



# Razor's Edge

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

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## *Consistency is the Last Refuge of a Scoundrel*

**NEWYORK, NY Mar. 02 (PinoyGlobal)** - Gullibility is not one of my inclinations. But I will ride along with Vivienne Tan, daughter of financial tycoon Lucio Tan, that she is running for a congressional seat in Quezon City “against” the wishes of her father. I bet my bottom dollar against the hole of a doughnut that she will be a representative of that city after May 10. That is the trouble with educating your victims they can use what they learn against you.

I don't believe for a moment Lucio is not privy to her plans. What surprises me is why the mega-billionaire, who is the perennial milking cow of rotten politicians and public officials, decided to shield himself from these vipers in human form only now, by having his own leverage in Congress? With all the money he has been coughing up to venal officials, it would be cheaper to have his own barking dogs in elective positions in the government and his daughter is a good start. I am sure she could be feisty in fighting the leeches that tormented her father all these years with the rapier wits of an astute entrepreneur and educator that she is.

In fact, installing a Chinese mestizo as Philippine president is no longer an impossible dream now that she will break the ice of landing in Congress. Given the enormous financial resources of the Chinese community, this is within the realm of reality in the foreseeable future. This is not to say with the go signal of Mainland China this tragic tsunami could even be sooner.

What is fifty or a hundred billion pesos if it will safeguard their respective business empires in the country? Every cent of

it is worth being liberated from the scourge of extortion by venal bureaucrats and politicians. Peace mind is priceless. I knew it would just be a matter of time before they put two and two together, that it is better to be with official trappings among hardened thieves, than be at their mercy forever.

The wanton corruption in the government woke up the sleeping dragon (Chinese community). Experts in their turf of bribing they have built business empires that a measly number of Filipino entrepreneurs could match, much less excel. Hence, this is the time for them to join the club by mixing it up in politics and rid themselves of the vipers sucking their blood (money).

Elected to office the Chinese can stave off mercenaries enjoying the largesse they receive for insurance against possible fabricated or genuine violations. We can begin with the Customs, Bureau of Internal Revenue and Motor Vehicles that have been harassing importers and exporters, not to mention the military that caused so much trouble to alien residents being kidnapped for ransom and are settled in military camps located in Metro Manila. That harassment can dramatically turn around if they are in a position to negotiate.

My fear is that with our people so taken to glamorous actresses, actors, gays, powerful politicians and money, where will Juan de la Cruz end up? The country is surely going to the dogs if it is not yet doggone with this mentality. The future of children with talents could be weighed down by

the adversities of their parents whose chronic financial problems put them at the mercy of exploiting aliens and wicked politicians.

So much for that morbid forecast, let's go on to the burning issues. The nemesis of Sen. Villar, is really his inflated ego that fiction can surpass. Because of his fabulous wealth that he thinks he can blatantly buy the presidency. This brings to mind Dorothy Parker's rapier wit written on her tombstone – "Excuse My Dust."

Bribing everybody can have dire consequences too - it can boomerang. For example, Sen. Richard Gordon exposed a bribe attempt offered right in his own house by the emissary of Villar. He was so disgusted by the boldness of the offer and the rampant way Villar has been corroding people's principles with his money that he had to expose it.

Villar's emissary said he will be given a cabinet position apart from reimbursing his expenses if he withdraws and Villar wins. Erap also revealed that for nine months he was wooed to withdraw. El Shaddai head Mike Velarde was the alleged conduit. A fabulous amount was the enticing gambit. Earlier Sen. President Enrile was also asked by Villar himself to be nice on him in deciding the C-5 anomaly, which favor he would reciprocate amply. The litany of these incidences is endless?

He completely revised the mood and fashion of campaigning. Long before the starting period he was already trying to induce people in the limelight to jump into his political bandwagon with the compelling charisma of his money. Trying to bribe a Senate president for a verdict of innocence on a case corruption he was being investigated, and without qualms dangle tens if not hundreds of millions to presidential timbers to withdraw triggers doubt as to his motives because ambition can be tempered with sobriety, but his isn't. Which brings us to the question of why the obsession to be president at any cost?

Senator Noynoy Aquino is a victim of Manny's wiles. Let me premise that Noynoy is akin to his beloved mother Cory in that he is overly devoted to the people. Aside from that he is honest and truthful to them. Of late he took the bull by the horn by correcting himself on the issue of no-tax increases, rather than be a coward hiding behind the façade of consistency when his promise was unrealistic and perhaps even prejudicial to the nation.

Change his mind on the sensitive issue of tax increases takes moral courage. In contrast Noynoy's adversary, Sen. Villar, thrives on false pretenses even if implementing his commitments would run afoul of public interest if implemented he would persist only to impress the electorate. If that is not being untruthful and a coward, let me know the term.

The pervasive influence of Villar upon the media can be gleaned from what they are doing to Sen. Aquino of condemning him for departing from his promise not to raise taxes. At the rate they attack him one is bound to believe he actually shot Rizal. Note that Noynoy qualified how he might impose more taxes and that would only be after exhausting all the remedies available; the prospect of him increasing the taxes is contingent on the possibility of the "Philippines facing a record budget deficit for a second year in a row in 2010," as he emphatically expressed to the media.

What he said before, which is twisting in the press, is that if he is elected president he does not need to raise taxes because he will implement strict collection of "unrealized taxes" which sums up to over P150 billion or \$3.3 billion. Imposing higher taxes will be the last resort. His commitment went as far as promising to be around when the big smugglers and public officials are arrested for corruption.

He carefully qualified that "If there is an ability to manage the deficit without raising new taxes we will continue that policy." Nothing can be more sober than that and yet he is portrayed as renegeing on his no-tax increases policy. What is it that the press cannot understand that they deliberately eclipse his cogent explanation? Is being honest a sin?

One scintillating quality if not virtue of the man, is that he puts public interest above his presidential ambition whereas Villar remains parochially consistent even when the odds against the nation are greater if his disastrous promises are put to action once he is elected president. This is where they diametrically differ because Villar puts his selfish ambition over the nation's welfare. With that disposition, the future of the nation would be on the fringes of the barren peaks of two eternities.