

# UC Davis

## Alon: Journal for Filipinx American and Diasporic Studies

### Title

Apology to Our Fathers

### Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/6dw1k3k7>

### Journal

Alon: Journal for Filipinx American and Diasporic Studies, 2(1)

### Author

Crayne, Adam

### Publication Date

2022

### DOI

10.5070/LN42156389

### Copyright Information

Copyright 2022 by the author(s). This work is made available under the terms of a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial License, available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

# APOLOGY TO OUR FATHERS



*Adam Crayne*

**ABSTRACT.** This poem validates the expectations set forth by conventional and conservative Filipino cultures, and honors the queer men who rejected these expectations in favor of living a radical and beautiful truth.

Good boys smile and mano  
Stand up neatly, stiff as a board  
And respond clearly when spoken to  
Good boys are every class officer at once  
They laugh during the homily, cry at Easter  
And grow into soldiers of Christ  
Good boys excel in all subjects  
Get sent off to top-tier colleges  
Eagerly learn the laws of the land  
And graduate into magnetic young bachelors  
Ever so handsome, clean, and most importantly - virile  
Good boys grow and give back constantly  
To the family, to the community, to the country  
Pouring the tears they can't cry back into the soil  
And before the generosity expires  
Good boys choose love and give birth to good boys  
Good boys who limp-wrist and bend their knees  
Good boys who dabble in lipstick and Regine imitations  
Who learn to use concealer to hide the bruises from  
Teachers who wish they could just be good boys  
Good boys who fail calculus tests  
And would rather suck dick than sleep through church  
Good boys who give up on med school dreams  
After one week of physics and one month of literary theory  
Good boys who sneak out on Saturdays to meet good boys  
Who sit in circles to discuss Foucault and trade saliva  
Paint rainbows on their cheeks and march  
For liberty for freedom for sex and justice  
For the good boys lost along the way  
Good boys who graduate cum laude with degrees in communism

And enter jobs they hate to fund their whims  
Blow their sweldo on paintbrushes, whiskey, and therapy  
Growing and giving into their demons  
Good boys who hook up with good boys in alleys  
Leaving traces from nightclub to parlor to condo  
And grow into unapologetic sex warriors, bathroom stall legends  
Living for the moment before tomorrow's stolen away  
Good boys who, before the chaos completely subsides  
And everyone washes away their last regrets  
Ask quietly with what breath remains,  
"Wasn't I good?"  
Good boys who grow and give in constantly  
To demons, to awful lovers, to broken systems  
Pouring all their tears into the world  
And because their bravery endures  
In times of stormy death and rebirth  
Good boys choose love  
Now, tomorrow, always.