

# ABSTRACT

This study, *Pag Napako ang Pangako (Crucified Convictions)*, will tackle how poetry explores failed promises (“napakong pangako”). Castillo suggests that there is a parallelism between Christ as a “promise” granted and the violence His person endured at the Crucifixion as the Redeemer, vis-a-vis the experience of language in poetry resulting in the reversal of assurances/guarantees in its meanings.

There are three forms of promises identified in poems that demonstrate the “napakong pangako”: 1) Deviation (“pagkaligaw”)—a form of delivery that results in the wrong direction of the work; 2) Deceit (“kasinun-galingan”)—when poetry goes against truth; 3) Darkness (“karimlan”)—the total loss of light and the death of meaning.

In a way, this is a reversal of Christ’s own promise being the Way, the Truth, and the Light. The three forms of promises tackled in the first part will be elucidated in the discussion of the author’s own poems, published in the collection “Walang Iisang Salita” (Manila: UST Publishing House, 2018): losing the way while searching for the right path towards clarity in the subject of Straying, the acceptance that supposed truths are tackled in Deceit, and being subjugated by different threats and loss of life is discussed in the subject of Darkness.

A play on the idiom of failed promises (“napakong pangako”) is the title of the study in order to reveal that promises are failed (“nailed”) in poetry but they do not remain in that form, because the salvation through Christ’s Crucifixion is the same manner in which freedom is attained in poetry.



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