



## Razor's Edge

By  
**Joe Mari Mercader**  
*Executive Editor*  
FILIPINO TIMES  
*New York-New Jersey*

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# *Resign, Sec. Romulo: Betrayal Is Ingratitude Per Se*

**NEW YORK, NY Oct. 02 (PinoyGlobal)** - Before discussing the main issue, I would first like to share this observation with our faithful readers for their evaluation. Indeed, it is a truism that during calamities the good and evil of man invariably comes out ratifying the adage that man is wolf to man. Take the policemen who distributed government aid to the flood victims of tropical storm Ketsana or Ondoy, they were seen in the open shamelessly asking for P30 from each victim to whom they handed out food supplies.

Meanwhile the socialites and showbiz photo-op maniacs also tried to cash in on the crisis pretending to wade in the flood to help people when all they wanted is to appear as a saintly Mother Teresa and upgrade their value in the public eye. Politicians on the other hand, had altogether another angle quite obvious to us. Collectively, the picture these bleeding hearts portrayed was so nauseating you could have literally thrown up in their faces! Show me a movie star or a politician helping the poor and I will show you a brazen mammal. Really there is no limit to man's hypocrisy!

I hope that what I hear is not true: that Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered that the donations of money coming from countries sympathizing with the flood victims of Ondoy be channeled to the Social Welfare department for government tax purposes. That would be rubbing salt on our people's open wound caused by the cruel fate that befell them days ago.

I want to believe that these rumors are just the malicious imputations fabricated by her political enemies for no presi-

dent can sink so low as to deliberately make the government a dead weight on the shoulders of our already prostrate public. Truly, if Gloria's hands are pinioned from alleviating Juan de la Cruz's misery, and instead she exacerbates his accursed plight by being a heartless barracuda of sucking the blood money intended for our suffering countrymen, then the obscene order (taxing donations) has to be true.

If that is the case then it is obvious GMA (Madam Arroyo) cannot help ameliorate the hunger of our people because the treasury is bone dry due to wanton corruption: public funds have been siphoned into the bottomless pockets of venal officials, wasted on junkets abroad and unconscionable dinners, expensive caviar and vintage wine during nocturnal debaucheries in Washington D.C. and New York, at the expense of taxpayers' dollars.

Has she no qualms or sense of guilt anymore? Given the conscience of the president, or lack of it, what more is there to say? On this we wind up the tidbit of her cruel disposition of taxing financial donations sent by foreign and local donors touched by the sufferings of flood victims. Let us just hope the things we hear are not true. Madam, please, give our people a respite – don't tax donations for them!

And now for the main issue: It would be demeaning my own conviction that man was born free without the law having to remind him that he has inalienable rights. Intrinsicly, we have the freedom of locomotion, speech, religion, profession, etc. that politicians pretend to uphold when their real goal in their rhetoric is to capture the votes of gullible constituents.

No sir, those freedoms are ours. Democracy merely articulated them in our Constitution but did not add anything that God has not endowed humankind with. Proof of this is that even in our primitive days, when civilization was just a dim-mist in man's consciousness, people already died fighting for their rights and dignity; they were not the fool Carlyle alluded to who vilified the sun for not lighting his cigar. From day one man had those rights and he knew it. There was nothing supercilious in his advocacy for those rights even when he defended them by instinct.

Often wars were waged because man had so much freedom to do as he pleased, that kings got bored doing nothing and demonized their subjects who in turn fought for their inherent rights to live in peace. This springs to mind what Schopenhauer said: that life is evil because even when you have everything you inevitably get bored. The rich are miserable not because they are wanting in money and the pleasures that money can buy, but because after enjoying everything there follows the scourge of boredom and along with it freedoms are viciously desecrated, leading to strife.

On this note I say that Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo is within his rights to support Sen. Noynoy Aquino for president. The only flaw in his declaration of profound love for Sen. Aquino, which even Noynoy's girlfriend could not match, is that it was not accompanied with delicadeza, that germ of prudence, the finesse that differs man from the homo erectus of antiquity. He works for the president who is titular head of Lakas-Kampi-CMDP and its allied tentacles, as such it behooves him to resign his cabinet portfolio out of decency, before making an open allegiance for Noynoy that he knows will smear the face of his benefactor Madam Arroyo.

^Romulo may have every reason to be on the young Aquino's side owing to the fact that the latter's mother nurtured his political career to what it has become – giving him ample prestige, clout and leverage within the ruling party to demand for the position he would muse to have.

But so did Pres. Arroyo go out of her way to nurture his every peccadillo of the ego. Up to his cruel indiscretion of betraying her, still she took care of him and even went beyond by giving him the choice cabinet positions he virtually ordered her to. After all that, he had the perfidy of insulting her by deliberately jeopardizing GMA's candidate for president, whom she desperately hopes to win for her personal and political reasons (err, survival).

At the department of Foreign Affairs he is a square peg in a round hole, but because he asked it from the president after

his inauspicious stint as Executive Secretary, Romulo was ignoble enough not to appreciate her doting care: turning his back when she needed most the loyalty and solidarity of all her tutas like him. But hey, he had to betray her to grandstand that he is loyal to the memory of Cory, by shouting like Tarzan in the jungle: "I am for Noynoy for president!" By analogy, shifting loyalties midstream is like undressing one fashion model to dress another.

Even after re-enacting Brutus' treachery to his father-image Caesar, Romulo did not even have the common decency to surrender his post so that the president could at least appoint someone she could trust instead of cuddling a serpent within her midst. The weird situation he embroidered makes Pres. Arroyo uncomfortable to continue lording it over her domain, knowing full well a Judas lurks within who could undermine the chances of her ruling party in the elections, while still enjoying the power, prestige and influence his Foreign Affairs office carries. These are times when you can tell men's depravity is boundless. What kind of an example is he to the youth?

If I were Noynoy I will not trust Sec. Romulo after his dismaying ingratitude to his benefactor, who will be facing a probable jail term as a plain citizen one day. Former Pres. Joseph "Erap" Estrada suffered humiliation, degradation and incarceration, she could end up the same way – it cannot be that he is punished for his corruption while she is allowed to enjoy the fruit of her own shenanigans and malfeasance with impunity. That would not be a fair shake.

It is for this reason that I am with the public in asking him to be prudent as to resign from the government and join the bandwagon of Noynoy to support him to his heart's content. Better yet he should retire and be out of the raging political turmoil. He had already enjoyed being in power and speaking of money he will never be poor again. So the least he can do for the president is stop being a parasite and let GMA choose his successor at the Foreign office.

Besides, I wonder if the prestigious College Editor's Guild of the Philippines charge of corruption against Sec. Romulo is still pending at the Sandiganbayan. If it is, he has to prepare for the battle to prove his "innocence" at the hearing. He owes it to Gloria to vacate his position of Foreign Affairs head honcho for all the embarrassment and trouble he caused her all these years, with even just the gesture of extricating her from pampering him in the administration.