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The Sacredness of Libingan ng mga Bayani in the Pictorial Representations of Filipino “Youth in Revolt”

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Abstract: In the canon of sociology of religion, the sacred is taken as the assumed moral architecture that is made visible or comes to the fore only when threatened by the profane, which threatens to destabilize it (Durkheim, Freud, and Weber). However, this pertains mainly to its (seemingly) necessary association with religion. In the controversy surrounding the clandestine burial of the remains of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in the Libingan ng mga Bayani, the sacredness of the place, and what it symbolizes for Filipinos' sense of heroism, is pushed at the forefront of national consciousness. The paper claims that the analysis of Filipino youth protest against the burial through their slogans, posters and memes, manifests the changed contours in the meaning of the sacred, which are culled from Filipino youth's experiences of banal (holy), maganda (beautiful) and ritwal (ritual). Thus, what is the sacred is that which is relational, or it may be a content of experience, and/or engagement in "fleeting moments" that can be encountered in spaces and places where young people find themselves in the here and now.