and Importance of the Study of Social Structure

To have an insight into the personality, world view, or value system of people, it is important to understand first and foremost the structuring of their society. This must be so since the development and functioning of such personality, such world view and value system is so correlated with the peculiar structure of the society that any attempt to study or describe one without the other would produce a confusing picture. This was noted by Henry in his study of the Kaingang Indians,² and by Singh in his article on Indian and Filipino value system: "the physical and social structure of the village has great influence in shaping the value system of villagers."³ It is, therefore, proper and fitting to study the social structure of the Filipinos before analyzing their values and value system.

Social structure as used here refers to the "pattern of behavior, a continuous and largely predictable repetition of human actions"⁴ which could be determined best through an analysis of a society's kinship system, an established highly useful approach according to Parsons.⁵

²Jules Henry, "The Personality of the Kaingang Indians," Social Structure and Personality: A Casebook, ed. Yehudi A. Cohen (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1961), p. 12.

³Tej Pratap Singh, "Some Impressions on Indian and Filipino Value System," Philippine Sociological Review, Vol. XIII, No. 4 (October, 1955), p. 212.

⁴Richard L. Means, Ethical Imperative (New York: Doubleday and Co., 1970), p. 59.

⁵Talcott Parsons, "The Social Structure of the Family," Readings in Sociology, ed. Alfred McLung Lee (New York: Barnes and Noble, 1960), p. 91.