

GREGORIO BRILLANTES' THE DISTANCE TO ANDROLEDA  
AND OTHER STORIES: STUDIES IN RELIGIOUS  
SYMBOLISM

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A Thesis  
Presented to  
the Faculty of the Graduate School  
University of San Carlos

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In Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree  
Master of Arts in Literature

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by  
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APPROVAL SHEET

IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Literature, this Thesis entitled: "GREGORIO BRILLANTES' THE DISTANCE TO ANDRO\* LEDA AND OTHER STORIES: STUDIES IN RELIGIOUS SYMBOLISM" has been prepared and submitted by Josefina F. Matheu who is hereby recommended for oral examination.

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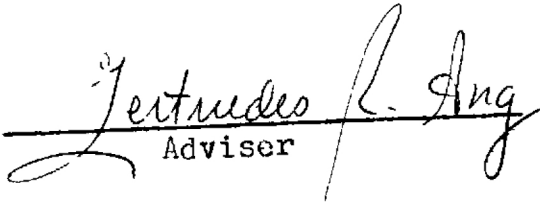
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AND OTHER STORIES: STUDIES IN RELIGIOUS SYMBOLISM  
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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

The considerably fast spreading interest in contemporary Philippine literature in English these past years has been partly manifested by the emphasis on courses offered by the universities and colleges in this particular field. It has been noted that of all the literary genres, the short story claims to be at the moment the most popular and the most developed. Its popularity stems from the fact that its brevity answers the literary need of a jet-age generation. Its mature development is a compound of the creative effort and sheer hard work of the writers concerned.

In summing up the state of the contemporary Philippine short stories in English, Bernad stressed the fact that the Philippines is predominantly a Christian Catholic country. With such a culture, it would be strange if our writers failed to reflect in their stories the philosophy and theological orientation of Christianity as this is the most important part of the Filipino heritage.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Miguel Bernad, "Philippines Short Stories of 1952", Philippine Studies, volume 1 (1953), p. 15.

Today, there is need for more than mere stylistics to bring into form the Filipino image recorded in our literature. The presentation of human experience, which is the essence of all literature, if applied to contemporary writing, must either be realistic or symbolic. The former depicts actual experience as it is, but symbolism goes a rung higher in that although life is still portrayed, reality is subordinated and themes and meanings are emphasized.

Symbolism therefore, which is the attempt by carefully studied means--a complicated association of ideas represented by a medley of metaphors--to communicate unique personal feelings,<sup>2</sup> comes as the answer to the contemporary short story writer's search for self and national expression. For where the ordinary conventional language of literature would fail, symbolism alone would capture the varying shades of emotions and feelings of a race and successfully project to the world the true picture of the contemporary Filipino.

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<sup>2</sup>Edmund Wilson, Axel's Castle (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1959), p. 21.