

# English Version Of Mi Ultimo Adios

"Mi Ultimo Adiós" (My Final Farewell), written by the national hero of the Philippines, Dr José Rizal, in [Fort Santiago](#) on the eve of his execution by the Spanish on December 30, 1896:

## Mi Ultimo Adiós

Adios, Patria adorada, region del sol querida,  
Perla del Mar de Oriente, nuestro perdido Eden!  
A darte voy alegre la triste mustia vida,  
Y fuera más brillante más fresca, más florida,  
Tambien por tí la diera, la diera por tu bien.

En campos de batalla, luchando con delirio  
Otros te dan sus vidas sin dudas, sin pesar;  
El sitio nada importa, ciprés, laurel ó lirio,  
Cadalso ó campo abierto, combate ó cruel martirio,  
Lo mismo es si lo piden la patria y el hogar.

Yo muero cuando veo que el cielo se colora  
Y al fin anuncia el día trás lóbrego capuz;  
Si grana necesitas para teñir tu aurora,  
Vierte la sangre mía, derrámala en buen hora  
Y dórela un reflejo de su naciente luz.

Mis sueños cuando apenas muchacho adolescente,  
Mis sueños cuando joven ya lleno de vigor,  
Fueron el verte un día, joya del mar de oriente  
Secos los negros ojos, alta la tersa frente,  
Sin ceño, sin arrugas, sin manchas de rubor.

Ensueño de mi vida, mi ardiente vivo anhelo,  
Salud te grita el alma que pronto va á partir!  
Salud! ah que es hermoso caer por darte vuelo,  
Morir por darte vida, morir bajo tu cielo,  
Y en tu encantada tierra la eternidad dormir.

Si sobre mi sepulcro vieres brotar un dia  
Entre la espesa yerba sencilla, humilde flor,  
Acércala a tus labios y besa al alma mía,  
Y sienta yo en mi frente bajo la tumba fría  
De tu temura el soplo, de tu hálito el calor.

Deja á la luna verme con luz tranquila y suave;  
Deja que el alba envíe su resplandor fugaz,  
Deja gemir al viento con su murmullo grave,  
Y si desciende y posa sobre mi cruz un ave

**Mi Último Adiós** is a poem written by the Filipino nationalist hero José Rizal, which serves as a poignant farewell to his country and loved ones before his execution in 1896. This literary work is not just a simple goodbye; it encapsulates Rizal's love for the Philippines, his deep sense of patriotism, and his hope for the future of his people. The poem, originally written in Spanish, has been translated into many languages, including English, and is celebrated for its emotional depth and philosophical insights.

# Background of José Rizal

José Rizal was born on June 19, 1861, in Calamba, Laguna, Philippines. A polymath, he was a novelist, ophthalmologist, educator, and revolutionary. Rizal is primarily known for his novels "Noli Me Tangere" and "El Filibusterismo," which exposed the social injustices and colonial oppression under Spanish rule. His writings played a crucial role in the Philippine Revolution and inspired a nationalistic movement among Filipinos.

Rizal was a proponent of peaceful reform rather than violent revolution. However, his ideas and activism against the Spanish authorities led to his arrest and eventual execution by firing squad on December 30, 1896. It is in this context of impending death that he composed "Mi Último Adiós."

## Overview of the Poem

"Mi Último Adiós" is composed of 14 stanzas, each reflecting Rizal's thoughts, feelings, and aspirations in the face of death. The poem is rich with imagery and symbolism, showcasing Rizal's literary prowess. The English translation maintains the essence of the original, though some nuances may be lost.

## Major Themes

The poem explores several important themes, including:

1. **Patriotism:** Rizal expresses unwavering love for his homeland, signifying that his life and death are dedicated to its freedom.
2. **Sacrifice:** The poem highlights the idea of sacrificing oneself for a greater cause, emphasizing that true love for one's country may demand the ultimate price.
3. **Hope and Renewal:** Despite the somber tones, there is an underlying message of hope for the future of the Philippines, suggesting that his death may inspire others to continue the fight for justice and liberty.
4. **Mortality:** Rizal reflects on the inevitability of death, urging his readers to consider the legacy they will leave behind.

## Structure and Style

"Mi Último Adiós" is structured in a lyrical format, featuring a rhythmic flow that adds to its emotional impact. The use of metaphors, similes, and vivid imagery enhances the poem's themes.

- **Imagery:** Rizal employs nature imagery, which symbolizes life and death, linking the beauty of the natural world with the struggle for freedom.
- **Metaphors:** He uses metaphors to convey complex emotions, such as comparing his love for the Philippines to a flame that burns within him.
- **Symbolism:** The poem's concluding lines suggest that while his physical form may perish, his spirit will live on in the hearts of his fellow Filipinos.

# English Translation of "Mi Último Adiós"

Here is a brief translation and analysis of some key lines from the poem:

- > "Farewell, dear Fatherland, I am leaving you,
- > The time has come for me to depart."

In these opening lines, Rizal addresses his homeland directly, indicating the deep emotional connection he feels. The phrase "the time has come" suggests inevitability and acceptance of his fate.

- > "In the midst of life, I shall die,
- > With a heart full of love and hope."

This line encapsulates the theme of sacrifice. Despite facing death, Rizal's heart is filled with love for his country, and he retains hope for its future.

- > "I have given you my life,
- > Now I give you my death."

Here, Rizal emphasizes the totality of his commitment to the Philippines. His life and death are intertwined with the fate of his nation.

## Rizal's Legacy

The impact of "Mi Último Adiós" extends beyond its literary significance. It has become a symbol of Filipino nationalism and resilience. The poem is often recited in various commemorative events, particularly on Rizal Day, observed every December 30.

## Influence on the Philippine Revolution

Rizal's execution and the sentiments expressed in his farewell poem ignited a stronger nationalist movement among Filipinos. His writings inspired figures such as Andres Bonifacio and Emilio Aguinaldo, who played pivotal roles in the Philippine Revolution against Spanish rule.

1. Inspiration for Activism: Rizal's life and works motivated many to fight for reform and independence.
2. Cultural Identity: "Mi Último Adiós" has been integral in shaping the Filipino identity, promoting the values of heroism, sacrifice, and love for one's country.

## Modern Relevance

The themes of "Mi Último Adiós" remain relevant in contemporary discussions about patriotism and national identity. As the Philippines navigates socio-political challenges, Rizal's words resonate with

those who seek to uphold the values of freedom and justice.

- Educational Importance: The poem is included in school curricula, serving as a reminder of the sacrifices made for the nation's freedom.
- Cultural Celebrations: It is frequently featured in cultural performances, art, and literature, showcasing Rizal's enduring influence on Filipino culture.

## Conclusion

"Mi Último Adiós" is more than just a farewell poem; it is a profound reflection of José Rizal's love for the Philippines and his unwavering commitment to its liberation. Through its evocative language and deep themes, the poem continues to inspire generations of Filipinos, urging them to remember the sacrifices made for their freedom and to strive for a brighter future. As such, it remains a cornerstone of Philippine literature and a testament to Rizal's legacy as a national hero.

In a world where the quest for justice and equality persists, Rizal's message in "Mi Último Adiós" serves as a timeless reminder of the power of hope, love, and sacrifice in the face of adversity.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the significance of 'Mi Último Adiós' in Filipino literature?

'Mi Último Adiós' is a poem written by José Rizal, which serves as a farewell letter expressing his love for the Philippines and his readiness to sacrifice his life for the country's freedom from Spanish colonial rule.

### Who translated 'Mi Último Adiós' into English?

Various translators have rendered 'Mi Último Adiós' into English, but one of the most notable translations is by Charles Derbyshire, which captures the essence and emotion of Rizal's original work.

### What are the main themes found in 'Mi Último Adiós'?

The main themes include patriotism, sacrifice, love for one's country, and the hope for freedom and justice, reflecting Rizal's deep commitment to the Filipino people.

### How has 'Mi Último Adiós' influenced modern Filipino identity?

'Mi Último Adiós' has become a symbol of nationalism in the Philippines, inspiring generations to value their heritage, strive for independence, and honor those who laid down their lives for the nation's freedom.

## When was 'Mi Último Adiós' written and under what circumstances?

'Mi Último Adiós' was written on December 29, 1896, just before José Rizal was executed by the Spanish colonial authorities, reflecting his thoughts and emotions as he faced death.

## Can you summarize the content of the English version of 'Mi Último Adiós'?

The English version of 'Mi Último Adiós' conveys Rizal's farewell to his loved ones, his reflections on life and death, and his unwavering hope for the future of the Philippines, emphasizing the importance of freedom and national pride.

## Where can one find the English version of 'Mi Último Adiós'?

The English version of 'Mi Último Adiós' can be found in various literary anthologies, online platforms, and educational resources that focus on Filipino literature and José Rizal's works.

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