

Bayan Ko (My Dear Country)

Bayan Ko was composed in 1928 when Filipinos were campaigning for independence from America under the leadership of President Manuel Quezon. The lyrics are based on a poem by Jose Corazon de Jesus. Enmeshed in the song are the yearnings of a people colonized for over 400 years, first as a colony of Spain and then as a colony of the United States. De Guzman likened that Motherland to a bird set free, the land returned to the rightful people, the true heirs of the islands. "Foreigners are intoxicated with your beauty, my country, my nest of tears of poverty. My steadfast wish is to set you free."

Bayan Ko (My Dear Country)

Ang bayan kong hirang, Pilipinas an pangalan
Perlas ng silangan, sa taglay niyang kariktan
Ngunit sawimpalad, sa minmithing paglaya
Laging lulumuha sa pagdaralita

Ang bayan ko ng Pilipinas
Lupa ng ginto at bulaklak
Pagibig ang sa kanyang palad
Nag-alay ng ganda at dilag

At sa kanyang yumi at ganda
dayuhan ay nahalina
Bayan ko
binihag ka
nasadlak sa dusa

Ibong mang may layang lumipad
kulungin mo ay umiiyak
Bayan pa kayang sakdal dilag
ang di magnasang maka-alpas

Pilipinas kong minumutya
Pugad ng luha ko at dalita
Aking adhika
Makita kang
Sakdal laya

Bayan Ko

Translation by Philippine Study Group of Minnesota

My dear country, given the name of the
Philippines,
Pearl of the Orient—sparkling in its beauty,
Yet unfortunate in its yearning for freedom,
Always swelling with tears of suffering.

My country, the Philippines:
Land of gold, garden of flowers
Endowed with love,
Gifted with beauty and radiance,

Intoxicated because of her beauty,
Foreign lands were drawn to her.
My dear country,
They came and conquered you
And you suffered in misery.

A bird that is free to fly—
Put it in a cage and it cries.
What other country, so full of radiance
Would not want to be free?

Philippines, my beloved,
Nest of tears and suffering,
My wish for you
Is to set you
Totally free!