

For **Matthew Vincent Tabilog**, Manila Bay is his protector and provider, a source of beauty that blazes the western horizon when he goes weary and nourishes when his body is famished.

Dear Manila Bay,

You are full of wonders. Everything that I ask for is already within you. You are our protector against the impacts of warming waters and typhoons. If I go out to the sea, you provide us the fishes that go directly to our tables. You are the light and hope of our fisherfolk groups and coastal communities. They depend on you as their source of life. A true beauty that you are – if I want to see the sunset, I just go out to see you as I face the blazing coastal western horizon. Many have seen your beauty and everybody loves it. However, I am scared of what is going to happen next.

You have already experienced so much pain and grief from all of us. Don't worry for I will serve as your protector, as you have protected us for centuries and millennia. A warrior and guarding I must be to defend you from all the cruelties that want to destroy you. I may not live for centuries like you but I will create a change to forever protect you from generation to generation. Note that I will do whatever it takes just to do those things to you because you are as precious as the pearls you produce.

These personal feelings of light and warm emotions for you will never fade. I live to protect you and it hurts my heart and soul to see you in pain. People say you are dead, but you are not. They only see a smaller part of you and that is the Roxas Boulevard. You are way beyond that because they don't know your warmth extends from the teeming coastal waters of Cavite to the warm and crystal-clear coasts of Bataan. People should realize more about this, so it is easier for them to understand how big and important you are.

Thank you for providing us the love from the very start. We will never allow industrialization to replace you. The money they produce cannot be eaten and artificial land they dump on you will never be habitats for all of us. Do not worry for I am here. I am a guardian's guardian.

"Tabby" / Matthew Vincent Tabilog

