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PREVIEW

Humanitarianism in the works
of Raul Botelho Gosalvez /
by
Jacqueline M. O'Sullivan.

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HUMANITARIANISM IN THE WORKS OF
RAÚL BOTELHO GOSÁLVEZ

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PREVIEW

HUMANITARIANISM IN THE WORKS OF
RAÚL BOTELHO GOSÁLVEZ

A THESIS
PRESENTED TO
THE FACULTY OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF
TEXAS WESTERN COLLEGE
OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT
OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE
MASTER OF ARTS

by

Jacqueline M. LO'Sullivan

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PREFACE

It is the purpose of this thesis to identify the humanitarian ideals which are an integral part of the philosophy of Raúl Botelho Gosálvez, a contemporary Bolivian writer and diplomat. Such attempt is based upon an examination of Botelho's writings.

Used as primary source reference are the books: Altiplano, Borrachera Verde, Coca, Cuentos Bolivianos, and Vale Un Potosí; the articles: "Kosmos," "Historia Gris De Tata Limachi," and "<Cronos> por Antonio Avila;" and, the booklets: Temple Y Abolengo De La Ciudad De La Paz, and Reflexiones Sobre El Cincuentenario Del "Ariel" De José Enrique Rodó.

Also used as a primary source is a letter from Señor Botelho to the present writer. It is reproduced as a supplement to the thesis.

Used as secondary source material is a comprehensive literary history of Bolivia, Who's Who In Latin America, a political encyclopedia and almanacs, magazine criticisms, reviews, and international reports.

The only literary work of Botelho's which was completely inaccessible to the present writer is the pamphlet, Potosí Colonial: Historia Y Fantasía (1948). However, Temple Y Abolengo De La Ciudad De La Paz, which was published in the same year, was available for examination.

The introductory material contains a history of the national background of Bolivia and a discussion of the position of Raúl Botelho Gosálvez in the political life and literature of Bolivia. As a part of this preliminary material Botelho's works are given in précis form in order to facilitate the full comprehension of the thesis chapter and to acquaint the reader with Botelho's writings which are difficult to obtain.

The thesis proper is developed from the standpoint of the evidences of humanitarianism found in the works under consideration.

The writer wishes to thank Señor Raúl Botelho Gosálvez for his kindness, interest, and cooperation in sending her three of his latest works, which would have been otherwise unobtainable.

She also wishes to sincerely express her gratitude for the generous assistance of Doctor Edgar T. Ruff, whose able guidance, suggestion, and direction were invaluable to the writing of this thesis.

PREVIEW

INTRODUCTION

National Background of Bolivia

Bolivia is a South American country of 507,000 square miles and has a population of 3,600,000. The nominal capital of Bolivia is Sucre, but the seat of major governmental activities is located at La Paz.¹ Approximately 52^o/o of the population of Bolivia is Indian, 28^o/o is Mestizo, 13^o/o is White, 2^o/o is Negro, and 6.8 ^o/o is unspecified.

By the constitution of 1938, those who are over 21, and who can read and write are allowed to vote. However, it is estimated that adult illiteracy exceeds 80^o/o. In the 1947 presidential elections less than 3^o/o of the population voted, as the Indian majority is practically disfranchised.²

Bolivia is extremely important from the standpoint of its natural resources. More than 15^o/o of the world's tin is produced in Bolivia, and an American corporation, the Patiño Mine and Enterprises Consolidated, is in control. Mining is the principal industry of Bolivia, and the country is rather undeveloped along other lines.³

¹Walter Theimer, An Encyclopedia of Modern World Politics, Rinehart & Company, Inc., New York, 1950 p. 86.

²Information Please Almanac, 1950, p. 446.

³Walter Theimer, op. cit., p. 86.

There is compulsory military service in Bolivia, with a two-year training period beginning at nineteen and service on reserve until fifty. "Pre-military" instruction is given for boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 18.

The political picture has always been a stormy one in Bolivia, as since 1825 Bolivia has had more than sixty revolutions, seventy presidents, and eleven constitutions.⁴ In 1937, Colonel David Toro, Chief of Staff of the Army was made President of Bolivia. He endeavored to set up a socialistic state, and confiscated the large holdings of the Standard Oil Company and voided its forty-year concession. Such socialistic endeavors failed, as Toro was overthrown, and German Busch, the next president, promised to abandon experiments in socialism. He abolished constitutional guarantees, dismissed Congress, and set up a dictatorship. On August 23, 1939, he died of a pistol shot, presumably self-inflicted. In 1940, General Enrique Peñaranda was elected president, and he promised to restore the constitutional government. He was succeeded in 1944 by Gualberto Villarroel, who was elected constitutional president that year.⁵

⁴Information Please Almanac, op. cit., p. 446.

⁵Walter Theimer, op. cit., p. 87.

During the first year of his term, Villarroel showed pro-Axis sympathies, and on July 21, 1946 was hanged by a mob. Such event was apparently the result of the populace's antagonism toward the Axis powers, as Bolivia had ended relations with Germany, Italy, and Japan on January 26, 1942. The Bolivian cabinet formally declared war against the Axis powers on December 4, 1943, and signed the United Nations Declaration in 1943.⁶

It was in 1944 that Bolivia appealed for aid to the Commissions of Inter-American Development in a conference held in New York from May 9-18. The purpose of this conference was to further the complete utilization of the natural resources of Bolivia and the greater development of the raw materials which had met with favorable exchange in foreign markets. The program was a departure from the traditional approach of governmental action only. Private enterprise, through the National Commissions, aided by the national governments, was brought directly into the area of international collaboration.

⁶The World Almanac And Book Of Facts For 1949, New York World-Telegram, New York, p. 322.

Bolivia's representatives were desirous of industrializing Bolivia as far as possible because Bolivia had been compelled to import articles which she could have produced herself, if her raw materials were sufficiently developed. Upon the collapse of the mining industry in Bolivia, no other industry would be adequately developed to compensate for the loss. Bolivia asked for the InterAmerican Commissions to appoint a committee to study her finances thoroughly. The Bolivian representatives pointed out that at present the economy of Bolivia depended upon her mineral resources, which had aided tremendously in the defense of the United Nations Organization. The Bolivian statesmen further established that because of World War II all European ports, with the exception of those in England, were closed. Therefore, there had been a concentration of trade between the countries of the western hemisphere. The United States of America occupies first place in both exports and imports. England is second, and Argentina third.⁷

The Communist Party has been outlawed in Bolivia, and the United States is responding to requests for assistance in many of the phases of Bolivian economy,

⁷"Report Presented to the Conference of Commissions of InterAmerican Development By The Bolivian Commission of InterAmerican Development," published by InterAmerican Development Commission, Washington, D. C., 1944.

previously not considered.⁸ This aid comes under the program of bilateral technical cooperation offered Bolivia by the United States.⁹

The success of the Bolivian nation is very important to the United States, not only because of its commercial negotiations with our country, but also because the ideologies of its renowned statesmen are parallel to those revered in the United States. Raúl Botelho Gosálvez is one such worthy political leader in contemporary Bolivia, and his teachings are consonant with the ideals of democracy esteemed in the United States.

⁸Walter Theimer, op. cit., p. 88.

⁹"Point IV Program," Foreign Commerce Weekly, Vol. XLII, No. 4, Jan. 22, 1951, p. 11.

RAÚL BOTELHO GOSÁLVEZ, BOLIVIAN
LITERARY AND POLITICAL FIGURE

Biography ¹⁰

Raúl Botelho Gosálvez, writer and diplomat, was born in La Paz, Bolivia on April 11, 1917. He is the son of Armando Botelho Núñez del Prado and Carmela Gosálvez, and received his formal education at Colegio San Calixto, and Colegio Nacional Ayacucho. He married Maruja Mauri. The couple have two children, María Cristina and Jaime.

Botelho has been prominent in the political life of Bolivia, and has held various important positions in the government. He started his career in the teaching profession at the age of nineteen. He was a teacher and secretary at the Escuela Indígenal de Warisata. Two years later, in 1938, Botelho was appointed secretary to the supreme command in the Legión Nacional de Ex-Combatientes. In 1939 he acted as secretary to the senior official in the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum. Also, in 1939, he was assistant director of national propaganda in Bolivia.

In 1940 Botelho was director of the propaganda

¹⁰ Who's Who in Latin America, 3rd ed., Part IV: Bolivia, Chile, and Peru, edited by Ronald Hilton, Stanford University, California, Stanford University Press, 1947, pp. 8-9.

department, worked in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and was Bolivia's consul to Yunguyo, Peru. Then, in the years 1941 to 1943, Botelho occupied the position of director of the library and department of intellectual cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was appointed first secretary and charge d'affaires in the Bolivian embassy in Paraguay in 1944.

Botelho holds membership in many outstanding clubs in his country and elsewhere. He is a member of the Club de La Paz, the Ateneo de Bolivia, the Rotary, the Academia de Artes y Letras (Lisbon), the Union Club (Asunción), and the Club Centenario (Asunción).

In 1937, Botelho received the first prize for national literature in Bolivia for the excellence of his first novel, Borrachera Verde. He also was the recipient of the first prize awarded for stories by the Ateneo Feminino in 1943.

Today, Botelho is still working in the political field, and is affiliated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bolivia. He is a representative of UNESCO,¹¹ and is at present striving to promote the success of the United Nations Organization, in its efforts to

¹¹ Raúl Botelho Gosálvez, Letter To Present Writer, dated Dec. 28, 1950.

guarantee liberty for individuals everywhere.

PRE-WAR WORKS

Borrachera Verde (1938), the first novel of Raúl Botelho Gosálvez, was awarded first prize in the national literature of Bolivia by the assembly of the "Amigos de la Ciudad" in 1937. The book is dedicated to Lieutenant Colonel German Busch, who was president of Bolivia from 1937 to 1939, and, the author affirms that it receives its inspiration from "La Vorágine" (1924), written by José Eustasio Ribera.

The plot centers around the adventures of a young man of Trinidad, Teófilo Cuéllar, who encounters nothing but disaster in his struggle for existence. Because of an unfortunate love affair with an eighteen-year-old school girl, Cuéllar is forced to marry her and to move with his new wife to one of the various farms owned by his father-in-law in Moxos, a tropical region three days distant from the river Mamoré.

The farmhouse to which Cuéllar moves is constructed of bamboo and straw. A corral and a luxuriant garden are located behind the small house. Swarms of mos-

quitoes present a constant threat. The heavy netting which must be used adds inexorably to the suffocating tropical heat. Another annoyance to the residents of the area is the great number of bats.

Teófano Cuéllar endeavors to make the best of the situation by becoming accustomed to the life of the jungle. He finds, however, that the jungle has a tremendous debilitating effect, and he is subject to periods of deep melancholy. Most of all he laments the fact that he is unable to pursue his life as originally planned. He finds nothing in his surroundings to give him the peace of mind that he so desires.

In order to divert himself, Cuellar reads the works of numerous Hispanic authors: Gallegos, Alegría, Augusto Gúzmán, Augusto Céspedes, Azuela, Alcides Arguedas, José de la Cuadra, Aguilera Malta, Humberto Salvador, José Eustasio Rivera, Pareja y Díez-Canseco, and Gúiraldes. He also examines the works of the European writers: Nietzsche, Schopenhauer, Leopardi, Freud, Binet-Sanglé, Le Bon, and Marx.

Cuéllar's youthful wife, Débora, is by nature incapable of understanding the deep anxieties of her husband, and his every effort to interest her in

philosophical contemplations fails utterly. He finally rejects the idea of educating his wife, and when the day's work is completed, he reads voraciously in solitude.

After three months of brooding over his lost ambitions and the life of refinement that he enjoyed in the city, Cuéllar starts drinking heavily. He loses all sense of decency, and one day in a fit of jealous rage imagines that his wife has been unfaithful to him. He orders her to leave the house in the company of a man servant, Pedro, his supposed rival. Débora is heartbroken and, proclaiming her innocence and professing her undying love for her husband, dies within two weeks. Cuéllar is thunderstruck with the news of his wife's death. He is filled with deep remorse, and drinks more than ever.

Finally, he tries to flee and runs far into the vast expanses of the jungle. Here some Indians discover him in a state of semi-stupor, and bring him to their camp. Cuéllar, then, orders three of them at gun-point to take him away from the jungle, and back to civilization. The Indians manage to escape,

however, and abandon Cuéllar. To Cuéllar, the jungle is mysterious and boundless. He looks at the different forces of nature in this tropical region, and all seem to be part of an evil process of destruction.

After roaming about for three days Cuéllar finds indication of people living in the jungle. He makes the acquaintance of two outcasts who have been forced to take refuge there. One of these men, Arturo Méndiz, tells Teófano of the many injustices that he had had to endure while working on the rubber plantation of "La Casa Juárez Hermanos." He complains that the owners are despots who stop at nothing in their ruthless efforts to amass greater wealth. He also tells of his discovery of the murder of one of the workers by the foreman of the plantation because of the laborer's refusal to deliver his daughter into the hands of the cruel oppressor. Subsequently, Arturo had been forced to work as a peon for three years at the rubber barraca because of his threat to disclose his knowledge of the incident. He has finally escaped after killing the foreman with a sword.

The other outcast, Jorge Caffit, had fled from

his surroundings because of his disgust with the unfairness shown workers by a foreman. On one occasion he witnessed the punishment of some gomeros (rubber gatherers), who had rebelled against the cruelty shown them. They were forced to dig their own graves, and were then buried alive.

All lament the fact that any effort to improve social conditions among workers and to dignify labor ends in failure. Cuéllar is deeply saddened by the misfortunes of his companions and spends much time with them discussing the state of affairs in Bolivia. He speaks of his country as being the victim of aggression and as being unsettled politically for so many years:

¡Ah! Hablábamos de Bolivia, de nuestra pobre patria, trastajo de las conquistas del imperialismo intelectual y económico; hablábamos del absorcionismo colla, de esa imprevisión que caracteriza sus gobiernos de terratenientes y militares; de la Historia de Bolivia, que es la historia ridícula de unos desorientados, con su tatuaje de revoluciones y cuartelazos sin cabeza; de los Presidentes, logreros y vulgares demagogos, que soliviantan las canallas con su verba manida, para conducirlos a la desgracia de una guerra o la imbecilidad de una revolución, o al golpe de Estado que cambia las mismas tristes figuras en el proscenio lamentable.¹²

¹²Raúl Botelho Gosálvez, Borrachera Verde, Empresa Editora Zig-Zag, Santiago de Chile, 1939, p. 59.