

Questions:

1. What is the summary of this literary piece?
2. What lesson does the author want to convey?
3. What is the relationship of this story to the current time?

Answers:

1. Summary

“The Cardinal’s Sins, the General’s Cross, the Martyr’s Testimony, and Other Affirmations” is a collection of short stories by Gregorio C. Brillantes. The stories depict different aspects of Filipino life and culture, and highlight the struggles and challenges faced by individuals in the Philippines.

The first story, “The Cardinal’s Sins,” portrays the story of a young priest who is assigned to assist a cardinal in Rome. The priest soon discovers that the cardinal is leading a life of sin, and is torn between his loyalty to the church and his duty to expose the cardinal’s wrongdoings.

In “The General’s Cross,” a general faces the consequences of his decision to carry out orders to kill rebels during the Philippine-American War. The story highlights the complex moral choices and ethical dilemmas faced by individuals in wartime.

“The Martyr’s Testimony” is a story about a group of activists fighting against the Marcos regime, and their struggles for justice and freedom. The story portrays the courage and sacrifices of those who stood up against the dictatorship.

Overall, the collection of stories in “The Cardinal’s Sins, the General’s Cross, the Martyr’s Testimony, and Other Affirmations” explores themes of morality, justice, and the complexities of the human experience.

2. Lesson

“The Cardinal’s Sins, the General’s Cross, the Martyr’s Testimony, and Other Affirmations” by Gregorio C. Brillantes is a collection of short stories that explore the various facets of human nature, such as love, greed, ambition, and morality.

One of the lessons that can be drawn from this collection is the complexity of human behavior and the unpredictable consequences of our actions. In the story “The Cardinal’s Sins,” the main character finds himself caught in a web of political intrigue and corruption that leads to his downfall. In “The General’s Cross,” a soldier struggles with his conscience as he carries out his duty to his country. In “The Martyr’s Testimony,” a woman faces a difficult choice between loyalty to her husband and her principles.

Another lesson that can be drawn from these stories is the importance of standing up for what is right, even in the face of adversity. The characters in these stories often find themselves in situations where they must make difficult choices, and their decisions have far-reaching consequences. In “The Martyr’s Testimony,” the protagonist must choose between betraying her husband or remaining loyal to her principles, while in “The Conspirators,” a group of rebels risk their lives to fight for their beliefs.

Overall, the collection highlights the complexity of the human experience and the importance of making ethical decisions, even when the outcome may be uncertain. It encourages readers to reflect on their own values and to consider the consequences of their actions, both for themselves and for others.

3. Relationship of this story to the current time

“The Cardinal’s Sins, the General’s Cross, the Martyr’s Testimony, and Other Affirmations” by Gregorio C. Brillantes is a collection of short stories that were published in 1984. While some of the stories deal with historical events and themes that are specific to the Philippines, many of the stories explore universal themes such as love, loss, and human nature. The stories may still resonate with readers today as they address issues that are still relevant, such as corruption, oppression, and social injustice. Additionally, the stories provide insight into the Filipino culture and history, making them valuable for those interested in understanding and appreciating the country's literature and heritage.