

THE PASSION OF ANDRES

Setting: The stage is minimal, sometimes bare. In some scenes where a multitude of people are required, the audience can represent the crowd. No realism, if possible. No unnecessary props.

Characters: The Magdalo camp may use black tights and masks. They represent “herd thinking.” They also exemplify Aguinaldo’s “thoughts.”

ACT 1

SCENE 1. A house in Tondo, Manila. 1896. Oriang de Jesus, a nineteen- year-old Filipina hurriedly pull out a plank of wood from the floor. A box, a secret archive materializes. She opens it and gathers documents and wraps them around her body beneath her saya. Then she gets a gun from the same box . and checks whether it’s loaded. She wraps the gun with a handkerchief and hides it in her bag. Then she fixes her saya. Despite her young years, Oriang looks strong and determined.

A knock is heard.

ORIANg

Who is it?

VOICE

May-pagasa.

Recognizing the code, Oriang opens the door. It’s her husband, Andres Bonifacio. Aged thirty, his face is tanned from too much exposure to the sun. His clothes look faded from too many washings. But despite his plebian looks, there is something resolute and decisive about him. Oriang, upon seeing Andres, reaches up to him, but someone else appears behind him, making her pull back.

ANDRES

Oriang, I brought Jacinto with me. We have a lot of things to discuss.

Emilio Jacinto, eighteen years old, takes off his hat. He is handsome, his face registering the idealism of youth. He stands behind Andres, as if he were born to defer to him.

JACINTO

Good evening, Oriang.

ORIAN

Sit down, Emilio. How's your military operation?

JACINTO

Fine. Fine.

ORIAN

Good. (Beat) Well, I better be going now. Is the carrmata outside?

ANDRES

Yes, You better be careful. You've got the entire archive of our organization. You get caught and we're all dead.

ORIAN

Don't worry. I will be careful.

ANDRES

And Oriang, If something happens to you...

Familiar with the warning by now, Oriang joins him.

Together:

ANDRES

I will be devastated.

ORIAN

I will be devastated.

Oriang kisses him on both cheeks.

ORIAN (whispers)

I love you, Andres. (Loud) There's food in the pantry. Help yourself.

ANDRES

It's almost eight. You better hurry. The guardia civil will be making their rounds any minute now. (Whispers tenderly) I'll be here when you come back.

Oriang exits.

JACINTO

Brave woman. Who could tell that beneath that gentle veneer you have a woman who can shoot, ride a horse and fight.

ANDRES

I'm a lucky man. I have Oriang and you, both loyal and true. (Pause) Where are those...oh, here they are.

He picks up a native luggage called baul in the corner of the room. Like Pandora's box, the luggage reveals a treasure trove of colored ribbons, silvery sequins, small bamboo sticks of rainbow colors.

Jacinto looks amazed and puzzled at the same time. Andres squats on the floor as he unloads the luggage..

ANDRES

Sit here (referring to the floor). It's better. We won't be seen at all.

Jacinto does as he's told.

ANDRES

We're doing some craft tonight. You'll make fans and I'll make fancy bamboo canes.

Andres gives Jacinto the materials for making fans. Emilio Jacinto hesitates, obviously not understanding why they're doing it.

JACINTO

I...I don't know...

ANDRES

Just play with those things. (Whispers) Just in case the guardia make their appearance.

JACINTO (getting it)

Oh.

ANDRES

If they come in, we'll pretend we have better things to do than join the revolution. They start to do some crafts.

ANDRES (whispers)

We have built a strong mass base in Tondo. We're lucky we can get a lot of recruits...from shipping, stevedoring, cigar factories, trading houses. But it's not enough. If we have to start a revolution, we need more men.

JACINTO

What about the ilustrados? We can make use their money to buy guns.

ANDRES

That's what I wanted to tell you tonight. I started a campaign here in my pueblo. And I want you to do it in yours, as well.

Jacinto , eagerly comes closer to Andres.

ANDRES

I distributed leaflets urging Tagalogs to join us... signed with the names of the ilustrados. (Conspiratorially) I and some men forged their signatures.

JACINTO (surprised at the boldness of the plan)

You did?

ANDRES

That's the only way to implicate them. If they get caught, they'll realize how oppressive this regime is.

JACINTO (catching on)

Not only that. It will deflect the attention of the Spaniards. They won't suspect poor people like us...

ANDRES (cutting him off)

If that plan fails, we'll confiscate their lands.

JACINTO

We can do that?

ANDRES

Of course, if we have enough guns, enough rebels... (He stops, noticing Jacinto's work) Hey, that's beautiful. You make good fans.

Andres takes the fan from Jacinto and holds it against the light.

ANDRES

I supported my brothers and sisters peddling these. You wouldn't be talking to me now if not for this.

JACINTO

All by yourself?

ANDRES (nods)

My parents died when I was fourteen.

JACINTO

You had a hard life, Supremo. No wonder you're made of steel.

Silence. They go back to making fans and fancy canes.

ANDRES

By the way, Rizal's boat is going to dock in Manila two days from now.

JACINTO

He's back from Spain?

ANDRES

I think he had a falling out with one of the reformers, so he's back.

JACINTO

It seems reform movements have not worked at all.

ANDRES

You can say that again.

JACINTO

Look at the propaganda movement in Spain. Then there's the Liga Filipina...they all failed.

ANDRES (with passion)

That's why I think we should start the revolution soon. (Beat) This is where Rizal comes in. Ask him to join us. Convince him of the urgency of an armed uprising.

JACINTO

Sure, I can do that. But will he listen to me?

ANDRES

Of course. He's one of us. Just read his novels, the Noli and the Fili. They're been declared subversive by the Spaniards and banned from being distributed...

JACINTO

I only wish they were written in Tagalog.

ANDRES

Nevertheless. books are like cannons and guns. (Softly) Can you get this one powerful ammunition for us? (Referring to Rizal)

JACINTO

I'll try. But didn't you say he snubbed you?

ANDRES

Not snub. He just didn't notice me. When we had meetings...when we still have the Liga...he was too busy with other things. Everyone wanted to talk to him.

JACINTO

Nobody wanted to talk to you?

ANDRES

I didn't have his clothes, his bearing.

JACINTO

You're more than him. You act, he talks, okay he writes as well. But you're the best recruiter and organizer I've known. You built the Katipunan from the ground up. Imagine from 30,000 recruits to 300,000.

ANDRES

I'm no Rizal, you're right. But someday, they know me, honor me. (Beat) That's what I like about the revolution. Everybody's equal. (Pause) You'll talk to him, yes?

JACINTO

I'll do anything for you, Supremo.

A knock is heard.

VOICE

May-pagasa! May-pagasa!

JACINTO

He knows your password.

Andres opens the door. A young boy, about fifteen, enters.

ANDRES

What is it, Tasio?

TASIO

It's Padre Gil.

Andres and Jacinto look at one another.

TASIO

He refuses to give the final rites to the dead. The widow sent me here to ask for your help. She says she has no money.

JACINTO

I wish we could send back all the friars to Spain.

ANDRES

Jesus, we can't afford to live under this regime. We can't afford to die either.
(Beat) You can leave now, Tasio. We'll take care of this.

Tasio exits.

ANDRES

It won't be hard to get rid of him.

JACINTO

What do you mean?

ANDRES

He has a routine. His ways are predictable.

JACINTO

Is that so?

ANDRES

He takes a walk at night. Every night

JACINTO

Just like an aswang who comes out of the dark, afraid of the light.

ANDRES

I suggest we hide behind the trees and pounce on him.

JACINTO

Right. Strangle him.

ANDRES

Then stab him. I hope he rots in hell.

A knock is heard.

ANDRES

Who could it be this time?

VOICE

Lakambini.

Andres opens the door. It's Oriang. Andres kisses her on the forehead.

ANDRES

You're back early. Thank God, you're safe.

ORIAN

They're arresting bankers, accountants...who cares about a poor woman like me?
(Looks at Andres and smiles) You're strategy worked! Oh, Andres, you're a
genious.

They hug.

JACINTO

I have to go.

ANDRES

No, stay for the night. Who knows what evil lurks outside.

JACINTO

Don't worry. If I smell danger, I'll stay with friends.

ORIAN

You won't be able to do that.

Jacinto looks at her, puzzled.

ORIAN

No one, absolutely no one will let you in.

JACINTO

Even if they're my friends?

ORIAN

Especially if they're your friends.

ANDRES

What are you talking about?

ORIAN

They're scared of being involved.

ANDRES

Good God, what do you do the whole night?

ORIAN

Sleep in the alleys. Hide in dark places so I won't be seen. Or, let the carromata drive me back and forth Binondo.

ANDRES

Mahal, you must be tired. (Offers her a chair) Sit and relax.

ORIAN

Hungry is more like it. I've got to eat.

ANDRES

We'll join you. Truth is, we haven't eaten yet.

Oriang is surprised.

ORIAN

What have you been doing?

Notices craft items on the floor.

ORIAN

Fan the revolution?

Blackout

SCENE 2. Padre Gil, aged 55, is the notorious and powerful friar of Tondo. He stands erect and unyielding as a young widow, about twenty years old, implores him to perform the final rites for her husband. The widow is wearing clothes too big for her, obviously borrowing it from someone for this special occasion. She is distraught.

WIDOW

Please, Padre, I beg of you, Give the final rites to my husband. His soul won't enter heaven if you deny him...

PADRE GIL

You have to pay P300.

WIDOW

Diyos ko, where will I get that kind of money?

PADRE GIL

P300 and that doesn't include incense.

WIDOW

What's that for?

PADRE GIL

To drive the evil spirits away.

WIDOW

But he's already dead, Padre. The evil spirits are gone as well.

PADRE GIL

Don't get smart with me. Wait a minute. He didn't die in the hands of the veteran civil, did he?

WIDOW

No, Padre.

PADRE GIL

Did he die of contagious disease?

WIDOW

No, Padre.

PADRE GIL

So how did he die then?

WIDOW

We don't know.

PADRE GIL

You don't know? That's another P100. Died of unknown cause.

WIDOW

No, Padre. He died because he was losing weight. Must have been malnutrition.

PADRE GIL

Malnutrition?

WIDOW

He's a carpenter, you see. His amo, an ilustrado, made him work until late hours. One day, he complained of stomach pains. Not that I blame him for it. He would go on days without food, you see. When he got sick, we couldn't afford a doctor. So we just waited for him to die.

PADRE GIL

I'm sorry, woman. It's P300, no more, no less. (Pause) Okay, we'll do away with the incense.

The widow continues to sob.

PADRE GIL

And tomorrow the coffin has to go. It's beginning to smell.

WIDOW

We haven't paid the mortuary yet. Please have pity, He'll be damned in hell if...

PADRE GIL

There is something you can do.

WIDOW

Anything. I'll do anything, Padre.

Padre looks her over.

PADRE GIL

Come here.

He whispers in her ear. The widow pulls back, surprised.

WIDOW

Padre, I can't do that. My husband hasn't been buried yet!

PADRE GIL

Precisely...and that's your fault. He'll go straight to hell.

WIDOW

My fault.

PADRE GIL

For not doing your duty.

WIDOW

I promise to give you half of our harvest next dry season.

PADRE GIL

(Continued)Well, I'm dry now. What can you do about it?

Widow does not respond.

PADRE GIL

It's easy to pleasure me.

Widow does not answer.

PADRE GIL

Three. Just three and your husband will enter heaven.

WIDOW

Three?

PADRE GIL (whispers)

Three orgasms. That's not asking too much, is it?

WIDOW

I'm not a puta. I don't do that.

PADRE GIL

No buts about it. My price is fixed.

WIDOW

Where? Here?

PADRE GIL

No. In the rectory...in my room.

WIDOW

Well...

PADRE GIL

I take that for a yes.

WIDOW

No.

PADRE GIL

Consider it as an indulgence. 300 points, and you can save that for the future. Even you will go to heaven, not just your husband. Come my child. My bed feels like heaven.

He reaches out and puts his hand under the folds of her saya. Widow surprised, screams.

PADRE GIL

Keep quiet, you hear? Otherwise, I'll raise the price. Follow me, this way.

They exit. Andres and Jacinto walk on stage.

ANDRES

We've been here for three days. No sight of him yet.

JACINTO

You think someone tipped him off?

ANDRES

Maybe. You know these friars. They have their spies.

JACINTO

Should we give this up?

ANDRES

We could be useful somewhere else.

JACINTO

I don't feel good about giving up. A man this evil shouldn't be allowed to live.

Blackout

SCENE 3. A boat in Manila. Emilio Jacinto, unrecognizable as a cargador, carries a bundle of hemp. He looks around, surreptitiously. He sees Jose Rizal pacing the deck. In his early thirties, Rizal looks distinguished. He exudes the air of the ilustrado class, unruffled and calm.

JACINTO (softly)

Senor, I'm Emilio Jacinto. I have a message for you.

RIZAL

Not here. I'm being watched. Follow me to my quarters.

RIZAL goes to stage left. JACINTO follows him.

JACINTO

Have you heard of the Katipunan, Senor Rizal?

RIZAL

That's an open secret. In fact, two of my sisters are members. What do you want?

JACINTO

I have a message from the Supremo, Andres Bonifacio.

RIZAL

Your who?

JACINTO (proud)

Our Supremo, Andres Bonifacio.

RIZAL is amused by Jacinto's deference to Andres.

RIZAL

What's his message?

JACINTO

He wants you to approve the revolution.

RIZAL

He wants my approval?

JACINTO

And the permission to use your name.

RIZAL

My name?

JACINTO

You're the inspiration of so many Filipinos. If we could only tell them...

RIZAL (cuts)

Don't do that. I'm already in danger as it is.

JACINTO

We can help you escape.

RIZAL

No, thanks. Blanco has written two good recommendations from me. Now, I'm hoping that Despujol will commute my sentence.

JACINTO

The people need you.

RIZAL

You need inspiration? Read my books.

Awkward silence.

JACINTO

I hope you will change your mind. We'll send another emissary soon.

RIZAL

It's no use. I have no intention of joining you. You want to know why? You need guns and ammunitions to win a war. Without those, it's mass suicide. Think of the lives you're putting at risk. (Pause) I wish you all the luck in the world.

Change of scene. Jacinto exits. Dr. Pio Valenzuela walks on stage to join Rizal. Dr. Valenzuela, a doctor by profession, is an ilustrado. The scene is in Dapitan where Rizal has been exiled for three years.

PIO

We'll help you get out of here...

RIZAL

I already told this young man, Jacinto...

PIO

...we want to keep you in Manila, though.

RIZAL

What kind of escape is that?

PIO

We'll put you in charge of recruitment. People admire you.

RIZAL (sarcastic)

So you have a position for me already? No, I'm sorry I can't join you. At this point in my life, all I desire is peace.

Brief hiatus

PIO (with innuendo)

You're running a good business here, transporting hemp and copra. You bought lands and cultivated them. Why, you've created a paradise. No, you shouldn't let anything spoil this peace.

RIZAL

I sense a sarcasm in what you just said so let me remind you, Dr. Pio, that I also educate the young boys here. And I also perform eye operations. In fact that's why you're here today, isn't it? You brought a patient. (Pause) I'm very useful here.

PIO

I understand you won the lottery?

RIZAL

I won it with someone. To be accurate, we shared the money.

A young woman of nineteen walks on stage. She's Josephine Bracken. She is pretty with her long brown hair and fair skin. She is unmistakably of European descent. She looks exhausted.

JOSEPHINE

Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to intrude.

RIZAL

It's okay. Doctor, this is Josephine Bracken. Josephine, this is Dr. Valenzuela.

JOSEPHINE (extends hand)

Glad to meet you. But how were you able to get past the guard?

PIO

I brought a patient. He's in the other room.

JOSEPHINE

Perfect alibi. (Beat) Now, if you'll excuse me, I have work to do.

Josephine exits.

PIO

She's very pretty.

RIZAL (enthused)

She takes good care of me. ...and the house. Truly, an angel of the house. She cooks, washes, sews...,and even takes care of the chickens in our poultry. Do you know she makes the best homemade noodles? You name it, she can do it.

PIO (thinking of Oriang)

Does she know how to use a gun, ride a horse and fight?

RIZAL

You mean, turn her into a man? Women have their place in society.

PIO

I read your letter to the women of Malolos.

RIZAL

You did? Well, women have their rightful place in society ,I admit, But only up to a point. (Beat) Do you know I required women around here to use stockings when they go to church?

PIO (surprised)

You're going to church now?

RIZAL

Just for a little while. For good behavior, you see. (Beat) I'm going to Cuba.

PIO

Cuba? Why Cuba?

RIZAL

I've offered my services to Spain.

PIO

You're offering you services to Spain?

RIZAL

Doctors are neutral. They treat patients, no matter what their politics are. You know that.

PIO

Well, I have to take my leave. This is a most enlightening conversation.

RIZAL

Goodbye.

Lights shift. Rizal exits, stage left. Andres walks on stage to join Pio.

ANDRES

Putang ina! What is he doing? Serving his enemy? Why work for Spain? Doctor to Cuba? What a turncoat. I can't believe this is the same person who wrote the Noli and the Fili.

PIO

Perhaps, if he's a free man, he could serve our country better. As a prisoner, what can he do?

ANDRES

The revolution can't wait. And he's our only hope of unifying the movement. I'm sure both the rich and the poor will rally behind him. (Sighs) There goes our powerful ammunition.

PIO

Oh, but he's right. We do need guns and ammunitions.

ANDRES

He wants to play it safe, huh? Tell me, was there ever a revolution that was safe?

PIO

Let's hope he'll change his mind. People evolve, you know. (Beat) By the way he gave me this.

He shows Andres a beautifully carved cane.

ANDRES

I could have given you one myself. You didn't have to go all the way there.

PIO (rummages through his pocket)

He gave me something else. An important information.

He hands Andres a piece of paper.

PIO

It's the name of the Japanese Admiral.

ANDRES (reads)

Admiral Kanimura. What about him?

PIO

He'll sell us guns and ammunitions.

ANDRES

How sure are you he's interested?

PIO

He made the same offer to Rizal.

ANDRES

What happened to the transaction?

PIO

Rizal was banished to Dapitan and that was the end of it.

ANDRES

How much is he asking?

PIO

P20,000

ANDRES

That's fair. So, how do we go about it?

PIO

Form a delegation to meet this admiral. We already have a contact and an interpreter. His name is Tagawa, a Japanese married to a Filipina. And by the way, there's a greeting that will help Kanimura identify us. It's a code that he and

Rizal have agreed upon. It's a... it's (tries to remember) "Admiral, my country admires your aspiration for freedom."

ANDRES

You've worked this all out, huh.

PIO

Yes. His cruiser will dock in Manila five days from now. It's called Kongo.

ANDRES

Good work, Pio. Thank you.

PIO

You have to thank Jose Rizal, too.

ANDRES (ignores)

That takes the load off our shoulders. If this pushes through, we have a good chance of winning the revolution. The only setback is that both of these are mere possibilities. Rizal turning out to be the inspiration that will spark the revolution. The Japanese selling us arms. Oh, if only they were true. (Beat) Anyway, I won't wait for guns or grand inspiration to materialize.

A knock is heard.

ANDRES

That must be Jacinto. I asked him to report on the gun situation. (Loud) Who is it?

VOICE

Pingkian.

Andres opens the door. Jacinto walks on stage. Pio and Jacinto greet each other.

ANDRES

You have good news to tell us?

JACINTO

Yes. We found a manufacturing plant in Maeztranza...that's near the Santo Domingo Church. They make guns.

PIO

Go on.

JACINTO

Fortunately, we have two Filipinos employed there. Tito Miguel and Roman Ramos.

Lights shift. Dim on Andres, Jacinto and Pio as they move to stage left. Spanish guard and two Filipinos walk on stage.

GUARD

Whoaah. (Stopping the two men) What is that?

TITO

Garbage.

GUARD

Where's the man collecting garbage here?

ROMAN

He's on leave. We volunteered to throw the garbage until he's back.

Guard eyes them with suspicion.

TITO

It will save money for the company.

GUARD (tentative)

Okay.

The guard exits. Tito and Roman unload the garbage, selecting spare parts of the gun that can be salvaged. They wrap them in newspapers. Enter Chinaman.

CHINAMAN

Me, afraid. But if you give me one gun every delivery, I be happy. Me no talk.

TITO

We can trust you, yes? You, no talk.

Chinaman nods.

Lights shift. Tito and Roman exit. Lights on Andres, Jacinto and Pio.

JACINTO

We have a problem with this setup. If they get discovered, we'll all be in danger. I suggest we look for other sources. We can't jeopardize the lives of these two.

ANDRES

I agree. But let's not forget one thing. The man behind the gun is as important as the gun in his hands. We have to train our men to be competent. Strong. Capable. (Beat) By the way, we have a new recruit. He's brilliant and promising.

PIO

What's his name?

ANDRES

Emilio Aguinaldo.

JACINTO

My namesake. He better be good.

PIO

I have a huge distrust of the Cavitenos. To start with, they have a nasty name for outsiders.

ANDRES

What? (In jest) It might refer to me.

PIO

Alsa Balutan. Get in fast, get out fast.

ANDRES (with irony)

That's not me.

Repeated knocks are heard.

ANDRES

Why is it, Jacinto, that everytime you're here, people come knocking? (To the guest) Who is it? What's your code?

VOICE

Malamig.

Andres opens the door. Tasio enters.

TASIO

We have a traitor in our midst. Teodoro Patino. You know him right? Well, he confessed to Padre Gil everything he knows about the Katipunan.

ANDRES

How did this happen?

JACINTO

When was this?

TASIO

Patino fought with Apolinario Cruz after a heated debate. As revenge, he threatened to reveal all our secrets to Padre Gil.

TOGETHER

ANDRES: Padre Gil!

JACINTO: Padre Gil!

Oriang enters from stage left. She senses the excitement. She asks, “What’s going on?” but everybody is preoccupied with the start of the revolution.

TASIO

...who’s right this very moment is on his way to the gobernadorcillo’s office.

ANDRES (alert)

This is the moment. There’s no turning back. Let’s move fast. Pio get the documents and guns at Diario de Manila. Tasio, go with Pio. Jacinto, gather all our guns and ammunitions. Deposit them in one place so that our brothers will know where to get their supplies. I urge you to get as many guns and rifles as possible. If you have to pay them, do so. If you have to recycle empty cartridges, you can do that, too. Just get them! Alert all generals to congregate at Biaknabato. Remind them that after Biaknabato, we’ll meet at Tandang Sora’s house. Tell them to bring their cedulas. Good luck to all of us.

Oriang hurriedly gathers all the documents, keeps them inside her saya and gets her gun.

Blackout

SCENE 5. August 26, 1896. The Cry Of Biaknabato. On stage are Andres Bonifacio, Oriang, Jacinto, and Pio .The Katipunan army is suggested by the audience. They make history as they all shout:

ALL TOGETHER

Long live the Philippines. Mabuhay ang Pilipinas. Long Live the Katipunan.
Mabuhay tayong lahat.

They tear their cedulas as a symbol of their freedom from Spain and their right to sovereignty.

Act 2

SCENE 1. Cavite. Aguinaldo, the young leader of the Magdalo branch of the Katipunan, patiently waits at a small bridge near Marulas, with his men. All heads are turned toward Manila Bay where they can see Luneta. They are waiting for a signal to attack from Andres. Daybreak comes, but they see no sign, at all.

AGUINALDO

The instructions are clear. Here's the note he sent me. The attack will take place on the 26th of August and the signal will be the dimming of the lights in Luneta. There's no mistaking the handwriting. What happened?

MAGDALO MAN 1

Perhaps, he forgot.

MAGDALO MAN 2

That's poor coordination. We could lose this war if he keeps on forgetting.

MAGDALO MAN 3

Perhaps he resented the fact that you didn't attend the assembly of generals. You only sent a representative. He's easily slighted, I've heard.

MAGDALO MAN 4

Or he wants to have all the glory. You know, keep you holed up here in Kawit while he takes Manila. It's a larger victory, judging from the size.

AGUINALDO

Or they lost the battle. They didn't reach Luneta from Biaknabato.

MAGDALO MAN 1

That's what you get for having a Supremo who's a bodegero. Poor and illiterate.

AGUINALDO

This is all I can say, I am very,very disappointed.

Blackout

SCENE 2. Balara. The Magdiwang headquarters. Oriang wakes up from a bad dream. She wakes up Andres from his sleep. It's about 4 o'clock in the morning.

ORIAN

Andres, wake up. I had a dream. Wake up.

ANDRES (rubbing his eyes)

Huh?

ORIAN

It's the same dream. It seems to recur over and over again.

ANDRES (turns his back on her)

Go to sleep. We need rest. We're attacking a garrison in Pasong Tamo tomorrow. We have to get those guns.

ORIAN (unstoppable)

I see a hammock. There's someone in the hammock. He was covered with a blanket.

ANDRES

Here, take my blanket. It's cold.

ORIAN

I lifted the blanket. It turned red, red with blood.

ANDRES

You don't tell your husband that before a battle. Bwisit iyan.

ORIAN

I looked closer. His face was in shadows and his voice was muffled.

ANDRES

Next time, ask him what his name is and you demand an answer. Otherwise, he's just bothering people who want a good night's rest.

ORIAN

I figured out what he was saying...at least a word of it...by the way his lips were moving.

ANDRES

What did he say?

ORIAN

Five.

ANDRES

Five?

Oriang nodded.

ANDRES

He must have meant it's five in the morning and we better sleep.

Suddenly they hear a cock crow five times. Andres and Oriang look at one another. They freeze, stunned by the coincidence. Andres leads Oriang to a chair.

ANDRES

This is a sign from God.

Oriang nods.

ANDRES (fired with religious fervor)

Let's pray.

They kneel , facing the audience.

ANDRES

I will offer all our trials to you Lord, as we continue our struggle to free our country from the oppression of the Spaniards. We know you will be with us. For our gratitude, we promise to time all the rites of the Katipunan according to the religious calendar. Thank you, Lord, from the bottom of our hearts.

ANDRES (to Oriang)

Let's make the sign of the cross. In the olden times, that's how Christians protect themselves before a major battle. You know, David facing Goliath.

ORIAN

How did you know that?

ANDRES

I 've read many books before the revolution broke out.

Knocks are heard. Before Andres can open the door, Tasio enters, visibly anxious.

TASIO

Supremo. I'm sorry for barging in but your camp and that of General Francisco are fighting.

ANDRES

About what?

TASIO

Chickens.

ORIAN

Food is really scarce, Andres. You can't blame them.

ANDRES (furious)

If we can't trust them with chickens, how can we trust them with our lives?

ORIAN

You're taking this too far. Beyond proportions.

ANDRES

It's theft. The Katipunan is not a breeding ground for thieves.

ORIAN

Can't you just give them a warning?

ANDRES

No. I'm going right there right now and getting the chicken back.

ORIAN

What? You're going there?

ANDRES

Alone.

ORIAN

Alone? Look, Andres, these men are tired and hungry. It's hard to make them listen to reason.

ANDRES

I'm going.

ORIAN

And I'm going with you.

ANDRES

No. You stay here.

ORIAN

But...

ANDRES

That's an order from your Supremo.

Oriang keeps quiet.

ANDRES

Tasio, go back to your post. I'm on my own.

Blackout

SCENE 3. Monologue

ORIAN

He did come back with the chickens. When I saw the sack he was carrying, I knew he did it. What he told me later amazed me. When he went to General Francisco's camp, they were so surprised...no, stunned...that he had the courage to come alone... with no guard, no henchman, no nothing. They just stood there, frozen ...unable to speak, at first. This is the Supremo, confronting them alone. What bravery. But after a while, they must have thought , "He's giving up his life for chickens?" I know it's just about chickens but to him, it was more of a principle. Thou shalt not steal. That's from the Decalogue and they should have known it. (Pause) What I can't get over is, he was supposed to fight a major battle that day, but he took time out to teach his people honesty.

Blackout

SCENE 4. The Magdalo Headquarters in Imus. Padre Pio Pi, about fifty is the half-breed priest of the local church. He seeks audience with Aguinaldo to share with the latter his politics. He is thin and mean-looking.

AGUINALDO

To what do I owe you this visit, Father?

PADRE PIO

I haven't seen you in church, Miong. You've been missing mass and confessions.

AGUINALDO

God knows I'm busy, Father. I'm trying to win a revolution. But that's not why you're here. What's on your mind?

PADRE PIO

I'm here to propose that you consider the possibility...

AGUINALDO

You may speak with candor, Father.

PADRE PIO

Polavieja has expressed his desire for a reconciliation.

AGUINALDO

Which means?

PADRE PIO

An amnesty. All the rebels will be pardoned...if they lay down their arms.

AGUINALDO

How do I know you're serious?

PADRE PIO

I have with me a Spanish representative.

AGUINALDO

Where is he?

PADRE PIO

He's in the other room. Let me call him.

Padre Pio goes to fetch him, but notices he's already in the room.

PADRE PIO

Miong, this is Rafael Comenge. He comes with good tidings.

COMENGE

Miong, may I call you that? (Beat) I come here to make you an offer. I'm sure the good Padre Pio has already told you about it. But that's not all. As the negotiation progresses, we may agree on the specific terms beneficial to your country and our Queen. You must realize by now, this war is costly.

AGUINALDO

This is a matter of extreme importance. I can't decide on it alone. You must give me time to consult with...

COMENGE

We recognize you as the leader of the revolution, no one else. And we plan to negotiate with you regarding the terms of the amnesty.

PADRE PIO

We'd rather talk to you, Miong. You're more flexible. We're hoping you'd listen to our proposal.

COMENGE

Try to think about our offer. We'll see you again soon and by then, I trust we can set the deadline for the amnesty?

AGUINALDO

Maybe. We'll see.

Blackout

SCENE 5. Magdiwang Headquarters in Balara. Andres and Jacinto discuss matters referring to Aguinaldo.

ANDRES

Another representative? When is he ever going to face me?

JACINTO

That's Aguinaldo. Always sending someone to do the dirty work for him.

ANDRES

So why should I listen to this so-called representative of his?

JACINTO

His name is Edilberto Evangelista. He studied engineering in Ghent, Germany and he said he has a proposal.

Andres looks at him quizzically.

JACINTO

About trenches. He said he's willing to teach us how to build trenches so we can win the battle even if we're outnumbered.

ANDRES (visibly mad)

So he's sending a representative to teach a Supremo how to win the war? I know Philippine conditions best! And we'll always fight the way we always do. To the best of our ability. (Pause) It's good that you talked to him instead of me. That way, I also get to have someone represent me.

JACINTO

I have some more troubling news.

Andres looks at him.

JACINTO

Aguinaldo has been sending manifestos. In fact, two of them as I speak.

ANDRES

How dare he! I'm the only one authorized to send out announcements.

JACINTO

Here. I have the copies. (Gives the documents to Andres). One is about the trenches which I told you about. The other is an order to all generals to make an assessment of the enemy first before attacking.

ANDRES

Now he's criticizing the way we fight? This man is so full of himself. Ang yabang!

JACINTO

I also have a letter for you, from him.

Jacinto gets the letter from his Katipunan uniform. Andres grabs it. Then reads it.

ANDRES (shocked)

An amnesty. (Pause) He's willing to surrender? Give up a people's dream to win the revolution? A country's cry for sovereignty? When will this man stop betraying us. Traidor. Traidor talaga.

Jacinto goes over the contents of the letter.

JACINTO

I think it's time to watch this man more carefully. He's dangerous.

ANDRES (reflects)

You think...

JACINTO (reading the Supremo's mind)

No. Aguinaldo is not yet ready or strong enough to sign the amnesty.

Andres is quiet.

JACINTO (reassuring)

If he's sure, why did he ask you about it?

ANDRES

You're right. (Pause) He's THE enemy.

Blackout.

SCENE 6. Magdalo Headquarters in Imus. Aguinaldo consulting his men.

AGUINALDO

He rejected the amnesty. Does he want to sacrifice more lives? What a cruel man.

MAGDALO MAN 1

Mga tulisan, that's what they are. Bandits!

AGUINALDO

If he really loves his country, he will be willing to lay down his arms, make peace so we can go on with our lives. Even his good friend, Pio Valencia has surrendered, making use of the amnesty.

MAGDALO MAN 2

I wouldn't be surprised. If he rejected the idea of building trenches, what else do you expect?

AGUINALDO

He said freedom cannot be compromised.

MAGDALO MAN 3

He wants the war to continue so his power lives on. Without a war, he can't be Supremo.

MAGDALO MAN 4

If you ask me, he's not saying "yes" to all our proposals because it didn't come from him. He resents the fact that the Spaniards came to you first.

AGUINALDO

It's time to work out a solution. We can't win a revolution if we're divided.

MAGDALO MAN 1

You want to get rid of him? (Makes a gesture of decapitating his neck)

MAGDALO MAN 2

Why don't we start a campaign...a sustained black propaganda.

AGUINALDO

Go on.

MAGDALO MAN 2

He's this great Supremo, right? Well, let's destroy that image.

MAGDALO MAN 3

Like undermining his credibility. Invent lies. Circulate rumors. It's easy to do that. He's in our territory. People will believe us, that's for sure.

MAGDALO MAN 4

We'll tell them...uh... that he's a mason and an atheist.

MAGDALO MAN 1

That he tramples on the crucifix. That will really get the ire of our people.

MAGDALO MAN 2

That he's guilty of malversation. He keeps the funds of the Katipunan all to himself.

MAGDALO MAN 3

That his sister spies for the Spaniards.

AGUINALDO (visibly excited)

A war on perception! That's what it is. There's no truth, only perception. It's really the way people look at you that matters. (Pause) Good thinking, generals.

MAGDALO MAN 4

You better do it soon. I heard rumors he'll have you killed. It's a question who goes first.

Blackout

SCENE 7. Magdiwang Headquarters. Montalban. After losing a number of battles, the Magdiwang moved to the caves of Montalban.

ANDRES (despondent)

I had reports that our men are dying by the hundreds. I'm afraid if this goes on, we'll lack the forces to fight these damn Spaniards. Just the other day, 600 Filipino prisoners died of suffocation in Fort Santiago. A Spanish sergeant covered the shaft which was their only source of air. Hundreds had been tortured or sent on exile to as far as the Carolines and Africa. (Pause) God, how can I win this revolution? (Pause) Lord, don't abandon me.

ORIAN

Don't despair, Andres. If it's manpower you need, why not use the women? They could be useful...

ANDRES (suddenly alert)

Yes, you're right. They could fight, why not.

ORIAN

I could recruit and train them. (Reflects) They'll do well in trenches.

ANDRES

What do you mean?

ORIAN

We'll put them in trenches. Spaniards will think they're just hiding. Of course, these men are too gallant to shoot and kill women. So they spare the poor women.

ANDRES (visibly excited)

Then what?

ORIAN

Once their backs are turned...I mean the Spanish soldiers...the women will climb up the trenches and shoot them.

ANDRES

Brilliant idea. You can start recruiting them... (realizes something) oh, you may have to be away for a while.

ORIAN

Why, where are we going?

ANDRES

Cavite. They've asked me to go to Cavite.

ORIAN

How could you...

ANDRES

They asked your Uncle Mariano to invite me. How can I turn him down?

ORIAN

I'll talk to him, don't worry.

ANDRES

This is the third time they've asked. If I don't say yes, they might think I'm a coward.

ORIAN

To be thought of as coward by (sarcastic) the Republic of Cavite is nothing.

ANDRES

But I'm the only one who can settle this problem. Nobody can.

ORIAN

Just write a proclamation...

ANDRES

I have to be there. It's a meeting and it's my duty to listen to all sides, all arguments. You know I'm the Supremo.

ORIAN

I know but I'd rather have you alive. Who cares about a dead Supremo?

ANDRES

So what do you want me to tell them? That my wife is scared, that's why I can't make it?

Brief hiatus.

ANDRES

You come with me. How about that? I'll ask Jacinto, as well. And we'll stay in your uncle's house. (Beat) What are you afraid of?

ORIAN

The signs.

ANDRES

What signs?

ORIAN

Everytime you go to Cavite, something bad happens. First, I had a miscarriage. Then our house was burnt, razed to the ground. Now what?

Andres reflects.

ANDRES

We go on Good Friday, how about that? With God's protection, we'll be fine.

Blackout

ACT 3

SCENE1. Cavite. Good Friday. In an impressive display of support, people of Cavite honor the Supremo with a procession. The excitement is contagious as people clamor for his attention. They gawk at him and call out his name, "Supremo." The brass band is playing. The women throw him garlands as confetti. He has a strange semblance to Jesus Christ on his way to Jerusalem. When the procession reaches the local church, the song "Te Deum" is played. It is the happiest day in the life of Andres Bonifacio. (The procession may start from the aisle of the theater.)

MARIANO ALVAREZ

I have heard rumors they're assassinating the Supremo. I better have our soldiers guard the assembly hall. I'll send a messenger to warn him.

Alvarez exits. In one corner, Tirona and Fernandez, both from the Magdalo camp are conspiring.

TIRONA

Look, how arrogant he is. He thinks he's God.

FERNANDEZ (surprised)

But didn't you just join the crowd in calling him "Supremo"?

TIRONA

I was merely pretending.

FERNANDEZ

You, too?

TIRONA

Yes, I made him angry. How about you?

FERNANDEZ

I was supposed to meet him in San Juan. You know, link up with him so we could have a stronger force against the Spaniards.

TIRONA

And...

FERNANDEZ

I didn't show up. (Beat). He blames me for losing the battle.

TIRONA

Why didn't you?

FERNANDEZ

I didn't trust him. I thought his military knowhow is weak.

TIRONA

Is that why you're with Miong now?

Fernandez nods.

TIRONA

Don't worry. I know how to make him mad. Really mad.

Blackout

SCENE 2. The Summer House of the Friars at Tenejeros. Bonifacio acting very much like the Supremo is on the ecenter stage. The Magdiwang members are gathered on the right side of the stage and the Magdalos on the left. (The crowd may be suggested by the audience). There is tension in the air. Sound of the gavel pounding is heard.

LUMBERA (acting president of the Magdiwang)

The meeting will now come to order. Our agenda today is to elect the officers of the new revolutionary government.

ARISTON VILLANUEVA (Magdiwang Minister of War)

I propose that Andres Bonifacio be appointed as president. No election is necessary.

MAGDALO GROUP

Election! Election! We want a new election!

ANDRES (trying to be noble)

We'll call for an election.

JACINTO

It might be a trap.

ANDRES

Don't worry. They like me here. Didn't you see the procession?

JACINTO

It might be a trap.

ANDRES

A trap?

JACINTO

To make you come here.

Andres, distracted by the meeting, ignores him.

LUMBERAS

The table is now open for nomination of the president.

MAGDALO MAN

I nominate Emilio Aguinaldo for president.

LUMBERAS

Emilio Aguinaldo has been nominated for president.

MAGDIWANG MAN

I nominate Andres Bonifacio for president.

LUMBERAS

Andres Bonifacio has been nominated for president.

MAGDALO MAN

I move that the nomination for president be closed.

LUMBERAS

You may cast and place your votes on the box up here.

Suddenly, two women enter, accompanied by a man. The two women are Josephine Bracken and Trinidad Rizal, wife and sister respectively. The man is Paciano, Rizal's brother. They look sad. Their entrance creates a pandemonium.

ANDRES

What news do you bring about our brother, Rizal?

PACIANO

I bring bad news. He will be executed tomorrow.

A gasp is heard from the crowd.

PACIANO

Polavieja disregards Blanco's recommendation for my brother's good behavior. The retraction is of no value to him whatsoever.

ANDRES

Did he receive my message?

PACIANO

Yes.

ANDRES

What does he say?

PACIANO

He's thankful for your offer to assist him in his escape, but he can't accept it.

The Magdalo group snicker, resenting that Rizal should communicate with Andres, not Aguinaldo.

ANDRES

Why?

TRINIDAD

He says, if there is to be more than one life sacrificed for his freedom, he'd rather not have it. Too many lives have already been sacrificed for the revolution.

ANDRES

Does he have any last wish?

JOSEPHINE (hands him a piece of paper)

Yes. He wants you to keep this. It's his last poem, "Mi Ultimo Adios."

Andres takes the copy with tearful eyes.

ANDRES

Thank you. I will keep and honor it with my life.

The Magdalo group is green with envy.

JOSEPHINE

I assure everyone here he will die with dignity. He asked that he would die facing his executioners.

ANDRES

You must rest. You still have a long journey ahead of you.

PACIANO

We have to be at Bagumbayan first thing tomorrow.

ANDRES

Take some food and refreshments. (To an aide) Please see to it that their needs are attended to.

They exit, leaving behind an atmosphere of grief and sadness. A brief hiatus.

LUMBERA (picks up where he left off)

A president has been elected. (Reads the result. Suppresses shock) It's Emilio Aguinaldo.

Andres and his group, in disbelief. They are shaken by the result. Lumberas reluctantly continue officiating the election. The election of the rest of the officers are indicated by the sound of the gavel, pounding. Then, the election of Andres takes place.

LUMBERA

Andres Bonifacio is elected Director of Interior.

MARIANO ALVAREZ (whispers to JACINTO)

How humiliating. The Supremo, a mere Director of Interior.

The Magdiwang group appears very disappointed and suspicious.

TIRONA

Objection!

LUMBERAS

What is your objection?

TIRONA

I object to the election of Andres Bonifacio. He doesn't have the qualifications of a Director of Interior. We need a lawyer. I nominate Jose del Rosario.

The Magdiwangs are visibly roused to anger, but Andres signals them to keep quiet.

ANDRES (to the rescue)

We have agreed to abide by the decision of the majority.

TIRONA (ignores)

Del Rosario! Del Rosario! Del Rosario! Del Rosario!

Andres, furious at this display of disrespect for the Supremo, gets his gun and aims at Tirona. Luckily, Tirona is able to escape and get lost in the crowd. Confusion and mayhem follow.

ANDRES (loud)

I, as the Supremo of the Katipunan, declare this election null and void.

Blackout

SCENE 3. Summer House of the Friars. Andres, Oriang, and Jacinto, conversing.

ANDRES

That election was a fraud. The person who distributed and collected the ballot is the same person who counted the votes.

ORIAN

A Magdalo.

JACINTO

My suspicion was right. They had an agenda. To make Aguinaldo lead the revolution.

ANDRES

Meaning for that to happen, they had to eliminate me. Well, I won't let that happen.

JACINTO

Let's draw up an official rejection of Aguinaldo's government. Let all our generals sign it.

ANDRES

Good idea. Let's call it... Acta Tenejeros. I'll write it and circulate it to all the generals.

ORIAN

Two years, that's all it took.

Andres and Jacinto look at her quizzically.

ORIAN

He was recruited just two years ago and now, he wants to steal the revolution from you. What a traitor.

ANDRES

And not only that. He also steals the people I developed through the years. Fernandez whom I promoted to general. Tirona who was part of the special delegation to meet Admiral Kanimura. Mascardo...

JACINTO (cuts)

Or, the people who have grudges against you or who have some score to settle with you.

ORIAN

How clever. These people don't need a blood compact to prove their loyalty.

JACINTO

Oh, I almost forgot. I received this message from Batangas...from General Marasigan.

He hands the note to Andres. After reading it, he gives the note to Oriang and then, Jacinto.

ANDRES

He's already informing the generals that he's the head of the revolutionary government. Ang yabang!

JACINTO

Even before we have circulated the Acta . This is more dangerous than I thought.

You better leave Cavite as soon as possible.

ANDRES

Have you forgotten? I agreed to meet your mother at Limbon.

JACINTO

I'll send her a note to postpone your trip. Go to Batangas. You're safe there.

ANDRES

I'm already here. And I've already sent her money for the trip. Which reminds me, here's some cash for you and your soldiers.

Andres gives him the money.

JACINTO (gently)

Supremo, you think of everyone. (To ORIAN) Tell him he's not safe here.

ORIAN

Don't worry, we've contacted a guide to take us away from this place.

JACINTO

Supremo, this is the second time you've risked your life for me. Once in battle, you took the bullet meant for me.

ANDRES

You're like a brother to me. I'll do it over again and again.

ORIAN

Be careful in Hambong. I heard the Spaniards there are very fierce.

JACINTO

I will, Oriang.

Andres and Oriang hug him.

JACINTO

Kindly tell my mother I miss her.

ANDRES

We will.

Jacinto exits.

ANDRES

I have this funny feeling this is the last time I'll see him.

ORIAN

You're very superstitious these days. Come to bed.

ANDRES

I'm meeting my generals tonight. And you can't go to bed yet.

ORIAN

You're promoting me to general?

ANDRES

No, not yet. But I want you to gather all the wives of the officers and make them prepare for a party. They'll make a good cover for us while we're having a meeting in the back room.

ORIAN

Who are we hiding this time? The Spaniards or the Magdalos?

ANDRES

Both.

SCENE 4. Women in beautiful sayas pretend to have a party. They sing and dance. Their merrymaking divert the attention of passers-by.

SCENE 5. The Magdalo Headquarters. Aguinaldo, Comenge and Padre Pio having a close conference.

COMENGE

Miong, this is rather embarrassing. You agreed that you will release the Spanish prisoners. What happened? They're arrested once more by Bonifacio. How many times do they have to be in prison?

AGUINALDO

My apologies. He also imprisoned my men who were accompanying your soldiers. He had no right to take them in. They're Magdalos, not Magdiwangs. I may have to intercede for them.

COMENGE (with irony)

He's a savage. We heard he had the head, eyebrows and eye lashes of one of our men shaved.

AGUINALDO

He could be so intense, at times.

COMENGE

Polavieja is not happy with the way things are turning out. Who's in control here?
You or Bonifacio?

AGUINALDO

I'm now head of the revolutionary movement. He lost the election.

COMENGE

Good. But Polavieja is getting impatient. If those Spanish prisoners are not out
next week, he will bring the full force of the Spanish empire on you.

PADRE PIO

You know your army doesn't stand a chance.

AGUINALDO

Give me some more time. I'm working on Batangas and Manila to come to our
side.

COMENGE

I say, just kill him.

PADRE PIO

Remember, we're getting impatient.

AGUINALDO

Don't worry. I'll meet your deadline.

COMENGE

P400,000. That's a lot of money. Exile in Hongkong. Sounds like a vacation to
me. What are you waiting for?

Aguinaldo does not respond.

Blackout

SCENE 6. The temporary headquarters of the Magdiwang, the Summer Estate of the Friars, Cavite. Aguinaldo intercedes for the Magdalo prisoners.

AGUINALDO

I beg of you, Don Andres, please release my men.

ANDRES

General Miong, you know they have seriously violated a Katipunan law. They were caught escorting the Spanish prisoners. YOUR prisoners.

AGUINALDO

They were just following orders.

ANDRES

Whose?

Brief hiatus

AGUINALDO (lies)

There's been a mistake. You see, the one in-charge thought the Spaniards were to be released.

ANDRES

Thought? I thought prisoners are released following an official order.

AGUINALDO

An officer gave the order. It was ...er...verbal.

ANDRES

Who?

AGUINALDO

That I have to investigate.

ANDRES

How do we know?

AGUINALDO

I'll prepare a full report as soon as possible.

Andres does not respond.

AGUINALDO

Supremo, everybody knows how merciful you are. I beg of you, plead with you to release those men. They are my two most dependable and trusted officers. Surely you know that they're more useful in the battlefield than in a prison cell. I know the revolution is close to your heart. (Flatters him) As the father of the revolution, please have mercy.

Andres reflects and considers.

ANDRES

I will expect that report within this week. I want to get to the bottom of it.

AGUINALDO

You have a fair sense of justice, Supremo. Thank you.

SCENE 7. Lights on Aguinaldo. He faces the audience.

AGUINALDO

Is that all it takes? To flatter him? How vulnerable he is to what people think, especially if it comes from the ilustrado. Now I'm aware of his weakness. My campaign to destroy him will work. I'll get him out of the way. The glory and the honor of winning this revolution will belong to me.

Andres walks on stage.

ANDRES

He begged, pleaded and called me Supremo. Finally. He used to call me Don Andres, not acknowledging my leadership. But now he knows who's king around here. Me! The father of the revolution!

SCENE 8. The Summerhouse of the Friars. Tenejeros. Andres, Oriang and a soothsayer.

ANDRES (whispers)

I have no time for this.

ORIAN

I know, but we have to be sure what Aguinaldo is planning.

SOOTHSAYER

I need a bowl of water.

Oriang exits to get it.

SOOTHSAYER (casts a spell on Andres)

Abrakadara. Abrakadabra.

Oriang enters with a bowl of water. She gives it to the Soothsayer.

SOOTHSAYER

I see black clouds. Dark forces. Evil men hiding from the light.

She looks at Andres and Oriang, long and hard.

SOOTHSAYER

You must leave, immediately. (Back to her bowl of water) Wait. I see something. It's a location. It's a house surrounded by soldiers. Front and back.

ANDRES

Must be our men.

SOOTHSAYER

No. They're in dark shadows.

ORIAN (curious)

This place...what's the layout?

SOOTHSAYER

Give me a pencil and paper.

She begins to draw. Andres looking at it, begins to shiver. The accuracy of the drawing terrifies him. He retreats to a corner.

ORIAN (to the SOOTHSAYER)

That will be all for tonight. You must be tried. I suggest you stay. There's dinner for you in the kitchen.

Soothsayer exits.

ORIAN

Is there something wrong, Andres?

ANDRES

Those canals she drew...

ORIAN

Yes, what are they?

ANDRES

They're trenches.

ORIAN

I thought you didn't believe in having them. You said it's a lot of manpower. That it's expensive.

ANDRES

I am changing my mind. Limbon is a deserted place. We need a good defense. I brought 20 guns and a hundred bolomen.

ORIAN

How are we going to feed them?

ANDRES

The Magdiwangs of Imus have promised to send us food.

ORIAN

Are you sure of that? Half of Imus have turned against us, what with those ugly rumors.

ANDRES

Don't worry. We will have other sources. People will help, trust me.

ORIAN

I'm turning in.

ANDRES

Oriang, you think Aguinaldo has an anting-anting?

ORIAN

You believe that rumor? It's not true.

ANDRES

I just wonder. People think ...

ORIAN

Who cares what they think? This anting-anting story...it's being circulated by his men. (Pause) You have the anting-anting. You fought those battles with him. You provided him the first line of defense in Bakood and Las Pinas. He's always asking you to link-up with him for reinforcements. Those two first victories he won? The first was an abandoned convent and the second was a garrison guarded by three soldiers. Three guns. Where is the glory in three guns? (Pause) Remember Silang? He backed out when he saw it was losing and ran toward Imus. The coward!

Andres hugs Oriang.

ANDRES

You're my magic amulet.

Blackout.

SCENE 9. Aguinaldo, delirious with malaria.

AGUINALDO

What to do with this man? Why can't he just give up and let me lead the revolution? It's the only way to unify the whole army, the entire country. Doesn't he know I'm a better leader? A more competent military man? Always retreating and withdrawing his troops. And God, how does he choose his men? Out of good moral fiber? I don't care if a man has two wives, as long as he can give me two victories. War is not a religion. I recruit men for their valor and bravery. What about him? He assigns a rope maker as general? (Spits) Pweh!

General Pio del Pilar walks on stage.

PIO

I have urgent news for you. They want to kill you.

AGUINALDO

Huh? Where did you get this news?

PIO

I just came from their meeting. The (undermines) Soldiers of Balara.

AGUINALDO (surprised)

What were you doing there. You're a Magdalo.

PIO

I'm sorry, Miong. But it's the only way I can spy on them.

AGUINALDO

Why should I believe you?

PIO

He appointed me Generalissimo of the revolutionary forces of Naic. That was just an hour ago.

AGUINALDO

I better go there myself. (To his aide) Help me with my uniform.

PIO

His men are guarding the estate. You can't go there.

AGUINALDO

I can, watch me.

PIO

I'm going with you.

Aguinaldo ignores him and exits.

SCENE 10. Andres and Oriang in their bivouac in Limbon.

ANDRES

That was a close call. Who would ever think Aguinaldo, sick and all, would attack us?

ORIAN

I hear he's getting paranoid. He's so convinced you'll kill him, he hides everytime he passes by our headquarters.

Knocks are heard.

ORIAN

That must be our food.

She opens the door. It is the man bringing food.

ORIAN

Ah food...blessed, blessed food.

ANDRES (to ORIANG)

Bring some to our men. They must be starving.

Man rummages through his pocket.

MAN

General Jacinto sent you this.

Andres grabs paper. Man exits. Oriang forgets about food, anything received from Jacinto is urgent.

ANDRES

Putang ina. He finally signed the amnesty?

ORIAN (getting the note)

They're sending this note all over Manila. They're making it official.

ANDRES

How can he allow himself to be fooled by the Spaniards? I know this Comenge. He called Filipinos "beasts", savages, and God knows what else. (Beat) I'm not going to make this happen. I'm not giving up. I'm fighting!

ORIAN

If only we can get out of this place immediately. Where is that guide?

Lights shift. Lights dim on Andres and Oriang. Colonel Bonzon, Jose Pawa, Felipe Topacio walk on stage.

BONZON

That guide is not coming...ever.

PAWA

What's your plan?

TOPACIO

What are we waiting for? Let's attack now.

BONZON

I'm waiting for the right time.

TOPACIO

Right time? They've been there for days!

BONZON

I'm waiting for them to be demoralized. No food. No guide. You know, make them ripe for the taking.

PAWA

If you ask me, the fruits are ripe. Just right for the picking.

BONZON

Let's win them over first. Make them believe we're friends, not their enemies.

PAWA (laughs)

Like an acquaintance party? I say, kill them.

BONZON (ignores)

We introduce ourselves as a reconnaissance. Like we just happen to pass by.

TOPACIO

What about our men? There must be a hundred of them.

BONZON

We'll hide them in the forest where they can't be seen. At night time, we attack.

PAWA

What about the men in the trenches?

BONZON

Blitzkrieg. Without their knowing it, we order them to stay put. At gun point, That's when we take our men.

TOPACIO

That's too long a strategy.

BONZON

We have to wait till night fall. When it's dark, there will be confusion. Remember, they think of us as friends, a harmless group of reconnaissance soldiers. (Pause) When the shooting starts, they'll get disoriented. They wouldn't know whom to shoot. (Turns to PAWA) You stab his throat, right at the larynx. He talks too much.

PAWA

With pleasure.

BONZON

TOPACIO, you shoot him.

TOPACIO

Straight at him?

BONZON

No. Just graze him on the shoulder. That should disable him from getting his gun. Miong wants him alive.

TOPACIO

Yes, sir!

LIGHTS OUT

ACT 4

SCENE 1. Naic, Cavite. Two soldiers are carrying a hammock with obviously someone in it. They stop at a sari-sari store for refreshment. A young woman minding her store, Agueda Esteban, asks the soldier who is in it. The soldiers ignore her.

SOLDIER 1

Do you have a restroom?

AGUEDA

By the back of the store?

SOLDIER 1 (to SOLDIER 2)

I'm going. Watch him, will you?

Soldier 1 nods, then doses off. Agueda, curious, opens the blanket covering the person in the hammock.

AGUEDA

Dyos mio, it's the Supremo. (Whispers) What happened to you?

SUPREMO

I am thirsty.

Agueda immediately gets water for him to drink.

SUPREMO

Thank you.

AGUEDA

May I wipe your face?

Supremo nods. Agueda gets a piece of cloth, some sort of a big handkerchief from her saya and wipes the Supremo's bloodied face tenderly.

AGUEDA

I have your face, SUPREMO.

Soldier 1 comes back. Agueda hides the piece of cloth in her saya.

SOLDIER 1 (to SOLDIER 2)

Hey, wake up. This woman is doing some hokus-pokus and you're lying there, dead to the world?

SOLDIER 2 (to AGUEDA)

What have you got there?

AGUEDA

Nothing. (Hiding the cloth.) He was thirsty and I gave him water to drink.

SOLDIER 1

Don't ever tell anyone you saw the Supremo. Not a word. Once this gets out, you're dead! You hear?

AGUEDA

Never. (Makes the sign, "See no evil, hear no evil, and speak no evil.")

SOLDIER 1

Good.

SOLDIER 2

Let's go!

They lift the hammock and move on.

SCENE 2. Andres Bonifacio before the military court. He's weak after losing so much blood. He is being assisted by Oriang. Also, he cannot speak as much as he wants to because of his wounded throat.

NORIEL

Do you call yourself King?

ANDRES

It's you who says so, not me.

NORIEL

You call yourself the Supremo?

ANDRES

I am and there will be others in the future who will call me the Supremo.

NORIEL

This is treason. There is only one leader, one Supremo and that is Emilio Aguinaldo. (Beat) We have a witness, Pedro Giron.

ANDRES

And you, too, Giron?

Giron testifies, but he is muted. Only his lips move, to suggest the falsehood of his statements. Onlookers and observers are swayed and convinced of Giron's testimony.

CAVITENO 1

Condemn him to death!

CAVITENO 2

Persecute him!

CAVITENO 3

Execute him!

One Caviteno from the crowd comes up the stage to put a crown of thorns on his head. The crowd jeer and mock Andres Bonifacio.

CROWD (mocking)

Supremo! Supremo! Supremo!

Blackout

SCENE 3. A prison room in Indang. Andres and Oriang are conversing. Andres, by this time, is very weak, having lost so much blood. Oriang is wiping his wounds.

ANDRES

Thank you for everything.

ORIAN

Do not talk like that.

ANDRES

Like what?

ORIAN

Like there's no hope. Things will change, you'll see.

ANDRES

Like the friars' bathroom changing into this, a nice bedroom.

ORIAN

I had to fight that. How can the three of us stay in a friar's bathroom? Do they expect us to sleep while standing up?

ANDRES

What exactly did you do?

ORIAN

I went right up to the commanding officer and told them as leader of the KKK, you demand a larger room.

Andres looks at her.

ORIAN

They wanted to transfer you to Maragondon tonight, but I begged Aguinaldo...

ANDRES

You went to see Aguinaldo? Brave girl. What for?

ORIAN

To have you transfer tomorrow morning instead. What with the rain and all.

ANDRES

I don't feel good about me and Procopio transferred to...

ORIAN (on the verge of tears, looks away)

There's a rumor that the Spaniards will attack tonight.

ANDRES

I don't believe him, anymore. He listens to his generals and pleases the Spaniards. For all we know...

ORIAN

Hush, let us not lose hope.

ANDRES (lightens up)

Who could ever guess that the young girl I courted would turn out to be a rebel.

ORIAN

You're forgetting. It's in my blood. My grandfather was a rebel, too.

ANDRES

I hope nothing will separate us. Nothing! (He coughs.)

ORIAN

I will never leave you. Remember how my mother was against our marriage? She even kept me prisoner so I wouldn't see you? She said I would lead a difficult life, you being a mason and a rebel. But I married you just the same. I love you, Andres.

Noise is heard from the other room.

ANDRES

What could they be doing to Procopio? Oh, my poor brother. Are they torturing him?

ORIAN (lies)

No, the noise is coming from the other building.

ANDRES

My poor brothers. One is dead, the other a prisoner. What have I done to them?

ORIAN

You made them strong like me. That's all that counts now.

Andres groans in pain.

ORIAN

Let me read you something. (Pulls a piece of paper from underneath her saya). It's the poem written by Rizal the night he was to be shot.

ANDRES (surprised)

You carry it with you?

ORIAN

Everywhere I go. (Begins to read it.)

I die when heaven purples in the dawn.

If morning would a deeper crimson won

Take my life blood, and the color strewn

Catch but a glimpse of the wakening light.

(Puts down poem) Andres, remember, he gave it to you. To him, you're the Supremo.

ANDRES

He's the real hero. He died in the hands of the real enemy...while I will die in the hands of my own people.

ORIAN

You are both heroes. He had his pen and you have your courage.

Andres takes the copy of the poem from Oriang and puts it near his heart.

ANDRES

Pahimakas. I wrote the first translation of this poem. (Looks at ORIAN tenderly.) You are my muse. My Lakambini.

ORIAN (bends to kiss him)

My hero.

SCENE 4. Aguinaldo, along with his generals. Sit in a long bench. Resplendent in their uniforms, they are here to celebrate the execution of Andres Bonifacio. As each shot is heard (five in all) each general looks to the left. After the last shot, they face the audience.

SCENE 5. Monologue

ORIAN

Nobody could tell me where his body was. I scoured the mountains of Mt. Tala, Mt. Buntis and Maragondon. At first, I thought Aguinaldo commuted the death sentence of Andres to exile. Then later, I was told that he was shot. Then somebody told me that he was hacked to death. God, where is he? I wanted to be with him during his last hours. What thoughts were going on in his mind, I wonder. Was he thinking of the revolution? How it will be without him? Or, was he thinking of the futility of it all? His brothers killed. His honor tarnished. His life... (sobs) Was he thinking of me? Was he thinking of me?

Blackout

SCENE 6. Two years earlier.

ANDRES

Oriang! Oriang! I have good news!

ORIAN

What? What are you so excited about?

ANDRES

A young recruit is coming, all the way from Cavite. (Boasting) Captain Emilio Aguinaldo. What an honor to have him...a brilliant and promising katipunero. Hurry. Get ready for the initiation rites. Place the skull and the sword on the table. Prepare the candles and the questions. I will personally initiate him and see to it that he signs the contract with his own blood. He's ours, Oriang. He's ours!

Blackout

END OF PLAY

MAN

General Jacinto sent you this.

Andres grabs the note and reads it. The man exits. Oriang forgets her hunger. Any message from Jacinto is urgent.

ANDRES

Putang ina! He finally signed the amnesty? How can he do this?

ORIAN

Why didn't he consult you?

ANDRES

He's sending a circular, saying to the effect that we're surrendering.

ORIAN

Comenge finally got to him, huh?

ANDRES

How can he allow himself to be duped by this man who calls Filipinos "savages, beasts" and God knows what.

ORIAN

Send a circular, fast. We have to defy the amnesty. We will not stop fighting.

You act, he talks...okay, he writes, as well. But you're the best recruiter and organizer I've known. You built the Katipunan from the ground up. Imagine, from 30,000 recruits to 300,000. Who can beat that?

Andres: I'm no Rizal, you're right. But someday, they'll know me. Honor me. (Pause) That's what I like about the revolution. It's a great equalizer. (Beat) You'll talk to him, yes?

Jacinto: I'll do anything for you, Supremo.

A knock is heard.

Voice: May-pagasa. May-pagasa.

Jacinto: He knows your password.

Andres opens the door. A young boy, about fifteen, enters, catching his breath.

Andres: What is it, Tasio?

Tasio: It's Padre Gil.

Andres and Jacinto look at each other knowingly.

Tasio: He refuses to give the final rites to the dead. The widow has sent me here to ask your help. She says she has no money.

Jacinto (quotes): "But first, let us kill all the friars."

Andres: Jesus. We can't afford to live under this regime. We can't afford to die, either. (Beat) You may leave now, Tasio. We'll take care of this.

Tasio exits.

Andres: It won't be hard to get rid of him.

Jacinto: What do you mean?

Andres: He has a routine.

Jacinto: Oh yeah?

Andres: He takes a walk at night. Every night.

Jacinto: Just like a vampire. He comes out when it's dark.

Andres: I suggest we hide behind the trees and pounce on him.

Jacinto: Right. Strangle him.

Andres: Then stab him. I hope he rots in hell.

A knock is heard.

Andres: Who could it be this time?

Voice: Lakambini.

Andres opens the door. It's Oriang. Andres kisses her on the forehead.

Andres: Thank God, you're safe. You're back early.

Oriang: They're arresting bankers, accountants... who cares about a poor woman like me.
(Looks at Andres) You've done it! Your strategy worked! Oh, Andres, you're a genius.

They hug.

Jacinto: I have to go.

Andres: No. Stay for the night. Who knows what evil lurks outside.

Jacinto: Don't worry. If I smell danger, I'll stay with friends.

Oriang: You can't do that.

Jacinto looks at her, puzzled.

Oriang: No one, absolutely no one will let you in.

Jacinto: Even if they're my friends?

Oriang: Especially if they're your friends.

Andres: What are you talking about?

Oriang: They're scared. They're scared of being involved.

Andres: Good God, what do you do then the whole night?

Oriang: Sleep in the alleys. Hide in dark places. Or, let the carromata drive me back and forth all over Binondo.

Andres: Mahal, you must be tired.

Offers chair.

Andres: Sit. Sit.

Oriang: Hungry is more like it. I've got to eat.

Andres: We'll join you. Truth is, we haven't eaten yet.

Oriang is surprised.

Oriang: What have you been doing all the time?

Notices craft items scattered on the floor.

Oriang: Fan the revolution?

Andres and Jacinto look at one another, then smile sheepishly.

Blackout

SCENE 2. Padre Gil, aged 55, the notorious and powerful friar of Tondo, stands erect and unyielding as a young widow, about twenty years old, implores him to perform the final rites for her dead husband. The widow is wearing clothes too big for her, obviously borrowing it from someone for this special occasion. She is distraught.

Widow: Please, Padre, I beg of you. Give the final rites to my husband. His soul won't enter heaven if you deny him...

Padre Gil: You have to pay P300.

Widow: Diyos ko, where will I get that money?

Padre Gil: P300. And that doesn't include incense.

Widow: What's that for?

Padre Gil: To drive the evil spirits from the cadaver.

Widow: But he's already dead, Padre. That goes for the evil spirits as well.

Padre Gil: Don't get smart with me. Wait a minute. He didn't die in the hands of the veteran civil, did he?

Widow: No, Padre.

Padre Gil: Did he die of a contagious disease?

Widow: No, Padre.

Padre Gil: So how did he die then?

Widow: We don't know.

Padre Gil: You don't know? That's another hundred pesos. Died of unknown cause.

Widow: No, Padre. He died because he was losing weight. He died of malnutrition.

Padre Gil: Malnutrition?

Widow: He's a carpenter, you see. One day, we noticed how thin and emaciated he has become. Some people say it's TB, but I think it's malnutrition. There would be days we have nothing to eat.

Padre Gil: I'm sorry, Lady. It's P300. No more no less. (Pause) Okay, we'll do away with the incense.

The widow continues to sob.

Padre Gil: And tomorrow, the coffin has to go. It's beginning to smell.

Widow: We haven't paid the mortuary yet. Please have pity. He'll be damned in hell if...

Padre Gil (cuts): There is something you can do.

Widow: Anything. I'll do anything, Padre.

Padre Gil looks her over.

Padre Gil: Come here.

He whispers in her ear. The widow pulls back, surprised.

Widow: Padre, I can't do that. My husband hasn't been buried yet!

Padre Gil: Precisely. And it's your fault. He'll go straight to hell.

Widow: My fault.

Padre Gil: For not doing your duty.

Widow: I promise to give you half of our harvest next dry season.

Padre Gil: Well, I'm dry now. What can you do about ti?

Widow does not respond.

Padre Gil: It's easy to pleasure me.

Widow still does not answer.

Padre Gil: Three. Just three and your husband will enter heaven.

Widow: Three?

Padre Gil (whispers): Three orgasms. That's not asking too much, is it?

Widow (sobbing): I'm not a puta. I don't do that.

Padre Gil: No buts about it. My price is fixed.

Widow: Where? Here?

Padre Gil: No. In the rectory. „in my room.

Widow: Well...

Padre Gil: I take that for a yes.

Widow: No...

Padre Gil: Consider that as an indulgence. 300 point. And you can save that for the future. Even you will go to heaven. Come my child. My bed feels like heaven.

He reaches out and puts his hand under the folds of her saya.

Widow surprised, screams.

Padre Gil: You keep quiet, you hear? Otherwise, I'll raise the price. Follow me, this way.

They exit. Enter Andres and Jacinto.

Andres: We've been here for a week. No sight of him.

Jacinto: You think someone tipped him off.

Andres: Maybe. You know these friars. They have their spies.

Jacinto: Should we give this up?

Andres: We could be useful somewhere else.

Jacinto: I don't feel good about this, though. A man this evil shouldn't be allowed to live.

Blackout

SCENE 3. A boat in Manila. Emilio Jacinto in a cargador outfit, carries a bundle of hemp. He looks around, surreptitiously. He sees Rizal pacing the deck. In his early thirties, Jose Rizal looks distinguished and confident. He exudes the air of the ilustrado class: unruffled and calm.

Jacinto (whispers): Senor, I am Emilio Jacinto. I have a message for you.

Rizal: Not here. I'm being watched. Follow me to my quarters.

Rizal goes to stage left. Jacinto follows him.

Jacinto: Have you heard of the Katipunan, Senor Rizal?

Rizal: That's an open secret. In fact, two of my sisters are members. What do you want?

Jacinto: I have a message from the Supremo.

Rizal: Your who?

Jacinto: Our Supremo, Andres Bonifacio.

Rizal (amused at the word, "Supremo"): What's his message?

Jacinto: He wants you to approve the revolution.

Rizal: He wants my approval?

Jacinto: And the permission to use your name.

Rizal: My name?

Jacinto: You're the inspiration of so many Tagalogs. If only we could use your name... .

Rizal (cuts): Don't do that. I'm already in danger as it is.

Jacinto: We can help you escape.

Rizal: No, thanks. I already have two recommendations from Blanco. Despujol might commute my sentence.

Jacinto (pleads): The people need you.

Rizal: You need inspiration? Read my books.

Silence

Jacinto: Perhaps you will change your mind. We will send another emissary soon.

Rizal: It's no use. I have no intention of joining you. You want to know why? A revolution without guns and ammunitions is doomed to fail. Think of the lives you're putting at risk. It's mass suicide.

Jacinto: I'll tell the Supremo...

Rizal: Goodbye. I wish you all the luck in the world.

Jacinto exits.

Lights on Dr. Pio Valenzuela. A doctor by profession and also an ilustrado, he was sent by Andres, hoping that he can convince Rizal. The scene is in Dapitan where Rizal is exiled.

Pio: We'll help you escape.

Rizal: I already told this young man Jacinto...

Pio (cuts): We intend to keep you in Manila, though.

Rizal: What kind of escape is that?

Pio: You will be our best recruiting officer yet. People admire you.

Rizal: I have given my word to Despujol.

Pio: You trust the word of a Spaniard? Look where it got you.

Rizal (proud): I'm up for good behavior. I won't let anything spoil that.

Silence

Pio (sarcastic): You're running a good business here, transporting hemp and copra. You bought lands and cultivated them. Why, you've created a paradise. No, you shouldn't let anything spoil this.

Rizal (sensing his snide remark): I also educate the young boys here. And as eye specialist, I perform eye operations. I'm very useful here.

Pio: I understand you won the lottery? That's a lot of money.

Rizal: I won it with someone, so that's only half ...

At this point, a young woman of nineteen enters. She's of European descent, with brown hair and fair skin. She looks overworked.

Woman: Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to...

Rizal: It's okay. Doctor, this is Josephine Bracken. Josephine, this is Dr. Pio Valenzuela.

Josephine (extending hand): Glad to meet you. (Beat) But how were you able to go past the guard?

Pio: I brought a patient.

Josephine: That's a perfect alibi. (Pause) Now, if you'll excuse me, I have work to do.

Josephine exits.

Pio: She's very pretty.

Rizal (enthused): She takes good care of me. Do you know she can make the best noodles, homemade too. Truly, an angel of the house. She cooks, washes, sews and even takes care of the chickens. You name it, she can do it.

Pio (thinking of Oriang): Does she know how to use a gun, ride a horse and fight?

Rizal: What are you talking about? That's a man's job. Women have their place in society. (Beat) Do you know I required women around to use stockings when they're in church?

Pio (surprised): You're going to church now?

Rizal: Just for a little while. For good behavior, you see. (Beat) I'm going to Cuba.

Pio: Cuba? Why Cuba?

Rizal: I've offered my services to Spain.

Pio: You're offering your services to Spain?

Rizal: Doctors are neutral. They serve no matter what the politics of their patients are. You know that.

Pio (suppressing disgust): Good day, Senor Rizal. I don't think our paths will cross again.

Rizal: Goodbye.

Rizal exits, stage left. Andres enters, stage right. Pio, already on the stage, turns to Andres.

Andres: Putang ina! First, the retraction. Then he tells the people not to rise in arms. And now this? Serving his enemy, the very country oppressing his people. Doctor to Cuba. What a turncoat. I can't believe this is the same person who wrote the Noli and the Fili. (Pause) He's just trying to save his neck.

Pio (pacifying Andres): Perhaps, once he's a free man, he can serve his country better. As a prisoner of Spain, what can he do?

Andres: The revolution can't wait.

Pio: Oh, but he's right. We need guns and ammunitions.

Andres: He wants to play it safe, huh? Tell me was there a revolution that was safe?

Pio (diverts): He gave me this.

He shows Andres a beautifully carved cane.

Andres: I could have given you one myself. You didn't have to go all the way there.

Pio: He gave me something else.

He gets a piece of paper from his pocket)

Pio: An important information.

He hands it to Andres.

Pio: The name of the Japanese admiral.

Andres: What about him?

Pio: He'll sell us guns and ammunitions.

Andres: Are you sure he's willing to...

Pio: He made the same offer to Rizal.

Andres: What happened to the transaction?

Pio: Rizal was banished to Dapitan and that was the end of it.

Andres: How do we go about it?

Pio: Form a delegation to meet this Admiral Kanimura.

Andres: Just like that?

Pio: There's greeting that he and Rizal have agreed upon. It's ...(tries to remember) "Admiral, my country admires your aspiration for freedom." Yes, that's it.

Andres: How do we get in touch with him?

Pio: We have a contact. His name is Tagawa. A Japanese married to a Tagalog.

Andres: Good.

Pio : He even offered to be our interpreter.

Andres: You've worked this all out?

Pio: Yes. I even know when his Japanese cruiser will dock.

Andres: When?

Pio: Two days from now. And it's name is Kongo.

Andres: That takes a load off our shoulders, if this pushes through. In the meantime, I'm not going to wait for guns to materialize.

A knock is heard.

Andres: That must be Jacinto. I asked him to make a report on the gun situation. Who is it?

Voice: Pingkian.

Andres opens the door. Pio and Jacinto greet each other, beso a beso.

Jacinto: It's been sometime since we saw each other Brother Pio.

Pio: The Supremo tells me you have a plan.

Jacinto: Yes. We found a place in Maestranza near the Santo Domingo Church. They manufacture guns. Fortunately, we have two Filipinos employed there, Tito Miguel and Roman Ramos.

Lights shift. Andres, Pio and Emilio move to stage left. Lights on a Spanish guard, and two Tagalog men.

Guards (stopping the men): Whoaaa...what are those?

Tito Miguel: Garbage.

Guard: Where's the man collecting garbage here?

Roman Ramos: He's on leave. We volunteered.

Tito Miguel: It might save money for the company.

Guard (hesitates): Okay.

The guard exits. Tito and Roman unload the garbage bag. They pick up spare parts of rifles and revolvers and wrap them in newspapers. Enter Chinaman.

Chinese: I can assemble this. But what's in it for me?

Tito Miguel: For every three guns you assemble one goes to you..

Chinese: Good. Good deal.

Exit Tito and Roman. Lights shift on Andres, Jacinto and Pio.

Jacinto: If this operation gets attention, we have to think of something else.

Andres: I know guns and ammunitions are important. But let's not forget, the men behind these guns must be good, too. (Beat)Which reminds me, we have a new recruit. He's brilliant and promising.

Pio: What's his name?

Andres: Emilio Aguinaldo.

Jacinto: My namesake. He better be good.

Pio: I don't trust these Cavitenos. They have this nasty attitude towards outsiders.

Jacinto: How do you know?

Pio: They have a name for outsiders. Alsa balutan. Get in fast. Get out fast.

A groan is heard.

Jacinto: Is that Oriang?

Andres: Yes. She had a miscarriage. Excuse me, I have to check on her.

Pio: Let me. You stay here. I'm the doctor here, remember?

Andres: She's with a midwife.

Pio: And I'm the doctor. (To Andres, eager to go inside the room) You wait here.

He exits.

Jacinto: When did this happen?

Andres: Three days ago.

Jacinto: She should slow down. This job is too harsh and tough for her.

Andres: You know Oriang. Tough as a molave tree. One miscarriage will not slow her down.

Jacinto: Was it a...

Andres: A boy. (In trembling voice) I was heartbroken. Losing a boy is like losing a part of you.

Jacinto puts his hand on Andres' shoulders.

Jacinto: I'm sorry.

Andres: He was named after me, you know.

Silence

Andres: You think it's an omen?

Jacinto: Of what?

Andres: Of bad things to come.

Pio comes back and hears Andres.

Pio : You shouldn't think like that. You're the Supremo.

Andres pulls himself together.

Andres: Can I go see her now?

Pio: She's sleeping. I think it's best you don't disturb her.

A knock on the door.

Andres: Why is it Jacinto that everytime you're here, people come knocking? (To the guest)
Who is it?

Voice: May-pagasa! May- pagasa! It's Tasio.

Andres opens the door. Tasio comes in, breathless.

Tasio: Supremo. We have a traitor in our midst.

Andres: Traitor? Who?

Tasio: Teodoro Patino. He confessed to Padre Gil about the Katipunan.

Andres: Why? Why did he do it?

Tasio: He had a quarrel with Apolinario Cruz.

Jacinto: A quarrel?

Tasio: As revenge, he threatened to reveal all our secrets to Padre Gil who's right this very moment is on his way to the gobernadorcillo's office.

Pio: Despujol will not believe him. He thinks it's another hysterical reaction of the friars. You know what Padre Gil will do instead? Convince the Spanish generals. And if he has any luck...

Andres: Let's not take any chances. Let's move fast. Jacinto, get the documents and the guns we have collected at Diario de Manila. Pio and Tasio, go with Jacinto. I'll give instructions to our men to bring Oriang to his uncle. Then, I'll follow you.

Pio: But Oriang can't walk yet!

Andres: I'll have some men carry her in a hammock..

Pio and Jacinto: Okay. Let's move.

Jacinto: Just in case we get separated, how do we communicate with each other? Our codes might have been discovered.

Andres: Numbers. Use numbers instead of letters. (Beat) We'll meet in Biaknabato. And after the battle, let's congregate at Tandang Sora's house. We have no time to waste.

Jacinto: Good luck to all of us!

Jacinto and Pio exit. Andres is left behind.

Andres (going to the bedroom): Oriang! Oriang!

Blackout

SCENE 4. Biaknabato. August 26, 1896. Andres gives orders to Jacinto, his right hand man. We don't see Jacinto because Andres is facing the audience.

Andres: Pingkian, gather all our guns and ammunitions. Deposit all of them in one place, Establish an advance depot where our supplies are accessible to all Katipuneros. But get hold of them, rifles, guns, anything you can lay your hands on. If you have to pay for them, do so. I don't mind, just get them! I know a cartridge maker who can recycle empty cartridges. Where to get them? From fallen, dead enemies, of course. I have contacted a canon maker. Just be sure you have the brass ready. I'll send you canons and lantacas

As Andres gives instructions, Jacinto, Pio and some katipuneros come forward.

Andres and the Katipuneros: Long Live the Philippines! Mabuhay ang Pilipinas. Long live the Katipunan. Mabuhay tayong lahat!

And all together, they tear their cedula as a symbol of freedom from the Spanish rule.

SCENE 5. Biaknabato. Andres, Jacinto, Pio and five more katipuneros shout, (the audience can take the place of the rest of the Katipuneros) : "Long live the Philippines! Mabuhay ang Pilipinas. Long live the Katipunan! Mabuhay tayong lahat!" And all together, they tear their cedula as a symbol of their freedom from the Spanish rule."

ACT 2.

SCENE 1. Cavite. Aguinaldo, head of the Magdalo branch of the Katipunan patiently wait at a small bridge near Marulas, with his men. All heads turn to Manila Bay, where they can see Luneta. They are waiting for a signal from Bonifacio to attack. Daybreak comes but they see no sign at all.

Aguinaldo: The instructions are clear. Here's the note he sent me. The attack will take on the 29th of August 29 and the signal will be the dimming of lights in Luneta. There's no mistaking about the handwriting, too. What happened?

Magdalo Man1: Perhaps he forgot.

Aguinaldo: How can he forget such an important military move?

Magdalo Man 2: That's poor coordination. We could lose more battles if he keeps on forgetting.

Magdalo 3: Perhaps, he resented the fact that you didn't attend the assembly of generals. You only sent a representative. He's easily slighted, I heard.

Magdalo Man 3: Or, he wants to have all the glory. You know, keep you holed up here in Kawit while he takes Manila. It's a larger victory, judging from the size.

Aguinaldo: Or, they lost the battle. They were not able to reach Luneta from Biaknabato.

Magdalo Man 4: That's what you get for having a Supremo who's a bodegero. Poor and illiterate.

Aguinaldo: This is all I can say, I am very, very disappointed.

Blackout

Scene 2. Balara. The Magdiwang Headquarters. Oriang wakes up from a bad dream. She rouses up Andres from his sleep. About 4 o'clock in the morning.

Oriang: Andres, wake up. I had a dream. Wake up.

Andres (rubbing his eyes) Huh?

Oriang: It's the same dream.

Andres (turns his back on her): Go to sleep. We need rest. We're attacking a garrison tomorrow. We got to get those guns.

Oriang (unstoppable): I see a hammock.

Andres: You must have liked the hammock that carried you last time. You're still thinking about it.

Oriang (ignores): There's someone in the hammock. I got curious so I took a look.. When I did, he was covered with a blanket.

Andres: Here, take the blanket. It's cold.

Oriang: When I looked closer, the blanket turned red...with blood!

Andres: Oriang, you don't tell your husband that before a battle.

Oriang (as if hypnotized): I lifted the blanket.

Andres (now interested): Well, did you see the face?

Oriang: No. His face was in shadows. And his voice muffled.

Andres: Next time, ask him. And you demand that he answer. Otherwise he's just bothering people who want a good night's rest.

Oriang: I figured out what he said by the way his lips moved.

Andres: What did he say?

Oriang: Five.

Andres: Five?

Oriang nodded.

Andres: He must have meant it's five in the morning and we better sleep.

Suddenly, they hear a cock crow five times.

Andres and Oriang look at one another. They froze, stunned by the coincidence. Andres leads Oriang to a chair.

Andres: This is a sign from God.

Oriang nods.

Andres (fired with religious fervor): Let's pray.

They kneel.

Andres (with resolve): From now on, I will time all our rites with the religious calendar. If we win, we'll celebrate a good harvest. If we lose... we'll offer our sufferings to God. Every fight is a prayer.

Andres gathers Oriang in his arms. She is shaking with fear and premonition.

Andres: Let's both make the sign of the cross. In the olden times that's how Christians fight to protect themselves. You know, David facing a Goliath.

Oriang: How did you know that?

Andres: I read. I read a lot.

Knocks are heard. Someone calls, "Supremo! Supremo!" Andres, out of habit, gets his gun. Oriang does the same. It's obvious, they're a team. Andres opens the door. Tasio, his loyal messenger, enters.

Andres: What is it, Tasio? It's early in the morning.

Tasio: The camps are fighting.

Andres: Which camps?

Tasio: General Luis Francisco and your camp..

Andres: About what?

Tasio: Chicken.

Andres: What chicken?

Tasio: The soldier of General Francisco has been stealing chicken from us. And they say, we are the ones stealing theirs. And now, they're about to raise hell!

Oriang: Food is really scarce, Andres. You can't blame them.

Andres (fuming): If we can't trust them with chickens, how can we trust them with our lives?

Oriang: You're carrying this too far. Beyond proportions.

Andres: It's theft. (With strong resolve) The Katipunan is not a breeding ground for thieves.

Oriang: Just give them a warning.

Andres: No. I'm going there right now and get the chicken back.

Oriang: What? You're going there?

Andres: Alone.

Oriang: Alone? Look, Andres, these men are tired, hungry...it's hard to make them listen to reason.

Andres: I'm going.

Oriang: And I'm going with you.

Andres: No. You stay here.

Gregoria: But...

Andres: That's an order from your Supremo.

Oriang keeps quiet.

Andres: Tasio, go back to your post. I'm on my own.

Blackout

SCENE 3. Monologue.

Tasio: He did come back with the chicken. I was on the lookout that day, you see and his men were so amazed...no, stunned... that he had the courage to come alone...with no henchman, no guard, no nothing. They just stood there, surprised by his visit, even more surprised at his bravery. I know it's just about a chicken but to him, it was more of a principle. The Supremo is very moral and, very religious. There's no going around a principle. It's all black and white. Thou shall not steal. That's from the Decalogue, the ten commandments of the Katipunan. What I can't get over is, he was supposed to fight a major battle, but he took time out to teach his people honesty.

Blackout

SCENE 4. The Magdalo Headquarters.

Magdalo Man 1: We been winning battles---Imus, Kawit and Naic. And what have they won? Nothing! I hear they're short on guns. Imagine fighting with their bolos.

Aguinaldo: They have guns. Be fair.

Magdalo Man 2: Yes. He will arm 20 men with guns and a hundred with bolos. What kind of a fight is that?

Aguinaldo: I will send Edilberto Evangelista to talk to him.

Magdalo Man 3: About building trenches?

Aguinaldo: Yes. That way, they can maneuver the enemy even if they're outnumbered.

Magdalo Man 3 (boasting): Remember how we partially damaged a bridge and the enemies walked right into it... and fell! They were like sitting ducks. Now, that's a maneuver.

Magdalo Man 4: I always say, use your brain, not just your gun.

Aguinaldo: (acting like he's already the Supremo): I will send a message to all the generals. Instruct them to assess the strength and weakness of the enemy before attacking. We have to win this goddamn revolution.

Magdalo Man 1: I have one observation... I mean outside of guns and brains.

They all turn to him.

Magdalo Man 1: I have never seen him smile. Why is that?

Magdalo Man 2: He's too serious.

Aguinaldo: He's fighting a war, for God's sake. It's a serious business.

Magdalo Man 1: Or, he's beginning to think he's God.

They all laugh.

Blackout

SCENE 5. The Magdiwang Headquarters. Andres and Jacinto, in conversation.

Andres: Why should I listen to this man who studied and trained abroad. Where is that, again?

Jacinto: Ghent, Germany.

Andres: Wherever. I know Philippine conditions better than him. My God, I lived it while he was in some foreign country studying... what did he study again?

Jacinto: Engineering.

Andres (with determination): We will fight the way we used to. To the best of our ability. They have... what it is again that they have?

Jacinto: Maneuvers.

Andres: Maneuvers. But we have better than those. Improvisation. We know how to make changes as we go along.

Jacinto: Supremo, I have some troubling news.

Andres looks at him, quizzically.

Jacinto: Aguinaldo has been sending manifestos. In fact, two of them as I speak.

Andres: How dare he! I'm the only one authorized to send out announcements. I'm the Supremo!

Jacinto: Not only that.

Andres: What, there's more? Who does he think he is?

Jacinto: Edilberto sought me out after your talk. He said, he was scared talking to you about it.

Andres: About what?

Jacinto: Amnesty. He said, if you agree to an amnesty...

Andres (cuts): No. No. No. It's out of the question.

Jacinto: That what I told him.

Andres (reflects): You think...

Jacinto (can read Supremo's mind): I don't think so. Aguinaldo is not that strong yet to go on and sign something so controversial.

Andres is quiet. He is disturbed by Aguinaldo's move.

Jacinto (reassuring): Supremo, if he's so sure about himself, why did he ask you about it?

Andres: You're right. I think, it's time we watch out for this man carefully...very carefully.

Oriang enters with a baby.

Oriang: Take a look at this baby. Isn't he good-looking?

Jacinto: Whose is it?

Oriang: Maria, the wife of one of our soldiers.

Oriang notices Andres in one of his serious moods.

Oriang (asking Jacinto): What is it?

Andres does not answer.

Jacinto (diverts, to Oriang): The baby likes you. (Plays with him a bit)

Oriang: Our baby... you know, the one who died...would have been this old.

Jacinto: Look, Supremo. He's smiling at you.

Andres still seem disturbed, but nevertheless nods absentmindedly.

Jacinto: I have to go.

Oriang (avoiding Andres' dark moods): I'll go with you. His mother must be worried by now.

Andres: Wait. (To Jacinto and Oriang): Is it true Aguinaldo has an anting-anting?

Oriang: Is that what's bothering you? Anting-anting? What a preposterous idea.

They exit, leaving Andres to his thoughts about Aguinaldo.

Andres: Amnesty? Over my dead body!

Blackout

SCENE 6. A few weeks earlier. The Magdalo Headquarters. Aguinaldo in conference with Padre Pio.

Aguinaldo: What good tidings bring you here?

Padre Pio: I haven't seen you for a long, long time, Miong.

Aguinaldo (wryly): I'm afraid I've been missing mass and confessions. What really brings you here? To what do I owe this visit?

Padre Pio: I'm trying to broker an agreement. An agreement of peace.

Aguinaldo: You may speak with candor, father.

Padre Pio: Polavieja has expressed his desire for a reconciliation.

Aguinaldo: What's on their mind and what terms can we put on the table?

Padre Pio: In fact, YOU can give them your conditions, and we we'll give you ours.

Aguinaldo: Which are...

Padre Pio: For a start, to stop the war.

Aguinaldo: You're offering amnesty.?

Padre Pio: Yes. Your rebels can surrender without any penalty.

Aguinaldo: How do I know you're serious?

Padre Pio: I have with me a Spanish representative.

Aguinaldo: Where is he?

Padre Pio: He's in the other room. Let me call him.

Padre Pio is about to fetch him, but he's already inside the room.

Padre Pio introduces them to each other.

Comenge: We decided to approach you, instead of Bonifacio because we know you're more flexible and you'd listen to our proposal.

Aguinaldo: Maybe...maybe.

Comenge: This war is costly, both for you and the Queen. You know, we're fighting another war in Cuba...and it's beginning to be expensive. Not only in terms of money, but lives as well. I have with me a proposal that you can look over.

Comenge hands Aguinaldo a proposal.

Aguinaldo: I'll look over it . I'll get back to you as soon as I'm done.

Padre Pio (sees an opportunity to flatter Aguinaldo): I heard you're making headway with your military operations. What about Bonifacio? He's not been having victories, lately.

Aguinaldo: Now that you've mentioned it, I might have to consult him on this matter.

Padre Pio: Why should you? You're the one we recognize as the leader of this revolution.

Comenge: Why don't we create a new revolutionary government...with you as leader.

Aguinaldo: It's too soon for that.

Comenge: You'll think about it, though.

Aguinaldo nods.

Padre Pio and Comenge exit.

Blackout.

SCENE 7. Montalban. Magdiwang headquarters. Andres and Oriang.

Andres: They've asked me to go to Cavite.

Oriang: Again? Jesus I just told you...

Andres: They asked your Uncle Mariano to tell me. How can I turn down your uncle.

Oriang: I'll tell him about the danger, don't worry.

Andres: This is the third time they asked. If I don't say yes, they might think I'm a coward.

Oriang: To be thought as coward by the (sarcastic) Republic of Cavite is nothing.

Andres: It's an important mission though. I have to settle once and for all which group should lead the revolutionary government. The Magdiwangs or the Magdalos.

Oriang: The Katipunan, of course. What else?

Andres: Of course. But I have to be there as Supremo.

Oriang: Please, don't go. What's in a name "Supremo"? You're better alive than... Please don't go.

Andres: So what do I tell them? That my wife is scared so I can't make it? (Beat) It's my duty. I'm the only one who can settle this controversy. Come with me. I'll ask Jacinto to come as well. And there are some Magdiwang people in Cavite. What are you afraid of?

Oriang: Let's stay with my uncle. It's safer.

A knock is heard.

Oriang: Who could be at this time of night? (gets her gun)

Andres (gets his gun): Who is it?

Aling: The soothsayer.

Oriang: Let her in.

She opens the door.

Aling: I have to come. I have seen strange visions.

Andres: What do you see?

Aling: I see a house in the middle of the forest. A group of people are trapped. They are crying for help, but help is not coming. Oh, Supremo, wherever you're going, don't.

Andres: Thank you for your concern. Aling. Here's a few pesos for your trouble.

Aling gets the money but looks at Oriang imploringly.

Aling: Good night. May the Lord protect you.

Oriang: Stay safe.

Aling exits.

Andres: She's wrong. We won't find ourselves in the middle of the forest. We are staying with your uncle in the middle of the city. Aling wants to make money. That's all there is to it. She will say anything. Since when did she ever send good tidings. It's always bad news. That's how she makes her living.

Blackout

SCENE 8. Aguinaldo and his men in their headquarters.

Aguinaldo: He rejected the amnesty. What does he want? To sacrifice more lives of the Tagalogs? What a cruel man.

Magdalo Man 1: Mga tulisan. That's what they are. They're nothing but bandits.

Aguinaldo: If he really loves his country, he will be willing to lay down arms, make peace so we can go on with our lives. Even his good friend, Dr. Valencia, has made use of the amnesty.

Magdalo Man 2: If he rejected our proposal to build trenches, what else do you expect?

Aguinaldo: He says freedom cannot be compromised.

Magdalo Man 3: He wants the war to continue so his power lives on. Without a war, he can't be Supremo.

Magdalo Man 4: If you ask me, he's not saying "yes" to all your proposals because it did not come from him. And he resents the fact that the Spaniards came to you first, not him.

Aguinaldo: It's time.

Magdalo Man 1: For what? To get rid of him? (Makes the sign of decapitation)

Aguinaldo: No. That will cause more trouble. (Reflects) I have a better plan.

Magdalo Man 2: Whatever it is you're thinking, you better do it soon. I heard rumors he'll have you killed. So it is a question of who goes first.

Monologue

Aguinaldo: I'll destroy his credibility. Yes, that's what I'll do. I'll distort the perception of people about him...start a black propaganda. It's now a competition between his passion and my power to manipulate how people think of him.

Blackout

SCENE 9. Good Friday. Cavite. Andres Bonfacio is being hailed as the Supremo in a procession, His popularity is obvious in the clamor and excitement of the people around him. They're carrying palm leaves. The brass band plays patriotic melodies. They gawk at him and call out his name, "Supremo"! His carriage is decorated with flowers. He appears as Jesus Christ coming to Jerusalem before his crucifixion. When the procession nears the church, music of "Te deum" is heard.

Mariano Alvarez: I have heard rumors, they're planning to assassinate the Supremo. I will send our soldiers to guard the assembly hall. I better send a messenger to warn him.

In one corner, Tirona and Vicente Fernandez are conspiring.

Tirona: Look, how arrogant he is. He thinks he's God.

Fernandez: But didn't you just shout and hail him as "Supremo"?

Tirona: That was all for show. I'll have another performance later which will surprise you.

Fernandez: Better see to it that he loses the election. If he wins, he'll punish us for sure.

Tirona: I know. Miong had to intercede for Mascardo and Topacio. Otherwise...

Fernandez (boastful): Not me. You should have seen his face when he saw me. He thought he saw a ghost. He ordered me arrested. Right there and then. The Magdalo people simply laughed.

Tirona: Why? What did you do?

Fernandez: I was supposed to meet him in San Juan so that together, we can attack the Spaniards.

Tirona: What happened?

Fernandez: I didn't appear. He blames me for losing the battle.

Tirona: What kept you from...

Fernandez: I didn't trust him. I thought his military knowhow is weak.

Tirona: Is that why you're with Miong now?

Fernandez: Yes.

Tirona: I know how to prick his ego. Leave it to me.

Blackout

ACT 3

SCENE 1 : The Estate House of the Friars (summer house) at the Tenejeros. Bonifacio, acting very much like the Supremo is on the center stage. The Magdiwang members are gathered on the right side of the stage and the Magdalos on the left. (The crowd may be suggested by the audience.) There is tension in the air.

Magdalo man (aside): Look at him, so arrogant and conceited.

Sound of the gavel pounding is heard.

Jacinto Lumberas (acting president of the Magdiwang): The meeting will now come to order. Our agenda for today is to decide on the officers who will lead the revolutionary movement.

Severino de las Alas: I want to remind everyone that whoever wins leads (emphasizes, alluding to Aguinaldo's qualifications) the military defense of the country.

Lumberas: I propose that the officers of the KKK be nominated for the election of the revolutionary government..

The Magdalo group grumbling.

Bonifacio: The KKK has functioned effectively in the past...with by-laws and a constitution. Approved by all! (Point to the assembly) All of you here!

Baldomero Aguinaldo: The KKK was a secret organization. Once revealed, it no longer exists. We need a new government.

Magdiwang Supporter 1r: But the KKK has the support of the entire country. Not only in Cavite.

Bonifacio: We need a government that is truly representative.

Ariston Villanueva (Magdiwang Minister of War): I propose that Andres Bonifacio be appointed president. No election is necessary.

Magdalos: Election! Election! We want an election!

Andres (trying to be noble): Okay. We'll call for an election. (Nods towards Lumberas)

Jacinto (aside): Supremo, this election might be rigged. You might lose.

Andres: Don't worry. They like me here. Didn't you see the procession?

Jacinto: It might have been a trap.

Andres: A trap?

Jacinto: To make you come here.

Andres, distracted by the proceedings, ignores him.

Lumberas: The table is now open for nomination of the president.

Magdalo Man: I nominate Emilio Aguinaldo for president.

Lumberas: Emilio Aguinaldo has been nominated for president.

Magdiwang Man: I nominate Andres Bonifacio for the position of president.

Lumberas: Andres Bonifacio has been nominated for president.

Magdalo Man: I move that the nomination for president be closed.

Lumberas: This is a secret balloting. You may fill up the ballots distributed by our aide.

Suddenly two women enter. They Josephine Bracken, the wife of Jose Rizal and Trinidad Rizal, his sister. They are accompanied by Paciano Rizal, the brother. They look sad and disheartened. Their entrance creates a pandemonium.

Andres: What news do you bring about our brother, Rizal.

Paciano: His execution is tomorrow.

A loud gasp is heard from the crowd.

Paciano: He has received your message Supremo.

Andres: What's his reply?

Paciano: He's thankful that you offered to help him escape. But he can't accept it.

The Magdalo group snicker, resenting that the Rizal family should communicate with Andres and not with Emilio Aguinaldo.

Andres: Why?

Trinidad: He says if there are more than one life sacrificed for his freedom, he'd rather not have it.

Paciano: Too many lives have already been sacrificed for the revolution.

Andres: Does he have any last wish?

Josephine (hands him a copy of a poem): Yes. He wants you to have this. It's his last poem, "Mi Ultimo Adios."

Andres takes the copy with tearful eyes.

Andres: Thank you. I will honor it with my life.

The Magdalo group is green with envy.

Josephine: I want to assure everyone here he will die with dignity. He asked that he will die facing his executioners.

Andres: Please sit.

Paciano: We have to be back in Manila... for the... (Speechless)

Andres: Take some food, refreshments. You must be tired. (To the aide) Please see to it that their needs are attended to.

They exit, leaving behind an atmosphere of sadness. The opposing camps bow their heads and observe silence.

Lumberas: A president has been elected. (Reads. Suppresses shock at the result) It's Emilio Aguinaldo.

Andres is surprised and so is his group.

Lumberas (aggressive): Andres Bonifacio comes second. I suggest he be declared vice president.

No reaction is discerned from both groups. The Magdiwang group is still reeling from the defeat of their leader and know not what to do. Aguinaldo is many years the junior of Andres. The Magdalo group on the other hand, is opposed to the idea. Andres is obviously shaken by the result.

Andres (Saving his face) :Let's proceed with the election of the Vice President. I want everyone to abide by the decision of the majority. No matter how lowly his station in life is, let's respect him.

Chairman: Mariano Trias is elected Vice President.

Mariano Evangelista (to Jacinto): This election is fraudulent.

Emilio Jacinto: It looks like they relegate Bonifacio as having the second most number of votes, yet deny him any position.

Andres struggles to keep his dignity despite the humiliation.

Lumberas (disheartened, this time): Artemio Ricarte is elected Capitan-General.

Artemio Ricarte, a Magdiwang, stands.

Ricarte: I am not accepting the position.

The Magdalo group is disappointed. They know Ricarte is a good military leader.

Jacinto (to Mariano Alvarez): This is a conspiracy. All those who won belong to the ilustrado class.

Lumberas: Andres Bonifacio is elected Director of Interior.

Mariano Alvarez (whispers to Jacinto): How humiliating. The Supremo, a mere Director of Interior.

The Magdiwang group appears very disappointed and suspicious.

Lumberas: I suggest that the winning candidates stand when their names are called.

Tirona: Objection.

Lumberas: What is your objection?

Tirona: I object to the election of Andres Bonifacio. He does not have the qualifications to be the Director of the Interior. I nominate Jose del Rosario. He's a lawyer.

The Magdiwangs are visibly roused to anger, but Andres signals them to keep quiet..

Andres (to the rescue): We have agreed to abide by the decision of the majority, no matter to what station of life a candidate belongs.

Tirona (ignores, says the name of his candidate four times): Del Rosario! Del Rosario! Del Rosario! Del Rosario!

Andres, furious at this display of disrespect for the Supremo, gets his gun and aims at Tirona. Luckily Tirona was able to get lost in the crowd.

Confusion and mayhem follow. This time, Andres Bonifacio is furious.

Andres (shouting): I, as the Supremo of the Katipunan, declare this election null and void.

Magdiwang group: Mabuhay ang Katipunan! Mabuhay!

Blackout

SCENE 2. The Magdalo Men, conspiring.

Aguinaldo: Have you read the Acta Tenejeros? It's a repudiation of me and our new government.

Magdalo 1 (Tirona): A counter-offensive, that's what we need.

Aguinaldo: How?

Magdalo 1 (Tirona): Obviously, the Acta Tenejeros undermines your presidency. Why don't we do it to him, also?

Aguinaldo (feigning innocence): What will hurt him most?

Tirona (reflects): Rumors. I can spread the rumor that he tramples on the crucifix. That will surely get the ire of the devoted.

Magdalo 2 (Fernandez): Or, that he's an embezzler... that he keeps the KKK funds for himself.

Magdalo 3 (Mascardo): That he's a Mason and an atheist.

Magdalo 3: That his sister is a spy for the Spaniards.

Aguinaldo (very pleased): But how will you circulate these rumors?

Magdalo 1: Leave it to us. Just think, his Acta Tenejeros is public. But our rumor mill is confidential...very confidential.

Aguinaldo (looking so pleased): He who controls the perception controls them. (To his group)What will I do without you?

Black out

SCENE 3. In the summer house of the friars. Andres, Oriang and Jacinto, conversing.

Andres: What happened out there? I saw Tirona cheering for me during the procession. Within less than 24 hours, he's attacking me? What the hell is going on?

Oriang: I've been hearing things, awful things said about you, us.

Andres: You mean, they're spreading lies about me?

Oriang: Yes. (Beat) And the election was a fraud. The person who distributed and collected the ballot, is the same person who counted the votes.

Andres, Oriang and Jacinto: A Magdalo.

Jacinto: My suspicion was right. They had an agenda... to make Aguinaldo lead the revolution.

Andres: They want to eliminate me, huh? (Pause) Well, I won't let them.

I'll meet with my generals and plan a strategy.

Oriang: Two years, that's all it took.

They look at her quizzically.

Oriang: He was recruited only two years ago and now, he wants to be Supremo? What an upstart!

Andres: You know what really makes me mad?

Oriang: What?

Andres: That the very people I built up and developed were the ones against me.

Jacinto (reflects): Fernandez whom you promoted to General. Tirona whom you made part of the special delegation to the Japanese Admiral. Mascardo...

Andres (cuts) He's recruiting those who hate me or has some score to settle with me.

Jacinto: Very clever. These people don't need a loyalty test or a blood compact.

Jacinto: Oh, I almost forgot. I came immediately when I got this message from Batangas... from Gen. Marasigan.

Jacinto hands the note to Andres. After reading it, gives the note to Oriang.

Andres: Can you believe this? He's already informing all the generals in the field that he's the head of the revolutionary forces. The nerve!

Jacinto (reflects): This is more dangerous than I thought. You better leave Cavite as soon as possible.

Andres: I have to stay. Have you forgotten? I agreed to meet your mother in Limbon.

Jacinto: Don't worry. I'll send her a note, postponing her trip. Go to Batangas. You're safe there.

Andres: But I'm already here. And I've already sent her money for the trip. (Pause) By the way, here's some cash for you and your soldiers .

Andres gives him the money.

Jacinto (gently): Supremo, you think of everyone. (To Oriang) Tell him it's not safe here.

Oriang: Don't worry. A guide will take us back to Balara.

Jacinto (to Andres): This is the second time you've risked your life for me. Once you took the bullet meant for me.

Andres: What are you now, an accountant? Keeping score? You're like a brother to me. I'll save you again and again.

Oriang: Be careful in Hambong, Jacinto. I heard the Spaniards there are fierce.

Jacinto: I will, Oriang.

Andres and Oriang hug him.

Jacinto: Kindly say hello to my mother for me. Tell her I miss her.

Andres: God bless you.

Jacinto: You, too. Oriang...

Emilio exits.

Andres: I have this funny feeling this is the last time I'll see him.

Oriang: Aw, come on. You're very superstitious these days.

Andres: You go to bed, I have to meet my generals.

Oriang: This late?

Andres: It's not too late to have a party, is it?

Oriang: You mean, a good cover?

Andres: Yes. Gather all the women. Tell them we need a good cover.

Oriang: Who are we hiding from this time? The Spaniards or the Magdalos?

Andres: Both.

Blackout

SCENE 4. Women in beautiful sayas create an exciting party scenario. They sing and dance to distract passersby.

SCENE 5: The Magdalo Headquarters. Aguinaldo, Padre Pio and Comenge in conversation.

Padre Pio: Miong, this is rather embarrassing. We signed an agreement that you will release the Spanish officers. What happens? They're arrested once more by Bonifacio. How many times do they have to be in prison?

Aguinaldo: My apologies. He also imprisoned my men. I had to intercede for them. He has no right to take them in. They're Magdalos, not Magdiwangs.

Comenge: We heard one of them had his head, eyebrows and eyelashes shaved.

Aguinaldo: He could be so intense... zealous.

Comenge: But Polavieja is not happy at the way events are turning out. Who's in control here? You or Bonifacio?

Aguinaldo: I'll work on it soon. Don't worry.

Comenge: Well, you better do it soon. Polavieja is getting impatient. If those Spanish prisoners are not out by next week, Polavieja will bring the full force of the Spanish empire on your army...the full force!

Padre Pio: You know your army won't have a chance.

Aguinaldo: I know. I know.

Comenge: Remember our terms are tempting.

Aguinaldo: Definitely. But give me time. I try to win the rest of the military, especially in Batangas and Manila to my side. Perhaps, he will come to our way of thinking.

Padre Pio: That's too slow.

Comenge: Just kill him. I say, kill him!

Aguinaldo: That's too radical. You're forgetting. He still has a lot of followers.

Padre Pio: Have it your way. Just remember, we're getting impatient.

Blackout

Scene 6. Magdiwang headquarters. Summer House of the Friars. Andres in his throne-like chair with Oriang standing behind him. Aguinaldo is making his case on behalf of Mascardo and Topacio, who are prisoners of the Magdiwangs.

Aguinaldo: I beg of you, Don Andres. Please release my officers.

Andres: Capitan Miong, they were caught escorting our enemies.

Aguinaldo: They were just following orders.

Andres: Whose?

Aguinaldo does not respond.

Aguinaldo (lies): There's been a mistake. You see, the one in charge of prison, thought the Spaniards are to be released.

Andres: Thought? There was no official order?

Aguinaldo: A serious mistake, I admit. It was a verbal order.

Andres: (Goads him) Who gave it?

Aguinaldo (evasive): That we have to investigate.

Andres: How do we know there's going to be one?

Aguinaldo: I'll make a report of it, Don Andres.

Andres does not respond.

Aguinaldo: (finally resorts to...) Supremo, I know, everybody knows your merciful nature. I beg of you, please release these men. They are my most dependable and trusted officers. They'll be of better use to us in the battle field than in a prison cell. (Flatters him) You're the father of the revolution, you know that. Please have pity.

Andres reflects and then considers.

Andres: You will make a thorough investigation.

Aguinaldo: Yes.

Andres: You will suspend them only until they have realized their crime.

Aguinaldo: Yes, Supremo.

Aguinaldo: I will expect that report within this week. I want to know the name of the officer who issued the release.

Aguinaldo: Yes, you will have it.

Andres (To Oriang): Tell the men to release the Magdalos.

Aguinaldo: You have a fair sense of justice, Supremo. Thank you.

Aguinaldo exits.

Blackout.

Scene 7. The monologues of Andres and Aguinaldo.

Aguinaldo: Is that all what it takes? To flatter him? Supremo. It must have been music to his ears...especially coming from me, an ilustrado. (Pause) Now I know his weakness. My campaign to destroy him work. (Proudly)I will be Supremo.

Andres: He beg, he pleaded, and he finally called me Supremo. He used to call me Don Andres, as if he doesn't acknowledge my leadership. But now, he knows who's King here. Not him. Me!

SCENE 8. Estate House of the Friars. Tenejeros. Oriang, Andres and a soothsayer. Night.

Andres (whispers to Oriang): Another session? This is too often. I have a revolution to plan.

Oriang: I know, but we have to be sure what Aguinaldo is planning.

Andres: Okay. If you say so.

Soothsayer: I need a bowl of water.

Oriang exits to get her the bowl.

Soothsayer (casting spell on the water): Abra kadabra.

Andres: What do the stars have for us?

Soothsayer (Looking at a bowl of water): I see black clouds. Dark forces. Evil men hiding from the light. You must leave. Leave town immediately.

Oriang (thinking of Limbon): We are leaving tomorrow.

Soothsayer: Wait. I see something. It's a place. (Deciphers what it is) It's a house...a house surrounded by soldiers. In front and at the back.

Andres: It must be our men.

Soothsayer: No. They're in dark shadows. Evil men.

Oriang: How does the layout look like?

Soothsayer: Give me a pencil and paper.

She begins to draw.

Andres shivers in fear. The accuracy of the drawing terrifies him.

Oriang: Andres. Are you okay?

Andres retreats to a corner.

Oriang (to the soothsayer): I think that will be all for today. You must be tired. I suggest you stay for the night. There's dinner for you in the kitchen.

Oriang: What is it, Andres?

Andres: It's incredible how accurate her vision is.

Oriang: That's why I had her come all the way from Tondo.

Andres: Those canals she drew...

Oriang: I was also curious about them. What are they?

Andres: They're trenches.

Oriang: Trenches? I thought you didn't believe in having trenches. You said it's a lot of manpower. That it's expensive.

Andres: I change my mind. Limbon is a deserted place. We need good defense.

Oriang: Against the Spaniards or against the Magdalos?

Andres: Now, we're not sure anymore.

Oriang: What's your plan aside..

Andres: I'm bringing 20 guns and a hundred bolo men.

Oriang: Jesus, how are you going to feed them?

Andres: The Magdiwangs of Imus have pledged to send us food.

Oriang: Are you sure of that? Half of Imus have turned against us, what with those ugly rumors.

Andres: Don't worry. I will have other sources. People will help. Trust me.

Oriang: We better start moving then, right now.

Andres: No, we'll leave in the morning.

Oriang: Early in the morning ?

Andres: Yes. You go now and sleep. I have to think..

Andres (to himself): I will win this revolution. It's mine, not his.

Blackout

SCENE 7. Aguinaldo in his headquarters. He is delirious with malaria.

Aguinaldo: What to do with this man? Why can't he just give up and let me lead the revolution? It's the only way to unify the whole army, the entire country. Doesn't he know I'm a better leader... a more competent military man? Why, he's always retreating, withdrawing and never winning. Never! And God, how does he choose his men? Out of good moral fiber? I don't care if a man has two wives, as long as he can give me two victories. War is not religion! I recruit men for their valor, courage and bravery. What about him? He assigns a rope maker as general? (Spits out) Pweh!

Enter General Pio del Pilar

Pio: Miong, I have urgent news for you.

Aguinaldo: What?

Aide: They want to kill you.

Aguinaldo: Where did you get this news? Who...

Pio: I just came from a meeting he conducted.

Aguinaldo: You were part of this...

Pio: I'm sorry, Miong. I'm truly sorry. But it's the only way I can spy on him.

Aguinaldo: Why should I believe you?

Pio: He appointed me generalissimo of the revolutionary forces in Naic. That's just an hour ago.

Aguinaldo: Why are you telling me this now?

Pio: I want to work for you. You're easier to work with. He's... he's difficult.

Aguinaldo: I better go there myself.

Pio: Are you crazy? His men are surrounding the estate.

Aguinaldo (to his aide, Makapagal): Help me put on my uniform. (Weakly) I'm going there.

Pio: I'll go with you.

Makapagal: Me, too.

Aguinaldo: No. I'm going alone.

Pio: You're sick!

Aguinaldo ignores him, and exits.

Blackout

SCENE 8. Magdiwang headquarters in Limbon, Cavite. Mid-morning. Andres and Oriang are having their breakfast.

Andres: That was a close call. Who would ever think Aguinaldo, sick and all, would attack us?

Oriang: I heard he's getting paranoid.

Andres: He's getting scared.

Silence.

Oriang (on another tack): Things don't look so good. So many Filipinos are dying. Now, even the ilustrados are exploited.

Andres: How?

Oriang: They get arrested, then bailed out for an atrocious amount of money.

Andres: So, they're free. What's the problem?

Oriang: Then they get arrested again and again...for some more money.

Andres: It's extortion.

Oriang: Yes. Andres, we need men. We can't have a revolution without rebels, you know what I mean?

Andres: I have an idea.

Oriang looks at him in anticipation.

Andres: We can use women.

Oriang (considers): Right you are. Women can be handy in war efforts.

Andres: No, I mean, they should be fighting.

Oriang: Like me? With a gun?

Andres nods.

Andres: We'll keep them in trenches. Spaniards will think they're hiding. Of course, the Spaniards are too gallant to hurt a woman. As soon as their backs are turned, these women will climb up the trenches and shoot them.

Oriang: That's brilliant idea. I'll take charge of recruiting them.

Andres: You can actually start at the next village. There are women there.

Oriang: I will, as soon as I have food in my stomach.

Andres: I don't understand why Imus has stopped sending food.

Oriang: How will we survive? We have to feed a hundred soldiers...

Andres: Don't worry. I sent someone in the nearby town to send us food. I'm sure he will be here soon.

Oriang: There's just one explanation.

Andres looks at her, quizzically.

Oriang: It's those rumors circulating in Imus.

Andres: Circulated by my own people. How sad.

Oriang (impatient): When will that guide come? Oh, God. We can't stay here forever.

Lights shift. Lights on Colonel Bonzon, Jose Ignacio Pawa, Felipe Topacio and his men.

Bonzon: That guide is not coming...ever.

Pawa: What's your plan? This is taking too long.

Topacio: Let's attack now!

Bonzon: I'm waiting for the right time.

Topacio: Right time? They've been there for days!

Bonzon: I was waiting for them to get weak. No food. Demoralized. You know, make them ripe for the taking.

Pawa: I think the fruits are ripe. What's the next move?

Bonzon: Let's get their trust first. Make them believe we're with them and not their enemies. Let's make friends with them first.

Pawa: Like an acquaintance party?

They laugh.

Bonzon: Yes. Make them think we're a reconnaissance party. We just happen to pass by.

Topacio: What about our men? There must be at least a hundred of them.

Bonzon: Let's hide them far in the forest. Then when midnight comes, we attack.

Pawa: That's a long time.

Bonzon: Don't be impatient. When it's dark, there will be confusion. Remember, they remember us as friends. When the shooting starts, they'll get disoriented. They wouldn't know who to shoot. (Turns to Pawa)

Bonzon: You stab his larynx. He talks too much.

Pawa: With pleasure.

Bonzon: Topacio, you shoot him.

Topacio: Straight at him?

Bonzon: No. Just graze him on the shoulder. Weaken him. Gen. Aguinaldo wants him alive.

Topacio: Yes, sir.

Lights shift. The Magdiwang temporary headquarters at Limbon.

A knock is heard.

Oriang: That must be our food.

Andres opens the door. It is a man bringing food.

Oriang (smelling the food with gusto): Ah, food. Blessed, blessed food.

Andres (to the man): On your way out, kindly feed the soldiers.

The man takes a piece of paper from his pocket.

Man: General Jacinto sent you this.

Andres grabs the paper. Oriang forgets her hunger. Anything received from Jacinto is urgent.

They both read the note.

Andres: Putang Ina. He finally signed the contract? They finally got to him, huh?

Oriang: They're surrendering? Jesusmaryosep, I can't believe it.

Andres: They're sending this note all around Manila. They're making it official---the amnesty.

Oriang: How can he allow himself to be duped by the Spaniards. I know this Comenge. Have you heard his speech? He called Tagalogs "beasts", savages and God knows what.

Andres: Have they forgotten what these people did to Rizal? They have no palabra de honor!

Oriang: The audacity to sign agree the contract, without telling us.

Andres: He thinks he's the better leader.

Oriang: When was he ever better than you? You fought those battles with him. You provided him the first line of defense in Bakood and Las Pinas. And why is he bragging about his conquests? His first two victories were exaggerated. He attacked two abandoned garrison. One was a deserted convent and the other a garrison with three soldiers. Three! (Pause) Remember Silang? There you were waiting for him to link up with you. What did he do? He ran to Imus, seeing the siege. The coward.

Andres: He's stealing the revolution from the people, that's what it is. Thousands of Katipuneros died.

How dare he own the revolution. Well. I won't let him. Over my dead body!

Oriang: Please, don't say that.

Andres: What?

Oriang: Over my dead body. It scares me so.

Knocks are heard. Persistent knocks. Oriang opens the door. Tasio enters.

Tasio: Supremo! Supremo! There are soldiers outside.

Andres: Who?

Tasio: I can't tell.

Andres: Must be from the next pueblo. I must welcome them.

Oriang (grabbing Andres by the arm): Mahal, dahan dahan lang. Be careful. We don't really know who they are. They might be Miong's men. Remember the last time, we were attacked by the Magdalos. Good thing we were able to get out fast They might be tracking us down.

Andres: Is there a Magdalo sign on their uniform?

Tasio: I see no sign.

Andres: See? See what I mean?

Oriang: Just follow your usual protocol. They have to identify themselves with a code.

Andres: That's in the city. We're here in the middle of nowhere.

Oriang: You're too trusting. You think every man is like you. But they're not.

Enter Bonzon and his men. Bonifacio doesn't recognize them.

Andres: Hello! What brings you here?

Bonzon: We're on a reconnaissance mission. Looking for Spaniards.

Andres: As you can see, there are no Spaniards.

Topacio comes closer to Andres.

Topacio (flattering him): Why you're the Supremo!

Andres: How do you know?

Topacio: Who doesn't know you?. The entire nation knows you.

Bonzon and Paw: Why yes. You're the Supremo. Sorry, we're too hungry to...

Andres (flattered by now): Have you had breakfast?

Bonzon: No. We've been feeding on kamote leaves.

Oriang: Come in. Come in. We were just having our breakfast.

Lights out. (Out of sight) Cuckoo clock makes three cuckoo sounds to suggest the passage of time. Tasio enters.

Tasio: Supremo. Crispulo sent a messenger to tell you that those guys ordered our soldiers not to leave their trenches. He's asking you what he should do.

Oriang: What could it mean? It's a strange order. Oh, Andres, I feel something evil is coming our way.

Andres: It's simple. They're ordering our guys to stay in the trenches to guard us. It's their way of saying "Thank you." Why should they harm us? I gave them cigarettes!

Oriang: You think one breakfast and one pack of cigarettes will buy loyalty? Think again.

Andres: Tasio, bring someone with you. Run after those guys and find out what they really want. Go on. Run.

Tasio (shaking): Oh, Supremo, I'm so scared. They say these Magdalo people can play tricks. They can turn into monsters. I can't.

Oriang: Andres, why don't you do it yourself?

Andres: A Supremo running after soldiers? Where is the dignity in that? And it would be too obvious. They already know who I am.

Oriang: Who cares? As long as we know what their real mission is. Why are they here?

Andres: We have 20 guns, trenches protecting us, soldiers ready to fight for us. Why are you so afraid of three soldiers?

Oriang: Just the same. I don't have a good feel about this. Somehow I feel that was our last decent breakfast.

Andres: Come here. I know this has been strenuous for you. Everything will be fine. Trust our providential Lord.

To signal the passage of time, the cuckoo clock strikes three cuckoo sounds. It is night time. Lights shift to Andres, Oriang and Tasio.

Tasio: Supremo. Crispulo, your brother sent me here. The people who came this morning? They're back!

Shots could be heard.

Oriang (gets her gun, by instinct): Jesus maryosep! What are those shots?

Tasio: That's what I came to tell you. They've come back and this time, they're very hostile.

Oriang: Hostile? Those are gun shots! They're killing our people.

Andres: Tasio, how's Crispulo?

Tasio: I dunno. I came as soon as he informed me about these strange people.

Andres (to Oriang): Get the guns ready. Alert the soldiers.

Tasio (peeping at the window): They're here. Those men. But this time they're surrounded by a hundred men.

Andres: It's too late to fight them. We're outnumbered. (paces) I'll try something.

Voice: Come out now! You thief. Stealing the money of the people. Pretending to be Supremo! Come out and talk to us!

Oriang: Don't go.

Andres: Do we have a choice? We're surrounded.

Oriang: There are two of us. We're covered. We can outsmart them.

Andres: I'll think of something. I'll go out alone, and talk to them. Make them listen.

Oriang: But...

Andres: Remember I was able to convince an army. Alone.

Oriang: That was for a chicken. And those people are your people. The working class. They identify with you. They can easily be intimidated. But these ilustrados are different. They're not afraid of you. They don't even respect you. Please, Andres.

Andres: I have to do this.

Oriang gathers the archives and the money of the KKK and hides in the forest.

Lights shift. Andres is now face to face with the enemy. They are outnumbered

Andres: My brothers. What is this? We cannot fight one another. We should be unified fighting the Spaniards.

A soldier fires on Andres. His soldier is grazed by the bullet. The bullet hits the man behind him.

Andres: See what you have done? He's Tagalog like you. Have you no mercy?

Pawa jumps on him and stabs his larynx with a knife.

Andres (screams): Ahhhhh.

Blackout

SCENE 9. Naic, Cavite. Two soldiers carrying a hammock with someone in it who is covered with a blanket. They stop at sari-sari store for refreshment. A young woman minding her store, Agueda Esteban, asks the soldiers who is in it. The soldiers tried to ignore the question.

Agueda: Who is it?

Soldier 1: Do you have a restroom?

Agueda: By the back of the store.

Soldier 1 to Soldier 2: I'm going. Watch the hammock, will you?

Soldier 2 nods. Then doses off.

Agueda opens the blanket . It is covered with blood.

Agueda: Dios Mio, it's the Supremo. What happened to you?

Supremo (weakly): I am thirsty.

Woman immediately gets water for him to drink.

Supremo: Thank you.

Woman: May I wipe your face?

Supremo nods. Agueda gets a piece of cloth, some sort of a handkerchief from her saya. She wipes his bloodied face tenderly.

Agueda (lifting the cloth): It's your face. I have your face.

Soldier 1 comes back . Agueda hides the piece of cloth in her saya.

Soldier 1 to Soldier 2: Hey, wake up. This woman is doing some hokus-pokus and you're dead to the world?

Soldier 2: What have you got there?

Agueda: Nothing. He was thirsty and I gave him water.

Soldier 1 (threatens): Don't ever tell anyone about this, okay? Not a word. Once this gets out, you'll be dead. You hear?

Agueda makes the sign,"See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil."

Soldier 1: Good.

Soldier 2: Let's go!

They lift the hammock and move on.

Blackout

SCENE 10. Maragondon. The Council of War led by General Mariano Noriel. The Magdalo Men in attendance.

Together: Noriel, on one side. Andres, Oriang and Procopio on the other side

Noreil: Is it true that you plan for the overthrow of the revolutionary government.

Andres: We did not know that a new government was established in lieu of the existing KKK.

Noriel: Is it true that you plan to kill Emilio Aguinaldo, the president of the revolutionary army?

Oriang: We did not know that a new president has been elected.

Noriel: Is it true that you plan to attack the military of the revolutionary government?

Procopio: We have no plan to oppose any military force except that of the Spaniards, our real enemy.

SCENE 9. Andres Bonifacio before the military court. His weak after losing so much blood. He is being assisted by Oriang. Also, he cannot speak as much as he wants because of his wounded throat.

Noriel: Do you call yourself King? King of the Tagalogs?

Andres: It's you who says so, not me.

Noriel: You call yourself the Supremo?

Andres: I am and there will be others in the future who will know me as such.

Noriel: This is treason. There is only , one government and one army under General Emilio Aguinaldo. We have a witness, Pedro Giron.

Andres (seeing his former general): And you too, Giron?

Giron testifies, but he is muted. Only his lips move, to symbolize the falsehood of what he is saying.

Onlookers and observers, are swayed and convinced of Giron's testimony,

Man 1: Condemn him to death!

Man 2: Persecute him!

Man3: Execute him!

One member of the audience made up mostly of Cavitenos, comes up the stage to put a crown of thorns on his head. The crowd jeer and mock Andres.

Black out

Act 4

Scene 1. A room in Indang. Andres and Oriang conversing. Andres, by this time, is very weak, having lost so much blood, having travelled from Limbon, having to withstand the fraudulent kangaroo court of Aguinaldo.

Oriang (wiping Andres' wounds): Andres, you must rest.

Andres: Thank you.

Oriang : For what?

Andres: For everything.

Oriang: Do not talk like that.

Andres; Like what?

Oriang: Like there's no hope. Things will change, just you see.

Andres: Like the friar's toilet changing into a room as big as this.

Oriang: I have to fight that. How can the three of us stay in a friar's toilet? Do they expect us to sleep while standing?

Andres: What exactly did you do?

Oriang: I went right up to the commanding officer and told them as leader of the KKK, you demand a larger room. So here we are.

Andres: Who can ever tell that the young girl I courted would turn out to be this strong.

Oriang: You're forgetting. IT's in my blood. My grandfather was a rebel, too..

Andres: I hope to God nothing will separate us. Nothing! (He coughs)

Oriang: I will never desert you. Remember how my mother was so against our marriage? She even kept me prisoner so I won't see you? She said I will lead a difficult life, you being a mason and a rebel. But I married you just the same. I love you, Andres.

Noise is heard from the other room.

Andres: What could they be doing to Procopio? Oh, my poor brother. Are they torturing him?

Oriang(lies): No, the noise is coming from the other building.

Andres: MY poor brothers. One is dead, the other a prisoner. What have I done to them?

Oriang: You have made them strong like me. That's all that counts now.

Andres groans in pain.

Oriang: Let me read you something. (Pulls a piece of paper from underneath her saya) It's the poem written by Rizal the night before he was to be shot.

Andres (surprised): You carry it with you?

Oriang: Everywhere I go.

Andres: Read it to me.

Oriang: I die when heaven purples in the dawn

And day at last is risen on the night

If morning would a deeper crimson won
Take my life-blood, and the color strewn
Catch but a glimpse of the wakening light.

Andres: How beautiful. I never thought his love for our country is this pure. He offered his life with dignity..Now I know why he was against the revolution. He has so much respect for life.

Oriang: And to him, you are the Supremo.

Andres: Me?

Oriang: He left his last poem with you, not with Aguinaldo.

Andres: He's the real hero. He died in the hands of the Spaniards while I...will die in the hands of my own people.

Oriang: You are both heroes. He has his pen and you have your courage.

Andres gets the copy of the poem from Oriang and puts it near his heart.

Andres: Pahimakas. The first translation of this poem. (Looks at Oriang tenderly) And you were the muse of that translation. My muse. My Lakambini.

Oriang: (bends to kiss him): My hero.

Suddenly, a soldier, enters.

Soldier: Hurry, we're leaving.

Oriang: Leaving? Where?

Soldier: To Mt. Tala. We're bringing him tonight.

Oriang: Tonight!

Soldier: Yes.

Oriang: Can't it wait till tomorrow? In the first place, you won't be able to see your way. It's raining and it's too dark.

Soldier: Sorry, we have our orders.

Oriang: I will talk to your superiors. Who can I talk to?

Soldier: Gen. Aguinaldo. Let's see if you could persuade him.

Oriang: Wait here, Andres. (To the soldier) I'll go see Aguinaldo.

Soldier: In this rain? By the time you get there, you'll be soaking wet.

Oriang: Can I ask the cook to accompany me?

Soldier: Sure, go ahead.

Oriang (once more): Don't move him. I'll be back.

Oriang exits.

SCENE 2. Oriang, with the female cook, in the headquarters of Aguinaldo. A guard stops her.

Guard: And where exactly are you going?

Oriang: Can we please speak with the General?

Guard looks at her wet clothes.

Guard: You can't get in there. You'll wet the floor.

Oriang: We'll wait a bit here. Just until we're a little bit dry.

Guard: Suit yourself.

Oriang: Please, officer, can you see ..

Guard: (Taking pity on her) Okay, I'll see if he's in.

He goes to the general's office.

Female cook (whispers): He's more worried about the floor.

Guard comes back with Aguinaldo's aide.

Aide: He's not in.

Oriang: Please, it would only take a few minutes. Just one word, that's all we need.

Aide takes pity.

Aide: Okay. But make it fast. He has other business to attend.

Oriang enters Aguinaldo's office, unannounced. He is with Comenge, who seeing Oriang, goes to an adjacent room, avoiding being seen.

Aguinaldo: What is the meaning of this? (Looks at the floor made wet by Oriang's dress)

Oriang: Please, Miong. Have pity. Your men want to bring Andres right this minute. It is raining, as you can see and Andres is sick with gangrene. He has wound son his neck and shoulder. It's been eleven days. I beg of you, wait until daybreak to transport him.

Aguinaldo, wanting to get rid of her and eager to continue his conversation with Comenge, gives in. He scribbles something on a piece of paper.

Aguinaldo: Bring this to Col. Makapagal. (Look her over) And dry yourself. You'll get sick.

Oriang exits hurriedly, not listening to the rest of what Aguinaldo has to say. But she has enough time to look back and see the Spaniard Comenge get out and talk to Aguinaldo.

Comenge: is that the wife?

Aguinaldo: Yes.

Comenge: Are you going to spare her?

Aguinaldo: Yes. She's harmless.

Comenge: How do you want to go about it?

Aguinaldo: I'll have my men do it.

Comenge: Smart: Your hands are clean.

Aguinaldo: You can put it that way. I'll have someone issue the order. And soldiers to get rid of him.

Comenge: How sure are you thesoldiers can be trusted?

Aguinaldo: Don't you worry. They'll carry out my borders. These men hold grudges against him. They want to see him dead.

Comenge: Smart.

Takes out a piece of document and reads it.

Comenge: The terms are:

1. P400,000 pesos, the first payment of which is P200,000. The second payment will be given when the surrender of arms is complete.
2. Those who surrender under the terms of amnesty will be pardoned and set free.
3. 3. Exile in Hongkong

This sounds like a grand vacation. Hongkong and P400,000.

They smile conspiratorially.

SCENE 12. Aguinaldo, along with his generals, sit in a long bench. Resplendent in their uniforms, there are five of them in all. As each shot is heard (five in all), each general look to the left. After the fifth and last shot is heard, they face the audience.

Black out

SCENE 3. Outside Indang. Five soldiers huddled together, conspiring.

Soldier 1: I'm tired of escorting these men to Mt. Tala. Why, it's all the way to the foot of the hills of Mt. Buntis. I don't think I have the strength to carry him in a hammock. Why don't we just kill him here.

Soldier 2: will they know we didn't follow orders?

Soldier 3: They're gearing up for a fight. There's going to be an attack from the Spaniards any time soon. Soldier 4: Let's just kill him here.

Soldier 1: How? If we shoot him... we might be heard.

Soldier 3 whispers to the group.

Soldiers: That's a good idea.

Soldier 4: Five times. That's what the order says. So, we would still be following orders, right?

Soldier 5: Right. Not that they'll care. As long as he's dead.

Soldier 1: Let's cast lots over his clothes.

Soldier 2: Good idea.

Soldier 3: Hey what about the brother?

They reflect

Soldier 1: Let's have him escape and after a while, shoot him. You know, like we're having a hunting party. We never kill for sport. We're always fighting the enemy where we could killed ourselves.

Soldier 2: Agreed?

Soldier 1: Agreed!

SCENE 4: Oriang (looking exhausted): I bought two women with me to scour the mountains of Mt. Tala, Mt. Buntis and Maragondon. Nobody where his body is. (Pause) What thoughts were going on his mind as he died, I wonder. Was he thinking of the revolution? How it will be without him? Or, was he thinking of futility of it all? His brothers killed. His honor tarnished. His life... (sobs) Or was he thinking of me? Was he thinking of me?

Black out

Three years before

Andres 15. Oriang! Oriang ! I have good news.

Oriang: What? What are you so excited about?

Andres: A young recruit is coming.. all the way from Cavite. Captain Emilio Aguinaldo. What an honor to have him with us. Hurry. Prepare the initiation rites. Place the skull and the sword on the table. Prepare the candles...and the questions. I will personally initiate him... see that he signs his contract with his own blood. He's ours, Oriang. He's ours!

Blackout

THE END