

Ms. Annamhel Monique Castro Roa, (The Philippines)

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The present finds me, Annamhel Monique Castro Roa, born on August 20, 1994, as now studying Legal Management at the University of San Carlos in Cebu, Philippines, and an art, humanities and social sciences major studying whenever circumstance permits, on whatever material I could glean and catch for myself besides.

Prior to where I am now I was raised primarily in the Misamis regions of Mindanao in a middle-class community. Though my parents' marriage had been annulled in its relatively early stages (I was 5 when the motion was finalized), my indisposition remained filial as I was surrounded, helmed and backed by relatives always. Politics as a constant immersion by and among relations and frequent travels back and forth throughout the region helped provide considerable exposure to my nation's general and sub socio-cultural background. It had always appeared to me that the issues of the country were less a matter of gender or racial differences and more a matter of class segregation and sectoral development stagnation, back rides on buses and jeepneys being the points from which I observed. Still there was help to be had and given everywhere else.

Academic accolades were fixtures growing up, ultimately leading to my acceptance to the Cebu City National Science High School, an institution for secondary learning known locally and nationally for its selective admission process and rigorous education. A move to Cebu followed such acceptance and the need for adaptation to an urban landscape, which was previously very distant to me, was imperative. I hankered to involve myself in whatever organization that held interest. One of those organizations was the Girl Scout movement of the Philippines, under whose umbrella I came to be acknowledged at both 2009 and 2010 by the Cebu Youth Commission as a Model Girl Scout for certain acts and merits. I am forever thankful; I believe it gifted me quite the levels of qualities aligned with preparedness and productivity. Ultimately my high school experience was such that I, at different points, held positions in the Supreme Student Government, Parliamentary Procedure Debate Team and some performing arts organizations. It was as enriching as it sounds.

The Ramon Aboitiz Foundation was also another source of learning. My admission to its Young Minds Academy program led to greater opportunities to learn more about the conditions of the needy and marginalized. The program ended with me, along with a team, being able to draft an action plan that the Foundation approved for funding. It was a proposal for a reform for the educational system to involve scouting in its curriculum. The proposal was a body of work I was proud of, but we backed out of implementation; we felt we weren't equipped enough to carry it through then. These excursions served to aid me in development socially, intellectually and, even more pronouncedly, emotionally. Great boons and banes came of it all, the greatest of both being this urge and desire to develop empathy and understanding for humanity and its nuances.

Blessedly, as I am, I have come to the conclusion that I should, and am to, impart that same nature of introspection to people, and help where needed as well, both as a testament to the good that remains to be and be needed in this world.

Among my many intentions are to attain a Juris Doctor's degree in Law, establish a film company and become a champion for culture, arts, health, peace and general humanistic empowerment worldwide, all the while remaining a student and mover of and for the Youth Peace Ambassadors International.

I enjoy good multimedia, rich conversations, the beauty of nature, the aesthetics of man's craft, the merits of yoga and physical fitness, and honest sincerity. I am a Christian.

Thank you very much for your attended.

See you.