

## The history of Lupang Hinirang - Chosen Land

On June 5, 1898, a week before Philippine independence would be declared, Julian Felipe, a local pianist from Kawit, Cavite, arrived at the home of Maximo Inocencio, one of Cavite's thirteen martyrs during the revolution. Upon his arrival, the leader of the revolution, General Emilio Aguinaldo, asked Felipe to play a march written by a Filipino in Hong Kong. However, Aguinaldo was not satisfied with this march. Recognizing Felipe's skills, he asked him to compose a more soul-rousing tune that would install courage and patriotism in the hearts of every Filipino.

On June 11, the day before the declaration of independence, Felipe arrived again and played his tune to the revolutionary leaders. The leaders unanimously approved it as the national hymn. Felipe called his work the "Marcha Filipina Magdalo." The next day, Felipe's tune was played during the hoisting of the Philippine flag at the historic window at the Aguinaldo mansion. The march was renamed the "Marcha Nacional Filipina," and immediately became the National Anthem. However, the anthem still lacked words. The next year, a young soldier named José Palma penned the poem "Filipinas" in Spanish, to match the music of the anthem. It was adopted as the official lyrics.

The Philippines were now under American rule, and as such, a suitable English translation was to be made of the anthem. The first translation was made by Paz Marquez Benitez of the University of the Philippines. However, the most popular version was written by Mary A. Lane and Senator Camillo Osias, known as the "Philippine Hymn". On December 5, 1938, the Philippine Congress passed Commonwealth Act 382, which made the anthem's English words and Felipe's music official.

A Tagalog (the Filipino language) version of the words started appearing in the 1940's. In 1948, the Department of Education approved "O Sintang Lupa" (O Beloved Land) as the national anthem's Filipino words. In 1954, Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., created a committee to revise the words. The new version, entitled "Lupang Hinirang," was adopted (a minor revision was made in 1962), and is still in use today. Since the passage of the 1998 law about the national symbols (RA 8491), the national anthem can only be sung in Tagalog (the national language) and using only the music composed by Felipe. However, that has not prevented other translations from being created, such as Ilonggo.

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Ref.: <http://www.nationalanthems.info/ph.htm>

Look much more here [www.music-songs-dances.aboutphilippines.ph](http://www.music-songs-dances.aboutphilippines.ph)

### The poem "Filipinas" :

Tierra adorada  
Hija del sol de Oriente,  
Su fuego ardiente  
En ti latiendo esta.

¡Patria de amores!  
Del heroísmo cuna,  
Los invasores  
No te hallarán jamás.

En tu azul cielo, en tus auras,  
En tus montes y en tu mar  
Esplende y late el poema  
De tu amada libertad.

Tu pabellón, que en las lides  
La victoria iluminó,  
No vera nunca apagados  
Sus estrellas y su sol.

Tierra de dichas, del sol y de amores,  
En tu regazo dulce es vivir.  
Es una gloria para tus hijos,  
Cuando te ofenden, por ti morir.

**The "Philippine Hymn":**

Land of the morning,  
Child of the sun returning,  
With fervor burning,  
Thee do our souls adore.

Land dear and holy,  
Cradle of noble heroes,  
Ne'er shall invaders,  
Trample thy sacred shore.

Even within thy skies and through thy clouds,  
And o'er thy hills and sea.  
Do we behold the radiance,  
Feel the throb of glorious liberty.

Thy banner, dear to all our hearts,  
Its sun and stars alight.  
O, never shall its shining field,  
Be dimmed by tyrant's might!

Beautiful land of love, O land of light,  
In thine embrace 'tis rapture to lie.  
But it is glory ever, when thou art wronged,  
For us, thy sons, to suffer and die.

**"O Sintang Lupa" :**

O sintang lupa,  
Perlas ng Silanganan;  
Diwang apoy kang  
Sa araw nagmula.

Lupang magiliw  
Pugad ng kagitingan,  
Sa manlulupig  
Di ka papaslang.

Sa iyong langit, simoy, parang  
Dagat at kabundukan,  
Laganap ang tibok ng puso  
Sa paglayang walang hanggang.

Sagisag ng watawat mong mahal.  
Ningning at tagumpay;  
Araw't bituin niyang maalab  
Ang s'yang lagi naming tanglaw.

Sa iyo Lupa ng ligaya't pagsinta,  
Tamis mabuhay na yakap mo,  
Datapwa't langit ding kung ikaw ay apihin  
Ay mamatay ng dahil sa iyo.

**"O Sintang Lupa" ENGLISH TRANSLATION**

O beloved land,  
Pearl of the Orient,  
A fiery spirit art thou  
Coming from the sun.

Land of our affection,  
Cradle of bravery,  
To the conquerors  
Thou shall never fall.

Through thy skies, air, meadows,  
Seas and mountains,  
Widespread is the heartbeat  
For eternal freedom.

Thy dear flag symbolizes  
Brilliance and victory;  
Its radiant sun and stars  
Will always be our guiding light.

In thee, land of joy and affection,  
Sweet life in thine embrace.  
Though heaven will it be too, if thou art oppressed  
To die because of thee.