

like flares that sent out their shimmering and radiant light in the darkness, like ferries guiding us across turbulent seas to some other side we've yet to see but hope, beyond all certainty, is there.

The currency, the common denomination, across all SOSE courses is certainty. We concern ourselves with disciplines that revolve around such certainties, axioms, laws, and theories. SOSE develops in us the capacity to accept these as they come, to recall them when they are asked for, and to apply them in unique and realistic ways. Our studying amounts to as much – memorizing the next math theorem, the chemical diagram, the physics formula. But how does a scientist-in-the-making fare against the real world, amorphous, ambiguous, and incessantly resistant to all-encompassing certainties? In other words, how well did we fare during our philosophy and theology orals?

Here I would like to resist such dichotomizations – what we can be certain about and what remains uncertain are not meant to be taken separately. Science was never meant to abstract the world, but to train us to recognize that there will always be more to see in it – how the sky turns blue, how patterns occur throughout nature, how civilizations rise and fall, how the stars may lead us to another Earth, how health and infrastructure in global cities may be improved for all.

In other words, scientists are not exempted from making leaps of faith. SOSE majors aren't bred

to take all things as they are, but to recognize underlying properties beneath all things to train them to see more. This is the entire project of academic research, seeking to look beyond what has been seen to uncover more of what is already there. This is the project of the philosophers who aim to articulate to the best of their language the limitless nuances of human experience. We share the same pursuit with all other disciplines. We study precisely because we do not know everything, but we do not believe it ends at a certain point – we voyage into the unknown, from the fringes of outer space to the intricate linings of the human person, where something new awaits us, ready to surprise us and fill us with a renewed sense of wonder.

If the Ateneo has taught us anything besides this, it may be easy to miss. I believe it has been coded in us every step of the way: the awkward group dynamics at OrSem, the first catastrophic block-wide long test failure, the orgs we joined, the aforementioned group study sessions, and the community Google Drives. We are not alone. SOSE is an enduring school. It is a school where successes and failures are shared, where discoveries are made together, and where we learn as the other learns. Built into how we speak to each other is the weight of our courses, what a hassle it all is, and what joy everything else is: being with each other. The Ateneo compels us to seek each other out, to share the light we cast out with them, and to guide each other to where we have to go, through

the darkness. As science endeavors to reveal what's there, we need to be constantly reminded of why and what we do all this for, and this is the same as asking why it is we fought to get an org project done despite it being the middle of hell week – there are others counting on us, just as we count on them. One of the questions they ask to those applying for the Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health is: Why do you want to become a doctor? At some point in our Ateneo education, we realize we do not become doctors just for ourselves: our friends and family have worked to see us achieve this dream, the country is in desperate need of more healthcare professionals, and there will never be a person not in need of what we can give them.

Which is to say: I couldn't have gotten here without all my friends, my blockmates, my professors, and my family. It is our highest calling to recognize that we have been graced with these people and that we owe it to them and to the rest of the world, caught in its own monolithic dark, to cast out all the fatigue, restlessness, anxiety, and disenchantment with which I began this piece, and which befalls us all in our lowest moments as science majors and as people who, for some reason or other, forget we are not alone, and that there is a world waiting to reveal itself to whoever is patient and willing. Science makes a discipline out of our approach to this world.