

## JHemLeT, PhRInZ op JHenMark!

### *Paolo Manalo*

Paolo Manalo's recent poems appeared in *The Red Wheelbarrow, An Anthology of English Writing in Southeast Asia, Contemporary Asian Poetry: Macau, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and India*, and *Querida: An Anthology*. He was awarded an artist's residency at The MacDowell Colony in Peterborough, NH.

SCENE: A private room of the Elsinore Royal Family  
Videoke Bar & Grill

[Enter JHEMLET, OHPELIA, and GHRTRUD]

OHPELIA: may bgo song sa Jhenmark. gus2 nyo  
mrinig?

GHRTRUD: How now, Ohpelias? Cge!

OHPELIA: "Nating tu loose  
Yor lab tu wiiin  
Hofing so bad dat you let me iin..."<sup>xxvi</sup>

JHEMLET: Oy, di kita lab!

GHRTRUD: Jhemlet, ba't b parang so nega u?

JHEMLET: Parang, Mama? D parang.  
So nega n nga!!!

Kung parang “parang”, eh d...  
parang gubat n mpanglaw!

GHERTRUD: Fhlorante ang peg ampfft!!!

OHPELIA: [To JHEMLET] K lang k0Ya. paasa u,  
feelingera me!

JHEMLET: Gorabels ka na nga sa khumbento!  
Where ba erpat mo????

[Enter PHOLONIO]

JHEMLET: Aha!!!! Echoserang rat!!!!  
[Stabs PHOLONIO] TSAK!!!!

PHOLONIO: SaKiT sa BaNgZZZ. Ded na me!!!!

OHPELIA: Itaaaay!!!

[Enter CHLAUDIO and LEARTES]

OHPELIA: “der z someting u shld knw,  
i cud nvr let u go  
bcoz i miss u soooo...”

PHOLONIO: “O mY iSLeePin’ cHiLd, d’WorLD’s so  
WiLd  
bt u bUiLT ur oWn paRaDiSE...”

[Ded na PHOLONIO]

OHPELIA: Itaaaay!!!

“sna’y mghinty ang wlang hnggan...”

GHERTRUD: Lola, bukas p, shron cneta nyt.

OHPELIA: ay, sori p0wh! hnp n lng p0wh  
swming pool tpos jmp n me.

GHERTRUD: k.

[Exit OHPELIA with PHOLONIO]

JHEMLET: 2b o nt 2b, yn ang d'Feels.  
o hai buhay, kain 2log n lng b?  
magevaporate n balat me s galit!!!!  
d me aswang pero gus2 me inom mainit  
n dugo.  
haragan at alipin me.

LAERTES: Ano raw?

GHERTRUD: Rogue and slave daw siya.

CHLAUDIO: Teh, nalurky na ata!

JHEMLET: shadap k nga. smylsmyl k p dyan.

CHLAUDIO: Whatevs!

JHEMLET: gus2 m send kta s lngit?

GHERTRUD: tka, anak. n wrong send ka ata.  
najijilo n me. nanghahina n me.

JHEMLET: Mama, "Nanghahina" b middle name  
mo?

LAERTES: Mehh, Jhemlet, wai u lyk dat!

JHEMLET:           Hu u? mcyado k mrami vowels,  
                          d kta ma-pronounce.

LAERTES:           me n nga nmtaYan, u pa arTeh!!  
                          Bumunot k nga!

JHEMLET:           “imma nt an actor m nt a star  
                          & i dnt evn own my own car.  
                          bt m hoping so mch u’ll say  
                          dat u wl lab me eniweiyz!”

[Late epal JHORATIO]

JHORATIO:           Gud PM, sWiT PhRINZ!!!!!!

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<sup>xxvi</sup> All songs by Michael Learns to Rock: “Nothing to Lose”,  
“Something You Should Know”, “Sleeping Child”, and “The Actor.”