



KNOWLEDGE ACQUISITION IS A MOST BLESSED AND MUCH NEEDED PURSUIT

Speech delivered by

The Most Eminent

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At the Charles Darwin University to New Graduands

Northern Territory - Australia

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الحمد لله رب العالمين والصلاة والسلام على أشرف الأنبياء والمرسلين سيدنا محمد وعلى آله وصحبه أجمعين. أشهد أن لا إله إلا الله وحده لا شريك له وأشهد أن سيدنا محمدا عبده ورسوله.

Honourable Chief Minister Ms Natasha Fyles,

Honourable Mr Hugh Heggie PSM, Administrator of the Northern Territory and Ms Ruth Jones,

Ms Vicki O'Halloran AO 'Former Administrator of the Northern Territory',

The Honourable Mr Paul Henderson AO the Chancellor of Charles Darwin University,

Vice Chancellor and President Professor Scott Bowman AO of Charles Darwin University, honourable ministers, graduands, teachers, parents, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen and the M.C Professor Fiona Coulson.

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wa (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon you all)

Allow me to begin by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land and paying my respects to their elder's past, present and emerging.

I feel tremendously honoured and privileged to be here with you to celebrate this milestone of success. I honour and congratulate you and I congratulate your parents, your teachers and this great university for supporting you in this achievement.

Dear Graduands, May Allah bless and protect you to continue your quest for knowledge and learning. The graduation ceremony is that special occasion and combination of years of hard work. The actualisation of goal attainment, the acknowledgement of success achieved, so it is only fitting that we commemorate the road that you have all travelled together for the past few years. You have experienced the exceptional and magical moments and created memories that will be fondly remembered in the years to come.

When we are talking about fond memories, I'm sure you must have a lot of memories that you cherish. I have tons of memories and incidents from Darwin Community College, Darwin Institute of Technology and Northern Territory University.

I would like to share an incident that happened to me during my teaching course at NTU. I think it was 1985. I parked my car and went to the classes. When I came back, I found an infringement notice on my car. I looked around to see if there was any sign saying that I should not park there. There wasn't any such sign. I went home, those days I was staying at the Darwin Mosque. I wrote a letter to the transport department in this regard. A few days later I received a letter for me to meet the officer on the site. One week after that meeting I received another letter saying that the infringement had been withdrawn and the department of transport thanking me for bringing the matter to their notice.

That was the day the message Fair Go Australia, a very lucky country.

Dear Graduands, you are graduating from the Faculty of Health which provides structural progression into the health workforce, this is the most important field, it the field saving human life, saving the life of one human being. As Quran considers that you have saved the whole of humanity. Mya Allah bless you to save that humanity.

I would like to share a few statement from Ala Quran and sayings of Prophet Muhammed (May peace and blessings be upon him)

Our tradition teaches us through the Qur'an that people who are blessed with learning are not the same as those who are not:

قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ۗ إِنَّمَا يَتَذَكَّرُ أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ ﴿الزمر 9﴾

“Say: are they equal, those who have knowledge and those who don't? Only those with sound intellect will reflect (and understand).” (Holy Qur'an 39:9)

We are also alerted to the important fact that learned people are the most in awe of Allah:

... إِنَّمَا يَخْشَى اللَّهَ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ الْعُلَمَاءُ ... ﴿فاطر 28﴾

“Indeed, those who are most in Awe of Allah are those among his creation who are learned.” (Holy Qur'an 35:28)

Our beloved Prophet stressed upon these verses by telling us that those who pursue knowledge are paving a path to paradise:

من سلك طريقاً يطلب فيه علماً، سلك الله به طريقاً من طرق الجنة، وإن الملائكة لتضع أجنحتها رضا لطالب العلم، وإن العالم ليستغفر له من في السماوات ومن في الأرض، والحيتان في جوف الماء، وإن فضل العالم على العابد كفضل القمر ليلة البدر على سائر الكواكب، وإن العلماء ورثة الأنبياء، وإن الأنبياء لم يورثوا ديناراً ولا درهماً، ورثوا العلم فمن أخذه أخذ بحظ وافر. (أبي داود)

‘Whoever travels a path in pursuit of beneficial knowledge, Allah will take him on a path to paradise. Indeed, the angels will spread their wings in support of the student of beneficial knowledge and everything that is in the heavens and the earth and the fish in the water will pray for his forgiveness. The position of the scholar over the worshipper is like the benefit coming from the light of the full moon over that of the light of the stars. And that the scholars are the heirs of the prophets, and indeed, the legacy of the prophets is not silver or gold, their legacy is (beneficial) knowledge, so whoever learns this knowledge has indeed taken a great provision. (Abi Dawood).

In this hadith again and again it repeated about the importance of beneficial knowledge. Prophet Muhammed (peace be upon him) said,

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ عِلْمًا نَافِعًا

‘Allahumma inni as'aluka 'ilman nafi'an'

‘Oh Allah, bless us with beneficial knowledge’

The knowledge must be productive and beneficial. Prophet Muhammed ordered Zaid bin Thabit (RA) to learn the Syriac language for communication purpose. (Bukhari 93:40)

The skills always need to be upgraded, knowledge needs to be continuously updated otherwise it becomes stale and obsolete. The dynamics of knowledge and education requires continuous improvement. An Arabic proverb says: 'Pursue learning from the cradle to the grave'. In English we say, 'lifelong learning'. It does not stop after graduation. There is a thought-provoking hadeeth (tradition of Prophet) that Prophet Muhammed had said 'The benefit of knowledge is greater than the benefit of worship (Ibadaat). You may have heard the famous statement of Prophet Muhammed, 'the ink of a scholar is far more superior than the blood of a martyr.

Continuing to pursue learning now is more important than hitting the workforce full on. If you do, then know that you will be best placed to become pioneers in your respective fields. Know that new scientific and intellectual treasures will be unlocked for you. This is a promise that is recorded in the Holy Qur'an 41:53:

سَنُرِيهِمْ آيَاتِنَا فِي الْآفَاقِ وَفِي أَنفُسِهِمْ حَتَّىٰ يَتَبَيَّنَ لَهُمْ أَنَّهُ الْحَقُّ ۗ أَوَلَمْ يَكْفِ بِرَبِّكَ أَنَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ ۚ فَاصْلَحْ

﴿53﴾

“We will show them our Signs, in the “Horizon (Aafaq)” and within themselves, until it becomes clear to them that this is the Truth. ...”

Aafaq is translated as “horizons”, “furthest regions” and it can also be translated as “scientific disciplines”. You will discover new truths that were not discovered by those before you. These truths will be in every field of learning and these truths can well bring new ideas to improve our world.

Dear Graduands, parents, distinguished guests please allow me on this happy and important occasion to remind our Graduands:

- You are the power of the present moment.
 - Take the torch and leave your mark.
 - Put your stake in the ground then build the future that you want, and you believe, work and fight hard to achieve it.
 - Make sure that you learn to communicate well. The effect of communication is the ultimate key to your success.
 - Understand your strength and weakness and try to rectify and improve.
- Remember Imam Ghazali says, “There are four types of people in regard to education, these are
1. The one who doesn't know and doesn't know that he doesn't know
 2. The one who does not know, but thinks he knows
 3. The one who knows but does not know that he knows
 4. The one who knows and knows that he knows

Dear Graduands, who do you want to be out of these four people. I am very sure you all want to be the fourth person that you want to be a person who knows and knows that he or she knows.

Before I conclude my short talk, I would like to share with you an inscription which was found above the entrance of every university in Islamic Spain. It says:

‘The world is held up by four pillars,

1. The vision and wisdom of the learned
2. The justice of the great
3. The prayers of the righteous
4. The valour of the brave

May Allah bless you; may he make your years ahead characterised by empathy, compassion, objectivity, peace and prosperity. May you always lead by example and work hard and play straight.

I pray to the Almighty to guide you towards every success.

My final prayer is to bless and protect this university and the people who work in this university. I would also like to thank the Chancellor of Charles Darwin University the Honourable Paul Henderson AO and Vice Chancellor and President Professor Scott Bowman AO for inviting me to celebrate with you this important milestone.

I pray that CDU will have many more blessed achievements and accomplishments in years to come.

May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon you all.

Walaikum Assalamu Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuhu



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