Poetry Series

borgjie distura - poems -

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borgjie distura(April 6,1987)

Being me Obscures me Rascal? Good nature? Jerk? I am what? Explain it! Beat if necessary Drain my doubts Immediately Sleepless nights Tired and weary I become Unveil reality please! Rescue me now Ask me not, how?

I am Borgjie Bacelonia Distura. I was the third child of six siblings. I was born on April 6,1987 and it was the start of my wonderful and unique existence. And this is the story of my own journey in faith to God.

I grew up in a home were faith is given importance. I grew up in an extended type of home where grandparents, parents, siblings and nephews live together. My father is a lawyer who would seldom go to mass unless there is a solemnity or important occasion. Nevertheless, he has that value for good conduct, discipline, hard work and compassion for the needy especially to his clients, his friends and even strangers. His daily life is a manifestation of his own understanding of faith to God. It is his way of worshiping and giving glory to God. My mother is a simple housewife who would make the balance as regards faith. It is her faith coupled with her very own life which is inspiring and contagious. She is the one who first taught me to the basic prayers. She is the one who first taught me to walk without braces not just in terms of my feet but more so in terms of my faith.

It was at this very same home where I inherited my religious belief from my parents who in turn inherited from my grandparents especially from my grandmother. It was at this very home where I learned to fear God. It was at this very home where I learned that faith alone is just a superstition. It was at this very home where I learned that true faith must always be coupled with good works and genuine love. It was at this very home where I first encounter the love of God manifested by the love of my parents to each other and to us their siblings. It is at home where I saw and then learned many Christian values of respect, love, trust, piety, honesty and sincerity. It is at home where my journey of faith to God all started.

AS A CHILD

My childhood was colorful. It was fun-filled. Countless days, moments and memories were experienced. I spent my primary school years at the nearby elementary school where I also had the chance to hone basic skills. It was at this school also that I had the chance to make very good friends with others. My childhood was not just confined to our home, little by little, I was being exposed to different people in our community. Summertime was the best of all during this time. Beach! ! ! My birthday was always at the beach with my parents and siblings. Sports! ! Playing with my brother and school friends at the plaza or at one another's houses or playgrounds. Adventure! ! ! Going to mountains, rivers, ponds, lakes. Roaming around the neighborhood, in the forests to look for spiders, trap and catch birds.

Along with these experiences, i also had the chance to learn household chores like cleaning the house, feeding the animals like pigs, chicken etc., gather water for our kitchen, cook, wash the dishes, and study at night after dinner. I also can still vividly remember those days when we were brought by my grandma to the church to hear mass on Sundays. I can still remember wearing my new and beautiful clothes in going to mass on my birthday and other big celebrations like Christmas.

Every night back then we would always pray the rosary and grandma would usually lead the prayer. It was my grandma who will call and remind us including my cousins who were with us that time to pray the holy rosary. It was her who will always call the attentions of those naughty grandchildren or wake us up when we fell asleep. Her enthusiasm to pray was inspiring and she was consistent. It was my grandma who was the team leader, my mother the assistant leader and us (including some of our cousins) siblings as the grumbling-sleeping members. Even at the bigger community in our barangay, my grandma would lead those elderly ones so much so that during the culmination of her thirty one days of novena and devotion to Mary during May there would be many cantors, visitors and neighbors at home. I loved it. I loved the snacks of course, plenty of snacks.

I could also remember how she would pray twice as hard when one of her grandchildren would get sick. How she would pray the novenas in honor of the saints I did not know at that time. How she would pray all the mysteries of the holy rosary and its litanies in one night. And it was effective. It was miraculous. Until one time, my younger and baby sister got terribly sick. As always, she prayed. She prayed hard. We prayed. I prayed seriously, sincerely too. At the end of the rosary, I could still remember her daring and bold words asking the mercy and healing of Christ and the intercession of her beloved Mother Mary. It was not a plea anymore for life. It was an exchange, a bargain of her life in favor for the life of my younger baby sister. Her words were sincere when she said O Lord, God, spare the life of my Granddaughter, take my life instead if you may please. Shortly after, my sister recovered from her illness but shortly after too my beloved Lola Berta got sick and eventually died. It was a blessing and at the same time a loss. But I didn't understand what happened. All I knew was that my sister got well, and my lola passed away. I could have asked God, why. But I just kept it with me and my God. I am grateful still to God to have given me a grandmother, a loving one, a prayerful one and a faithful one. Her memories will I continue to cherish. Her legacy will I continue to remember. Her trust, her piety, her sincerity will I continue to be grateful of. Her life was an instrument that I may know and have faith in God. She was my lola, whose love to God and Mary is my precious inheritance.

My mother took charge when my grandma died. It was my mother who will then lead us. I remember when I was in elementary yet, my mother would bring us also to attend the anticipated mass at the chapel half a mile away from our home. We would walk back to our home together with others because the sun was down by the time the mass would end. I also remember when we would be asked by her to respond as we prayer the rosary. I also remember I prayed for my father to come home with plenty of food chips coupled with rented VHS tapes. These are experiences at home. But there was one experience as regards praying that I cannot forget when I was in elementary. At that time, there was still that image of the Our Lady of Fatima being brought by devotees to different houses. And the image would stay for a night in the home of a particular family. (It is sad that the practice is gradually vanishing.) During that time, I was ill and I felt unpleasantly cold. My mother asked me to lead the holy rosary so that according to her I might get well and be able to play again with the other children the next afternoon. I was wearing a sweater when I lead but after the prayer I had to remove it because I was already sweating. I felt lighter after the prayer. I did not know what happened. But I was assured that I can play the next day.

As a child, my family was the conduit of my learning and my faith. My family taught me early in childhood valuable lessons for my life and it is the same family who initiated me into my wonderful journey of faith in God. Up until now, I still continue my voyage and journey with them.

SEMINARIUM SANCTI PII

During my elementary years, I did not know what the seminary was all about in all sense of the word. It was by God's grace that I studied and finished my high school at the seminary still with the loving support of my family. It was at the seminary where I came to know and was exposed to liturgical services more. It was at this place also where I began my simple appreciation of the importance of prayer. It was at this institution also that my call or my vocation to the priesthood was gradually growing. It was an ordinary call but was nurtured and developed little by little at St. Pius X Seminary. I have had a meaningful stay at SPXS, both good and bad, pleasant and unpleasant. Nevertheless, they all shaped my vocation to the priesthood in particular and my life in general. SANCTA MARIA MATER ET REGINA SEMINARIUM

Pursuing my college years at the seminary was never that really hard. I decided to continue to the major seminary for one main reason and that is the joy that I found in the formation. I was never sure that I want really to be a priest when I graduated in high school. I never had the slightest clue that I was able to say that I will be a priest. For me, as long as I can find joy in what I do and in what situation I have that would sustain me enough to stay.

At the major seminary, I have the chance to have a firmer grasp of my religious beliefs and a clear understanding of the meaning and significance of the faith I have. It is at the major seminary that I am convinced of my faith – its dynamism and value. I am continuing the journey in faith which is made more meaningful and sublime by my continual and persistent joyful response to my vocation to the priesthood which entails a selfless giving – a total surrender to God. THE UNKNOWN FUTURE

As regards the mystery of the future, I still will lovingly entrust my faith to God with a sense of hope and courage that no matter what happens God will continue to remain faithful. As regards the future of my vocation I could candidly say that it would always be aimed for God's own pleasure.

This is my story of faith which was inherited, upheld thereafter, later coupled with an ordinary call involving an extraordinary surrender and my story does not end here for the journey...continues! Keep the faith and Godspeed.

This work is dedicated to Freya May Lara, the woman I'm lucky enough to call my 'caz'.

'be Humble And Wise' (Limerick)

We all walk in the ocean of darkness With uncertainties as our enemies Some cry with uneven pathways they try Flashlights can be used but few can buy Reminder: flashlights do have batteries.

'the Moon' (A Parody Of 'the Sea' By Natividad Marquez)

Why does the moon smile, mother as it blooms above the sky.

Because the moon loves to observe, my dear Those buddies passing by.

Why does the moon blanch, mother As if someone disappeared?

He is saddened by the envious clouds Because he is sheltered.

Why is the moon so bright, mother As if it is just five kilometers at sight?

Because he wants hurl our anxious night By shedding his formidable light.

Bereft

It made me cold Hearing what you told Knowing that you left It made me bereft.

I just want to be lost By all means and cost Amid the churning waters Made of blood and tears.

There are no more reasons Only tasteless passions A guitar with no strings A journey without ending

Will you come back to me And complete the melody If not, make it easy Tell me to be ready.

Constant Worry

My stress makes me suspiciously crazy Over intolerable extreme bigotry My creed vis-à-vis incidence frequency They stretch and reach off tangency

This stress threatens my very survival I'm anxious of pinnacle's arrival It will snap or it will simply break apart Commencing from that too much elastic part.

Couplets

 Sometimes you think you have the world But even seconds you can't hold
Try the gray sky Fly but not high
There's always a tear through the years It's not always smiles and laughters.
I tremble like a child seeing things that are wild
Man is no weakling; turning the other cheek.
Garden isn't always green; flowers too are bloomin'.
It's hard to ask why it's easy just to cry.

Digital Age

Today's an age of instant gratification Dominated by the young population Neither to bring about their fall Nor bequeath an increase for all. This is the pristine world of technology Where all can login and watch its beauty This is the new space of splendid cybernetics All can sign in by just one or two clicks.

An open village of neighbors and friends Defying distance, bounds and ends Inviting all to join and be part To farm, to cook and race a cart. An enormous abode of transparent door Translucent windows, ceiling and floor Takes all to come and board Terms and agreements to your accord.

Lo and behold, light this age, diminished. The creepy shadow instead flourished. Irresistible technological lust takes dominion Over the young one and peer companion. All have access to be a performer or a voyeur Even one's neither a hacker nor an actor. Just be nameless. Just be faceless. An avatar with clothespress full of dress.

Echoes

From the garden, The tragedy of first transgression; Echoed sin, death and condemnation. Primary harmony destructed; Thus lust and decay dominated.

Guilt transmission through propagation Caused perversion and alienation. Several failed to see the duty Due to unbroken captivity.

The only show of supplication Ordained wish for justification.

From the manger, An answer for the plea is given a word, the only Son begotten. The hearer ignored the remedy Expected another guarantee.

It meant like irrationality, The pray'r needed logicality. But t'was so, that man may realize denial happened in paradise.

The Word gave manger's noble image Simultaneously destroyed the cage Bequeathing comfort to anxiety Gift of freedom from captivity.

The echoes offer faith, hope and love Lifting shattered dignity above. Only in His grace can man hear it What truly the Word wants to emit.

Exodus

Sheltered in cabin of tranquility No worry, no difficulty A caring mom's delightful room Serene like in the middle of the womb.

This lasts only for a blink of an eye When the time's ripe, it will turn awry Like a newborn's cry, like a babe's in shock Traumatic impact difficult to block.

Footnote

In the shadow of still darkness To trail the escaping goodness Before modesty disappears Like ducts pouring out fast with tears Shape sobriety to arrest death.

Swing up high and you never fear For stirred soul will always be dear Ignore paradox in its swiftness Wilds subdued a gentle caress Sarcastic roars forever sheath.

Heap not with arms even a breath For downfall surely cometh The delight to keep in calmness Will just turn out crimson abyss But His only will remember.

Footnote To The Naked

In the shadow of still darkness To trail the escaping goodness Before modesty disappears Like ducts pouring out fast with tears Shape sobriety to arrest death.

Swing up high and you never fear For stirred soul will always be dear Ignore paradox in its swiftness Wilds subdued a gentle caress Sarcastic roars forever sheath.

Heap not with arms even a breath For downfall surely cometh The delight to keep in calmness Will just turn out crimson abyss But His only will remember.

For You

Since the first time I met you I could not forget about you As time went by I know very well why.

You are my true love An angel from above I thank Him that I found you Because I feel complete with you.

Take this loving heart Because this beats for you from the start And you are the one I cherish Without you and your love I'll perish.

Take this lonely soul of mine Because with you it will be fine Please know my love is always true And it belongs only to you.

I now entrust my heart and soul For you my dear I give it all Because I know we're meant to be No any other but you and me.

Giving Birth

I lie in pain of child bearing As others keep on telling That I'll experience mirth The moment I give birth.

I sit on pain of writing As others keep on composing Their trivial reflections Devoid of ardent devotions.

This is what I'm anxious This is why I'm cautious To deliver thoughts unconsciously To give birth prematurely.

I am pregnant of anger I am pregnant of fear. I bear with me animosity I only hold hostility.

And to write them is unthinkable Even holding a pen is horrible.

Gratitude

Thank you Lord for this life Yes, there's fun to remind me of its beauty And there's sorrow to remind me of humility Yes, there are colorful lines And to make it more human You colored some black ones.

All that I am, I dedicate to you All my experiences and days Are all but only for you. Thank you, thank you, thank you. My grateful heart and mind say so. Oh Lord of my life bless me As I live this life inspire me.

Haikus

'Bird Patience'

Every turn you make Vigilant on every fish Patient 'til the end.

'Prayer after the Rain'

Filling all the place Resounding after the rain Thanking Him over there.

'Come Back Soon'

Leave not my Mother Afraid from top to bottom Hope to see you soon.

'Ant's Politics'

Go towards the cake The path you take we will make Just forget their sake.

Hellenized

Every minute my mind faints Can anybody be like you And imitate what you do?

Because without you entirely would be lost Like ferry on a coast Engage in a black ghost.

I Ask, I Wonder

I ask and I wonder. I ask many questions I wonder about occasions. And if this will lead me to fall Let it be from the pinnacle. Let it be my accusation my utter rebellion. A life worthy, I believe, a life commendable to live is possible only, if I have questions to give. This guesting has that chance if I allow a creative disturbance. And if this leads my story short Let it provoke without comfort. Let it be my only payment my own indictment. This life nevertheless is reserved, I guess, for those who can offer a time to ask and wonder no matter what's the ending be it pain, torture or suffering.

Living Flame

Lovely candle burning mightily bright Upon the night casting trickles of light Giving comfort to the weary body Offering support in a dark journey.

Lovely candle in a dark summer night Every silhouette's tall behind the light Esteems and sustains soul in dark sorrow Lessens the pains of the breaking morrow.

Lovely candle in a cold rainy night Like a warm cradle hugging very tight Eliminating the chill when held near To continue still the search without fear.

Lovely candle gone in a long hard night Have given all and have done what is right Rekindled the traveler's living flame To guide others with the same loving aim.

With gentle touch of burning compassion The long journey is not a frustration With that mild warmth you yield so consuming That shattered soul is healed a broken wing.

Much Lucky, I Said

I walk

On the carpet of green The feeling is serene It's therapeutic I feel energetic.

and walk

Without any directions. Mind's full of questions About self, world and God As I continue to trod.

then I ride To find and quest To try and test But my thirst and hunger Tempts me to stop over.

and ride until I reach a spot where I see a lot more than my situation far from my condition.

then I realized I am still blessed Much lucky, I said.

My Fear

Aye! my fear has finally come I'm not aware where it is from My hands tremble i don't know why tears roll down i begin to cry

You really are a shooting star, From afar so spectacular. Just like what you have said and done But in just a flash, they're all gone.

You told me i was everything, You healed the wounds and broken wing, i thought i could soar high and fly, alas! it was all just a pure lie.

my heart wants to scream out so loud in the midst of a noisy crowd why should it end all in this way why not just you and me all day?

Nature's Wonderful Painter

God paints beautifully The grey sky The inverted rainbow smile A round robe of green A crowned tree Of golden green is seen. A rain from heaven falling Millions of arrows shooting. What a creative hand Manifested throughout the land.

Night Life

The streetlights hum dark syllables as do the trees and the kitchen windows. Even the moon in it's way makes words relying on the cat to sound them. The park takes a deep breath. Stars rise like sparks from a fire below the horizon.

Occasional Beggars

I am trained to beg and plead In every occasion and need I scour all corners and places Selecting those with cards of aces.

Then I'll call you friend and guide 'Cause each time I call, you're at my side Traversing the long and steep road Even my phone, you give me load.

When occasion knocks at my door Never forget that I am poor I need your generous help today Lend all to me, come what may.

I pray for you to God above And assure you of his love To lighten your heavy burden That you may give me often.

Ordinary Call

My vocation story Like that of a tree Nothing exceptional Nothing special. What I mean is ordinary What I mean, the palm tree.

I received no visions No whale shark No burning bush No flash of lightning That I can say. It was plain. It was simple.

But like the palm tree It is useful Only when its mature And had many pressure. The ladder it possess Testifies to that process. My human experiences Of shortcomings and frailties Are ladder for others That they may reach They may enjoy The God-given fruits My talents, my virtues All my good values.

There may be dry ones Leaves to be brought down These need formation These need reduction. More trimmings More clearings.

When the perfect time Once it will come The palm tree is ready To give, to empty. Fruits for food. Leaves for broom. Trunk for lumber. Roots for medicine. Sap for wine. Milk for soap and butter.

This is similar To my life not afar. Selfless giving for others. Total surrender For the pleasure Of my Divine Caretaker.

Our Hearts Are Connected

The veracious reason why It is hard to say goodbye 'cause our hearts are connected With strings of love committed Bound with similar vision A journey of one mission Sharing a unified dream Distinct version, it may seem The veracious reason why It is hard to say goodbye Is 'cause of that cherished day not so very far away Of earnest laughter and tears To winning our way to cheers We've been casts of the series Story of fraternities Where no one played the same role Walking on different sole Others sing, while others dance Some are crew men to balance Others write, others recite All are equal all are bright 'Tis our beautiful story A shared common history Binding us all together Connecting us forever.

Paghila Ng Panahon

Bakit ang bagal ng orasan Ang pagpalit ng mga buwan Pwede po bang pakibilisan Sana'y 'wag ng idahan-dahan

Mga nagdaa'y inuusig Laman ay puno ng pag-ibig Mga dibdib ay yumayanig Pati na ang buong daigdig

Ang yamot ay nais ng wak'san Ang bukas ay gustong hubaran Dahil ang buong katunayan Ang yakap mo'y pinanabikan

Hihilahin na ang panahon Sa kinabukasa'y tatalon Nakakabaliw na ang ngayon 'To lang s'yang pagkakataon

Play The Games

One, two, three, four and five Come join and jive Find your rhythm Have it in every game.

And there's that ultimate game Life, as I call its name. You and me must play It's the game of everyday.

Five, four, three, two, one When the game is done Let Him be your light And praise Him through the night.

Prayer Before Speaking

God, our loving and compassionate Lord Jesus Christ, only begotten, divine Word And Holy Spirit, inspiration of my words All lovely and beautiful things They come from Your supreme Being.

All these come from your goodness All these manifest your faithfulness All these show your beauty All these tell your glory.

As I have this engagement Touch my mouth every moment Bless me, guide me, teach me To be you instrument, let me be.

As I open my mouth dear Father I pray I'll be sound and clear As I impart your message of charity Let me do it successfully and faithfully. This I ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Sa Pagtila Ng Ulan

Kapag tumila na ang ulan At ang baha'y wala na sa daan Puso ko'y nananabik sa'yo aking sinta Na makita ang sigla sa iyong mga mata.

Dahil kasing init ito ng araw Tulad ng dating iyong pagpukaw Nung oras na ako'y nanaginip Sa panandalian kong pagkaidlip.

Nagising ako mula sa masamang bangungot Sa isang kalagayang katakot-takot Buong akala'y bumubuo ng dakilang buhay Iyon pala'y walang patutunguhang paglalakbay.

Halos lugmukin ako ng pangamba Sa pagsuong sa lansangang di-kilala Kamay ko'y hawak mo't sa aki'y tiniyak 'Di ako mag-iisa sa pagtawa't pag-iyak.

Doon ko na sinabi sa sarili ko Na ikaw ang kulang sa buhay ko Sabay nating iaahon ang pagmamahalan At asahan mong sa tabi mo'y di-lilisan.

Sa pagtilang ulan ako'y sumilip sa bintana Ngiti'y gumuhit sa kagigising kong mukha Sinag ng araw ay tumamabad sa mga mata Masayang alaala ang aking ginugunita.

Savior's Birth

In the town of Bethlehem Three wise men came Bringing gifts for Him The Saviour of all men.

With them are; Gold, Frankincense, and myrrh For the new born King Not in a palace but in a manger

Without a doubt They worshipped Jesus Believing that he was the promised Messiah Even though He was born In a stable

Baby Jesus welcomes those who have none In the same manner As He welcomed those who have, like: gifts and wisdom.

Shepherds in the land Witnessed first at hand The fulfilment of God's love by sending a mighty King.

A King neither in a palace Nor in an inn rather in a manger amidst animals together.

Giving doubts no place In their minds In seeing a King hosted by animals of many kinds.

Revering the Baby

On bended knee While the angels sing, "Glory."

Soneto Ng Pasasalamat

Maraming pagkakataon Ang lumaho't lumipas Kubli't 'di maipamalas Mga tinig na nakabaon Sa lamim ng dapit hapon. Natagpuang lumang kambas Laman ay gunitang kupas Ng pag-ibig at panahon

Sa lahat ng kapuluan Hayaang ipagsigawan Musika ng pagmamahal Sa alaalang nagdaan Ni dekada man o buwan Lahat ito'y itatanghal.

Strangers To Lovers

We've been together a while Two strangers exchanging smile It only takes a moment To sweep me like a torrent

My thought is in a sudden haze I shake my head and fix my gaze Your eyes like those of angels Lovely and full of marvels

Your laugh is a melody Sinks into my heart dearly Its beauty possesses me And puts me in reverie

It was an unfamiliar hue Lasted like a morning dew Two strangers became lovers: a love lasting forever.

Take Care

Please take care always my dear This parting phrase we say Out of care and fear In order that when we see each other You remain healthy, well and clear. We show what has primacy We reveal our priority Not popularity, influence as we depart Nor be famous when we are apart Power is not, much less gain wealth We say instead, maintain your health. And when situations not well Troubled, problematic, you're in peril Just call and wait for my presence To give immediate, gentle care And put you out of any further danger.

The End Of The Journey

Your journey has ended Faithful, dearly beloved. Hasten to your Master Your relentless Lover.

Your time has expired O servant weary and tired. Quick, join your Eternal And your dedicated Pal.

Your sun has set Not totally yet Somehow, somewhere Your legacy flare.

When your voice faded Preaching committed That used to be fervent T'was been ardent.

When the string has snapped And the music stopped Your life been a song To many all along.

This poem to you I offer Loving and passionate Father As you go, please bring Your son's thanksgiving.

The Law Of Labor

Many people are drawn Into ruthless labor form To gain and enjoy At the cost of oi poloi.

What is to be inhuman As long as they can. To profit for enjoyment Is their only commitment.

Even ordained minister Inclines and watches over On how to profit mercilessly Onto their flocks'.

What is their vow - poverty? What the hell, speak not to me! Where's that collection go? Aren't you afraid of people's woe?

Well, I won't be amazed Never be astonished. You wear that calloused heart Never ever will you impart.

What is the essential aspect Of labor that we expect? It must only be carried out Liberty of spirit-it's all about.

Labor is the source of service And of sustenance 'tis. Earn your living Look at the poor needing.

We Are Connected

In that fine summer day We're out for the fields to play I gently ran whistling Inviting cool air to sing A melody for my ear While it will be your carrier

As I carefully toss you up A little higher from my cap Then you start to gather speed So I give you more thread as you need You may be up there while I'm just down here

No matter how far from each other Be always quick to remember That we are uniquely bound With that string of love profound And rest assured my dear I won't let go of that string ever.

Without You

Shattered under the crisp wind Beaten and defeated in the end Ten feet below the ground Heart and soul are bound No chance nor hope of whatever Without you to save from there.

Young Man's Isolation

No city lights No disco nights No roaring crowd No music so loud. No gadgets to show No gizmos' glow. No nightly gimmick No teenage frolic. 'Tis my isolation For my vocation. 'Tis worldly loss For the sake of the cross.