

4742 Brooklyn Ave.
Seattle, WA
Feb. 14, 1919

Mrs. Juliana Ylagan Orosa
My beloved mother,

Wishing that all of you are at peace, well and happy as you receive this letter. As for me, through the mercy of God, I am well, having been sick but now recovered. I was sick with what is called INFLUENZA^a, which you call *trangkas*, requiring me to stay in bed for three weeks. Again, with God's mercy, I did not have any complications with my lungs or heart, which affect many here, made worse by the cold weather. I am very well now, having returned to work and writing this letter from the office^b. My illness did not cause me to lose too much weight nor cause much weakness, unlike others here, taking a month before they lost the tremor in their knees. I was well taken care of by a doctor as well as the university nurse who visited me often, staying most of the day, every other day. I did not have to pay for the nurse, the care is provided by the university for women students who become ill.

Mother, accept the enclosed money order for \$850^c, which is from the sale of the embroidery you sent. I wrote you previously that of the 500 gowns that you sent, 70 had stains, probably from getting wet on the ship. Mother, if you are absolutely sure that the material was undamaged before shipment, like the previous one, send the policy so I can file a claim with the insurance company. It is important that you write me with the utmost haste, since I can still sell after first showing to the insurance company.

With the \$850 that I'm sending, you made a net profit of \$100. But that is not all since I still have lots of merchandise left, plus you had insurance for \$750. You will make another profit of \$250 even if we have to sell at a lower price. I have not been able to sell at a higher price since the stores tell me they can buy cheaper, and I believe them.

Mother, in my previous letter, I asked that you order 100 or 150 baby yokes, like the ones you had shipped. They have beautiful embroidery and well made. These will generate very good profits for you, with 100 yokes bringing in \$25 net, since I already have a contract. Procure them quickly and ship, otherwise I will be embarrassed, having already made a promise. The small handkerchiefs will also bring in good profits. For your cost of \$0.125, we can sell for at least \$0.25.

How are you all? How is the store? How are the children? Is Ate Tia still sick? How about Nanang? Please do not work too hard, don't wait too long between meals. Get enough sleep. Otherwise you might become ill, and recuperation becomes difficult. Remember that you have a lot of children who are in need of your love, and it's imperative you stay healthy.

Mother, of the \$900 sale I made from the embroidery, I took out \$50 because I had to make payments to the doctor. The charge is \$2.50 per visit and he visited every other day during my three-week illness. When his visits occur in the evening, the charge is doubled.

How is Feling? I have written her many letters, but I haven't received anything back from her at all. Did she receive the shoes I sent for the dance? Is she studying dentistry? Is cholera going around^d? Please be careful and take care that you don't catch any illness.

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Mother, the sombreros are not selling. However, someone wanted a dozen of the very fine weave. If you could obtain a dozen of the finest weave, send right away in time for summer. The season for summer is from June to September.

Don't ever worry about me, I'm doing very well here. I have gained weight, weighing more than before (my illness).

Write me promptly regarding the insurance for the last shipment of embroideries so I can pursue the claim with the company. There is no event that would give me greater happiness than receiving a letter from you and our extended family.

I received a letter from Ate Angueng Marino, wife of Mr. Inte Lontoc, relating that you saw each other in Manila, telling her that you and your household were well, that no one had gotten sick.

Before I write again, Happy Memories to you and everyone there.

Your loving and affectionate daughter who is waiting for your blessings at all hours,

Maria Y. Orosa

Footnotes:

a – this was the infamous influenza pandemic of 1918, which affected one out of every four Americans. More than half a million died.

b – this is the first letter from Maria that is written on a typewriter.

c – wow! Although this figure is their gross, that is still more than six months pay for the average worker in 1919.

d - There was a large cholera outbreak earlier in the 20th century, with small outbreaks still occurring from time to time, even to this day.