

Poetry Series

Donward Caniete Bughaw - poems -



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Donward Caniete Bughaw()

Donward Caniete Bughaw, also known as Donward Bughaw or Donward Cañete Gomez Bughaw and sometimes Gwanda Wordhub, was an independent Filipino poet, writer, and teacher. Born on June 4, 1999, in Santa Catalina, Zamboanga City to Alejandro Gomez Bughaw and Arlene Quimod Cañete, he grew up on the remote island of Olutanga in Laparay, Talusan, Zamboanga Sibugay.

He began his early education at Lower Laparay Day Care Center under his grandmother, Editha Buenaventura Revilla. After Grade 3 at Laparay Elementary School, he transferred to the Star Class section at Don Gregorio Evangelista Memorial School in Sta. Catalina, Zamboanga City. He passed the Alternative Learning System Accreditation and Equivalency Test and graduated from Laparay Elementary School in 2011.

He graduated from Laparay National High School in 2015, where he served as a contributor and staff writer for Budjong Publication and Associate Editor in English for the Western Portal. He earned his Bachelor of Secondary Education, major in Filipino, from Western Mindanao State University - Mabuhay Campus in 2019. He was also the first and last Editor-in-Chief of SIBYA, the campus' first and last official publication, and wrote the poems 'Kay Devina' and 'Sa Mga Guro,' the latter of which was featured at <http://noypi.com.ph> and included in 21 Tula Para sa Guro at <http://pinoycollection.com>. He also won first place in a poem writing contest during one of the university's Palaro events.

He passed the Licensure Examination for Teachers in September 2019 and volunteered at Laparay National High School for three months before the COVID-19 lockdown. During the pandemic, he focused on writing and joined several underground literary online writing contests.

Some of his achievements include: 1st Place in Pen Wonders International Q/A Contest 14, June 8, 2021, for 'Mind-Boggling'; Medallion de Respect in My Words: A Renaissance Father's Day Special for the acrostic poem 'Father'; and Featured Poet in Filipino Poets in Blossoms for 'Best Quote of the Week.' He served as an instructor and Acting Unit Coordinator at Philippine Last Frontier College - South Ubian Extension from 2024 to 2025.

Isla Olutanga (Olutanga Island)

Isla Olutanga ang kinalak'han ko,
Hindi man matunog, paka-alamin mo;
Munisipalidad dito'y bumubuo:
Mabuhay, Talusan, Olutanga'ng dulo.

Dito nangabuo samu't saring k'wento;
Dito nangamatay sina Impoy't Pupo;
Nagpagulong-gulong mga buto't bungo
Sa lupang nilinang— nadilig din'g dugo!

Pagsasaka rito't pangingisda roon—
Ito'y pangunahing gawain sa nayon;
Pinagkakitaa'y lupa't dagat. Hayun!
Ibang bata'y sanay kahit pa maghapon.

Sagana sa yaman mapa-lupa't dagat.
May palay, tabako, mais, mani, copra,
Saging at kamote; alimango, balat,
Tulingan, taklobo, bangus at talaba.

Nagagandahang mga dalampasigan
Sa isla ring ito mo masusumpungan;
Usapang white sand beach, nar'yang Taguisian,
Dao, Moalboal, Little Siargao't Kabugan.

May kweba't hotspring ding madalas dayuhin;
Sangtwaryo ng ahas— na-feature na sa film!
Ito'y iilan lang sa mga tanawin
Makikita rito, kung 'yong nanaisin!

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