

As You 'SoliLike' It

A Report by Anirudh Krishnan
X-A1

'Soliloquy': From Latin 'solus' - 'alone' + 'loqui' - 'speak'.

Amidst the lockdown, most of us have indeed been alone, and have had to reflect, contemplate, and speak to ourselves, for the most part. Life has slowed down, and the regular, in-person events that we organize and attend have disappeared. However, some of these events have moved online. Most recently, the General Assembly that we all know and love, has migrated to a virtual stage.

For the first online General Assembly, the event organized was called 'Solispeare', and had the participants perform soliloquies from famous plays written by William Shakespeare. It was conducted on the third of July, 2020 on Zoom and had in attendance the heads of the different branches of PSBB, teachers, and other students.

Devaki of X B1 compèred the event, and it started with a rendition to the Lord, "Sharanu Siddhi", by Janani of X B1. The participants included Anuraag, Alamelu, Selva Akash, Shriram, and Swetha from the 10th Grade, and Gayatri, Jyothika, Mahija, Pooja, Sri Nidhi, and Sritha from the 9th Grade. Delivering various soliloquies from Shakespeare's plays, including

‘Othello’, ‘Hamlet’, ‘Julius Caesar’, ‘Macbeth’, ‘King Lear’, ‘Romeo & Juliet’ and ‘Henry IV’, the participants made brilliant and innovative use of the platform, using virtual backgrounds and extra props in a superb display of showmanship. Whether they had to act angry, depressed, mesmerized, conniving, or vindictive, every one of them delivered their respective soliloquies with intense vigour and eloquence.

After the performances, the gathering was addressed by the Dean Mrs. Sheela Rajendra and the Executive Trustee Mr. Y.G Rajendra, who remarked, “I felt like I was at the Globe Theater!”. He praised the participants, and said he was impressed by their voice modulation, enunciation, and emoting.

The event was concluded with the Vote of Thanks, bringing the curtains down on the first Virtual General Assembly.

“If speaking be the food of knowledge, speak on.”