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MANUEL D. BILLOSO "Last Trip"

Oil on canvas 55 in x 67 in (including frame) mbilloso@feu.edu.ph



Manny Billoso

"Last Trip"

One day, we will depart from this world with only the Almighty God who knows the exact time, day, month or year. But the flight is scheduled on time. And our deeds good or bad will be our baggages, not knowing which will be heavier. Some of us really focus in helping the poor without expecting any return, believing that the righteous God sees everything from heaven and is gracious enough to reward those who reach out to others in genuine care and love (Proverbs 11:24-25). We should also be watchful with our motives when we give or do good deeds as the Almighty God is more pleased when we give our best rather than what is merely expendable from us and when we help not for recognition (Mark 12:41-44; Matthew 6:1-4). What is more important prior to our last trip is to seek and live God's will which we can only do when we put Him first in our lives.

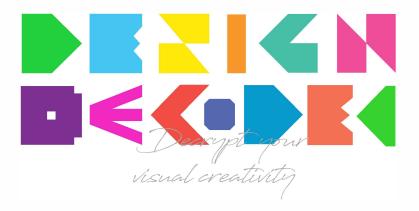
However, when we seek His Kingdom and righteousness first, He will take care of everything for us as promised in (Matthew 6:33). Henceforth, let us make sure to bring with us a heavier baggage of good deeds during our last trip, as it will bring us to His kingdom of eternal joy and happiness by His grace.

What I want to portray in my painting as an artist is what will be our life after death and as to what we will gain for all the struggles we face in our daily lives here on earth. We reflect in ourselves and ask: have we lived a clean life? Have we truly followed the commandments of God? Have we pleased the Almighty of the things we have done here on earth? Or have we spent our life doing shameful things in the eyes of God?

In one part of my painting is the angel holding the "Book of Life" This book contains all the records of what we have done in our entire life here on earth. This includes the good and the bad deeds. At the end of our life we will be accountable of all our deeds in the presence of the Almighty God. Under the good angels in my painting are the souls who struggle following the commandments of the Almighty God. And most of the time in their lives they do good deeds and please the Almighty God. These souls are praying that the newly departed ones will become one of them.

On the other side of my painting are the bad angels or the fallen angels. They are trying to reach out the feet or the soul of the newly departed one. And under them are the condemned souls who spend most of their life here on earth doing shameful things in the eyes of the Almighty God.

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