



Razor's Edge

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A Crusader Or A Vindictive Whistle Blower?

NEWYORK, NY, Nov. 3 (PinoyGlobal) - Joe De Venecia has decided to shed his serpent scales to become a turncoat against corruption. If his repeated rancid announcement to reveal Pres. Arroyo's anomalous deals happens, then the Arroyo government would be crumbling down soon along with the president he hates to the core. For a teaser he says he will endorse the impeachment complaint of his son Joey III because "I think national interest is the issue here more than the conflict of interest." This means he is preparing for the coup de grace together with the civil society groups that will also file impeachment documents against the lady president. In such eventuality Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's political demise should be visible in the horizon of limbo.

Personally, I do not believe his crusade against corruption even if he were an ordained evangelist or canonized saint. He is no more a crusader anymore than Whoopi Goldberg is an albino or Mohammad Ali is a diva ballet dancer. His new posturing is just to reinvent his shattered leadership in the House of Representatives. He knew Pres. Arroyo's dark side too well and too long to sound credible with his accusations. After all they were Siamese twins in manipulating crooked deals until his ouster as speaker. Why is he still dilly-dallying to reveal everything he knows about her misdeeds now that he is an outsider? He could have done that by now, if truly "conflict of interest" is not the issue but that of the "nation", as he claims.

Mere intention to put an end to the sufferings of the masses under the yoke of the Arroyo administration is just lip service unless backed up by unassailable evidence. It's a whale of difference from actually revealing every anomaly she committed. Why is he taking his sweet time, is he afraid that if he washes Gloria's dirty linen in public he too will be in her diaper stinking all over the archipelago?

Which reminds me that he furiously threatened to do exactly what he is saying now, in the floor of Congress months ago, when he was removed as speaker. It appears that thunderous threat turned out to be a deafening dud. Is this what he means by serving the people? Or maybe his impotence to perform (expose Gloria) is because he too is as guilty as sin? Just the same he deserves kudos for consistently promising to nail the lady president for corruption until the nail becomes too rusty to hammer. So, thanks but no thanks Joe.

His stated intention to deter Gloria from formalizing the Charter change (Cha cha) through her minions in Congress smacks of dubious reasons. Paradoxically, he parented this scheme and fought so hard for its passage in the House. Defeating it now would be fine considering GMA's real motive for its passage. Unfortunately, JDV's own motive is not impeccable either, fraught as it is with personal reasons. He and his son Joey harbor an ax to grind against the First Couple, he for his ouster as speaker, and Joey for being left out of

the infamous ZTE deal that had to be rescinded by Pres. Arroyo because of the scandalous overpriced kickback of \$130 million. Whom would they be kidding putting on a messianic stunt of impeaching the president in the name of the people?

In the first place if the nation is economically in distress today it is because of the unmitigated corruption perpetrated by him and Pres. Arroyo when yet they were honeymooning as political twins. Aping Chavit Singson of whistle blowing on GMA is a cheap gimmick to hoodwink Juan de la Cruz that he has turned over a new leaf and thus can regain his lost prestige. Nowhere in his gesture is he serving the national interest.

Whistle blowing against Madam Arroyo could have done a well of good before so much corruption took place in the government and the people suffering the pangs of hunger. Doing it now only betrays JDV's palpably selfish and personal reasons after their bitter feud erupted, irreversibly separating them; public interest had nothing to do with it.

In case he forgets, their political honeymoon (conjugal dictatorship) lasted close to 7 years to the economic detriment of the nation. Pledging consuming concern for the people to derail the Charter change is plain vaudeville when on so many occasions he vigorously tried to have it passed in the House. Therefore, his exposes, if they will ever materialize, are blatant chutzpa fraught of vindictiveness. Only a Jurassic mind would change gears in the political highway late in the day as JDV barefacedly intends to do.

Admittedly, of all the sickening minions of Gloria in Congress it is JDV who has the goods on her. It is believed facts, figures, dates and documents that can pull the rug from under the president are at his fingertips. He could have used this tissue of malodorous deals as a formidable arsenal to topple down Gloria's deplorable administration and consign her to oblivion. But he discarded that chance by inaction up to this time.

Ironically, or should it be, the once close comrades are now fighting to the death like vicious scorpions. Needless to say their feud could wreck political fortunes and who knows, government credibility.

Whistle blowing is a farce with him because he has more smears on his face than Doris Day has freckles. Suffocating with vindictiveness in his heart does not speak well of his credibility. He must have been so pickled by corruption that it took, whatever conscience he has, 13 years later, to turn over his dark side into the light.

JDV says he is against the Charter change (Cha cha) to prevent GMA from staging a coup to become president forever and that he seeks for her impeachment because he cannot allow corruption to persist in the government. These naked lies do violence to my stomach. Doesn't he have a modicum of qualms grandstanding against the Cha cha for which he ferociously advocated as its author?

Let me refresh his memory that as speaker he did nothing but serenade the president with praises shamelessly extolling her nonexistent virtues, which only magnified his sycophancy. Is he that far behind not to know that he cannot go to court with dirty hands? A man like him should be the last to pontificate after completely losing his integrity.

Throughout his long tenure as speaker he has not yet cleared with the accounting office of Congress his more than 3 billion pesos yearly budget of his own office. Multiply that figure by 12 years and twinkling stars will be glimmering in your eyes in broad daylight.

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