LITLUMINOUS'25

Epistle, The English Literary Society, Kamala Nehru College
University of Delhi

MONSTROLOGUE: THE MONSTER AS THE HERO

"Every monster has a voice—if only someone dares to listen."

Heroes wield swords, deliver justice, and write history. But what of those left in the margins, their stories twisted, their voices silenced? Monstrologue, the monologue competition under LitLuminous'25, dares participants to step into the skin of the monstrous—not as villains, but as protagonists in their own right.

The theme, "Monster as the Hero," asks: What if the monster was never the villain? Literature brims with figures cast into darkness, not for their deeds but for their existence. *Frankenstein's creature*, abandoned and reviled, seeks only belonging. *Grendel*, the cursed descendant, lashes out in loneliness. *Caliban*, deformed and displaced, claims the island that was once his home. Even Milton's *Satan* walks the fine line between rebel and tragic hero, daring to defy the heavens.

This competition challenges performers to unearth these buried voices. Craft monologues that reclaim, reimagine, and resurrect the monsters who have long been demonized. Speak as Medusa, not as a gorgon to be slain, but as a woman punished for her own violation. Give voice to Dracula, whose thirst is not only for blood but for survival in a world that fears the unknown. Let the Phantom of the Opera sing his lament, not as a shadow in the catacombs, but as an artist robbed of light.

In rethinking the monstrous, Monstrologue becomes more than a performance—it becomes a reckoning. What happens when the hero's story is rewritten? What truths emerge when we listen to the voices we were told to fear?

The monsters are waiting. Will you tell their story?