

Manny Pacquiao Should Grow Up - MabuhayRadio

Written by Joseph G. Lariosa

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The Jesuit has a maxim: "Give me the child until he is seven and I will give you the man."

It appears that this maxim has escaped our Filipino boxing champion Manny Pacquiao when he blamed the ABS-CBN for luring him into breaking his contract with rival GMATV/Solar Sports.

He said that the Lopez-owned network giant "sweet-talked him into signing a deal with the TV station even in the absence of his counsel."□

If we go by the Jesuit maxim, it is very clear that when we went past the seventh year of age, we are already considered man enough to know between right and wrong. We don't need a counsel from our parents or teachers, much less a lawyer, anymore.

Besides, we only need lawyers when we are in trouble with the law, as in Miranda warning. But if we are conducting our private business pursuits, there is not much a lawyer can help us, because whether we like to take certain steps or not, a lawyer will be of no help, if we already have our own mindset.

MANNY NEVER LEARNS FROM HIS OWN MISTAKES

What happened to Manny with ABS-CBN was expected because he did not learn a lesson from his past mistake. If it is true that he was hurt by the turn of events, it was all his fault from the very beginning.

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was merely giving Manny a dose of his own medicine.

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Perhaps, Manny already forgot it that he tore up his contract with Oscar De La Hoya's Golden Boy Promotions a day after he signed the contract.

Because Manny was not penalized for breaking his contract with Golden Boy, Manny thought that breaking his word of honor is no big deal.

He has not realized that there is such so-called law of karma – you reap what you sow.

Instead of crying, “foul” towards ABS-CBN, Manny should whisper, “We are now Even Steven.”

Even if Pacquiao's lawyer, Franklin Gacal, said in a hastily-called press conference that Pacquiao “was not the one who approached ABS-CBN for

the purpose of transferring the TV rights from GMATV/Solar Sports and that it was

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sports reporter Dyan Castillejo who approached him with the idea to air the fight with Ricky Hatton on their station,” it was still Manny’s fault.

MORE THAN 7 YEARS OLD

Because Manny is more than seven years of age, all Manny has to do was to politely say no to Ms. Castillejo’s entreaties. Nothing more. He did not need to say something on tape that could be used against him. He should have just kept his mouth shut.

As the saying goes, you can lead a horse to the river. But you cannot force a horse to drink. ABS-CBN can promise Manny the moon, the stars, the works. But if the network giant is telling him to do something bad by all means, he can always decline the offer.

I remember, in his prime, Michael Jordan was being lured by other teams to sign with them because the Chicago Bulls team was not generous in paying him. Jordan swept aside all the offers and waited first to finish the terms of his contract with the Bulls before entertaining other bidders.

In American sports, what ABS-CBN did to Manny is called “tampering,” an attempt to persuade a player contracted to one team to transfer to another team. Teams found guilty of tampering are usually subject to penalties that include loss of draft picks and/or fines.

In this case, who could fine ABS-CBN? The fans, of course, who can always tune out the network’s stations.

In England, this is called “tapping up.” It involves manager, hinting interest on another team’s player, by lavishing praise when their teams meet.

SULOTAN

In the Philippines, this is called “sulotan” (meddling). There is not much phenomenon of this sort in Philippine sports. But I think it is prevalent among lovers, as in love triangle. It is like a violation of one of the Ten Commandments’ “You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife.”

Another way to explain what ABS-CBN has done to Manny is when a suitor tries to court a married woman, and become a “home-wrecker.”

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could not wait for Manny’s contract with GMATV/Sports Solar to expire before making a move.

I believe this will not be last time that Manny will be embroiled in this kind of controversy. That is, if he will not accept his fault in his previous missteps. I remember when Manny was promoting his fight with Oscar De La Hoya last year, a concert promoter has made a side deal with Manny to set up concerts in places, where Manny was promoting his fight.

Problem is, the concert promoter did not insist that Manny should clear their deal with Manny's promoter, Bob Arum.

If Manny had good faith in his agreement, he should have cleared his concert schedule with Mr. Arum because his non-appearance in Chicago concert, as it did, had upset his fans, which could have sued the concert promoter with "false advertising."

For as long as Manny does not admit this indiscretion, he is bound to make the same mistake in the future.

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And Manny will have nothing to blame but himself for not learning his lesson.
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