

Cover Letter

Editor
A Journal Of The Plague Year
Arizona State University SHPRS

First off, due to ongoing pandemic in global proportions, this author/fictionist is unable to convert this literary piece/fiction into Word and/or PDF format without a friend's assistance. Either way, even not writerly, please accept this as his gesture of gratitude for an opportunity of welcoming submissions even in these tough times. This literary piece/fiction originated from academic courses in poetry/fiction writing techniques/workshops as elegy-related experiences together with those in worst situations that are pandemic-related. Hence, in this genre, experiences that are personal in nature are inevitable—health risk/danger/anxiety, anger within, and/or unchaining oneself from captivity. It embraces the concept of escape from this contemporary pandemic captivity. We tend to escape in myriad ways, one of these is through literary.

This author/fictionist wishes for your wellbeing and good health, far from terminal illness especially during this global pandemic. Obvious that authors/fictionists are facing huge challenges. Perhaps, more than merely writing pieces short fiction, languages are insatiable in nature. However, if not mistaken, difficult times such as these are where phoenixes are arising from ashes. Times such as these are times of keen senses coming out of our self-creativity.

Hence, there is this imagination—imagination prospers in the literary community as the need arises. Now that everyone is undoubtedly seeking for entertainment and looking for interests, this may be the time of authors/fictionists, and for this author/fictionist—a time for the latter to experience this sadness—pandemic or if from others' versions in the same translations of those literary beings of Homer, Dante Alighieri, and William Shakespeare to name a few. Perhaps, that is the space we are looking for; looking to find—that emptiness as a space—huge or otherwise—that we are wanting to fill in.

This is a fee waiver request due to financial difficulty—my biological father passed away days ago. For the long life and success of this merit-considering body, warm greetings from this author/fictionist.

Again, this pleasure is his. This is in advance, a kudos for a job well done.

P.S.

Aside from no public display of his photo as part of his consistent literary artist's signature, please keep his pen name—Sebastian Delgado, *phi*. This is his only wish.

Sincerely yours,

Francis Gallano DELGADO
Metro Manila, Philippines

My gratitude, my fathers

Rogelio Galicia Mangahas+ (literature)

Robert Flanders+ (foster)

Franklin Cahapay Delgado+ (biological)

Five
Pandemic 2021 Edition

Egyptian Cat

A can-opener
Is the only stainless steel
In a room.
According to a house cat's meows,
We cats admire
Our own mythology
As we all are.
A cat owner's name printed on a book
Published by Harvard University Press.
Next to the book
Is a trophy
From a Noble Peace Prize for Literature.

27th of September, 2021
Manila, Philippines

Departing Than
a colleague's journey

This is a time for a countdown of blessings,
not the other way around.
Twilight is a light that shines down upon us,
never to put us down though.
Always that a soul tells us one thing,
never the unkindness for there is no such thing.

It is true though
That the purpose of a spirit, leaves
Traces of generosity towards others;
That halo that binds us into one unit
Is a union never beaten;
That last breathe
Is showing us a crimson legacy of faith
With one another, looking after each other.

Always that we end strong as one,
Never divided because of and/or for
Late is never better than
Reminding us to be humans.

3rd of February, 2021
Ortigas, Pasig City, Philippines

Graveyard Delta

Sky is gloomy when raindrops appear up in the air
Until miracle water touches the reddish soil,
Nothing is left other than zombies
begging for more
More airborne is all the global pandemic requires
From us, zombies.
We, are not alpha. Not even beta.
We are some of those Charlies'
Tusk for sale. Least must be slaves within us
Humans not beings; humans tend to forget
Unlike turtles, snakes, serpents, basilisks,
beyond if not paranormal.
Underneath earth is trembling,
shaking and at the same time, cracking;
that buried ashes—sandmen—for wishing
Before bedtime. Dreams,
Remember where it came from,
that graveyard ashes—fallen angels,

Pandemic 2021 Edition

A JOKE

I'm that

A joke
Is that agony
In darkness
That being alone is
A bullet
That just passed
Through a crisp heart
Just that
Only that

I'm a joke

20th of April, 2021
Metro Manila, Philippines

Untitled

That swallowing of a lonely moon
Is all it takes
For the coming darkness;
That never-ending howling of wolves
Is all it takes
To witness the wrath of the coming storm.

Fangs of terror
Is the cause of trembling
Skeleton-trees.

Prostitution is that sickness (of all sorts);
Of sickness can never be stopped
Until the torch
Is blowing right to the facing.

2nd of October, 2021
Manila, Philippines

CREATIVE AUTHOR on literature & medicine for children and young adults, Sebastian Delgado had his first formal education at San Sebastian College – Recoletos de Manila. It was in primary school when he was awarded for loyalty and a gold medal for championing a joint primary-secondary science quiz. In a secondary level when Delgado successfully hurdled an editorial board exam of *Junior Dawn*. Delgado's student journalism career included pathological essays such as SARS, and garbage crisis. During his stint in an official weekly circulated student newspaper *Dawn* (University of the East) as a research director, he covered SONA and featured essays locally, nationally and/or overseas. He joined the roster of workshops—*Creating A Memoir* with Robin Hemley, and *Timeless Verse* with Ravi Shankar—both during Asia Pacific Writers & Translators (APWT) held in the Philippines. At De La Salle University (DLSU), he completed *Writing The Classroom*, and the series of *Dialogue* with NA F. Sionil José. He was officially recognized as an honorary member, and was an officer-in-charge of *Dawn*, shortlisted in the selection of fellows of AILAP Writing Lab (Ateneo De Manila University), graduated as a fellow of *Palihang Linangan sa Imaben, Retorika, at Anyo* (LIRA), *Writing The Forest: Online Workshop On Creative Writing And Critical Reading* (DLSU), and registered as an author/writer of National Book Development Board (NBDB). His writings were published by *Dawn*, the latter's literary folio *Dimension*, *MaMag* malayang magasin, online platforms such as *Artikulo Ko To!*, and *Panitikan.Ph*, *Dawn Poets Society* literary journals, *Ovo | Zen*, *Philippines Graphic* and *Ani* of Cultural Center of the Philippines Intertextual Division. In the beginning of the global pandemic when Delgado's pieces of literature & pathology were chosen in a peer-reviewed volume of *The Reflective Practitioner* (University of the Philippines, Manila). The band played on when his recent pieces, of literary pathology as a new genre, were printed on the pages of *Mabaya: Mga Tula ng Galit at Pangamba*, an anthology about Covid-19 and people living with HIV and AIDS in the Philippines. December in the year 2020 when the approved vaccine was declared, and his pathology poetry was featured in NBDB's *Bookwatch*. His next pathology poem will be included in a new book entitled *Locked Down, Lit Up: An Anthology of Creative Work in a Time of Quarantine*. Just recently published, were his creative pieces, in *Kawing* journal, a quarterly online journal *Luntian*, and *The Maginhawa Street Journal*, when a United States-based first issue of *Beatific Magazine* included Delgado as the only Filipino Haikuist contributor. Apart from *A Thousand Cranes'* anthology collaborated by *Sing Lit Station* and *Asia Pacific Hospice Palliative Care Center* in Singapore, Delgado was likewise published in *A Journal Of The Plague Year* of Arizona State University SHPRS. Currently, he is working on myth with the use of fabulation technique, eco-humanities as a genre, and sub-genre forestry—plants & trees. Published over thirty books, he is one of the servants of Philippine literature—educator, editor, translator, historian, philosopher, theologian, critic, theorist, scholar, essayist, playwright, poet and fictionist. Other than these, he is also a photographer, illustrator, and reviewer. Due to his goal in mastering such craft in literature, he stepped up to the next level of creative writing course at De La Salle University. Later on, at University of Cambridge.