



Basi Festival (Piddig) - Tan-ok ni Ilocano Festival of Festivals 2014

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(Check storyline below)

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(Storyline)

The Basi Revolt erupted as a result of the monopoly of the production, sale and use of basi, the famous wine of the Ilocanos. Although the rebels determined, the Basi Revolt including all other Revolts in Philippines history failed for the Filipinos were not united. They lacked for forerunners to lead them. Since they lived in different parts of the Archipelago, each group with a distinct culture, they did not consider themselves as one people and they were unprepared militarily to fight the Spanish forces.

The Basi Revolt of 1807, which was part of a series of peasant rebellions that recurred for more or less similar reasons in Ilocos, was a valiant reaction to the efforts of Governments' struggles to impose greater administrative and economic control over the Ilocano region. The natives were discontented with the shortages and injustice generated by the liquor and tobacco monopolies, particularly the Monopoly on Basi, the locals sugarcane wine, as well as the abuses of the officials in charge of managing the monopoly. The insurgents were led by Pedro Mateo and brave men. But the rebellions lasted for a short time because the rebels did not speak with a single voice. However, it showed that they possess a certain organizational structure, tactics and determination.

Analysis of the Basi Revolt revealed certain historical themes. Blatant disregard for a treasured culture items or practice was considered a form of rejection. Curtailment of basic freedom was a violation of human rights, thus curtailment of the right to own property triggered revolts. Censorship is curtailment of freedom, political and economic persecution engenders courage, sporadic, uncoordinated revolts are bound to fail; and regionalism and lack of unity weakens an endeavor.

The Basi Revolt demonstrated certain values that Ilocanos held dear: courage in the face of insurmountable odds, love and concern for family, industry and diligence, love for freedom and love for country – to take the risk and stand for one's conviction. It directly contributed to the development of nationalism. To a certain extent, the Basi Revolt helped facilitate the revolution of 1896. The revolt left a deep pondering of thoughts to the succeeding generation. Revolts, as the Filipino were bound to learn, was not enough. There is a need to inculcate into the hearts and minds of the citizens values worth emulating for.

Look more here: www.philippineculture.ph and www.heritage.aboutphilippines.ph