



DELIVERY OF THE GRADUATION ADDRESS

JUSTICE M. M. SUNDRESH,

JUDGE, MADRAS HIGH COURT

Respected Fr. Rector, Fr. Secretary, Fr. Principal, Fr. Deputy Principal, Fr. Casimir Raj, Fr. Controller of Examinations, Staff, Invitees, Friends from Media, Parents of the graduates and my dear Loyolites, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I stand before you on this happy and momentous occasion not as a Judge but as a Student of yester years of this great institution. What better happiness one would get than to come back to the place where he had his best days of his life.

Dear Friends, What is so special and unique about this wonderful institution? Is it because of these beautiful, esthetic and monumental buildings? Is it because of the heartening greenery? The answer is, it is because, it carries the memories of the noble men and great personalities who by their sacrifice have influenced each one of our life to a great extent. When I entered into this institution my memory lane takes me to the great men of knowledge, wisdom and erudition who taught various aspects of life. Some of them may not be physically present in this world today but they live in our hearts, thoughts, and action as they live through us and this great institution. When a man is born he dies but one should not die while living but live after death. These great men belong to the latter category and they would continue to live.

The men of wisdom and knowledge by their divine duty have instilled the right values, belief, attitude, conduct and knowledge in us. Lord Jesus said: "This is my Commandment that you Love one another as I have loved you". Being the true messengers of the great Lord they have given their pure love for us. They are happy in giving and would only be happier when they see the desired result through us. Therefore we should thank them for their immense contribution in shaping our destiny and making us as good human beings.

Said William Shakespeare, "All the World is a stage and all the men and women merely players". What we are today and what we will be tomorrow is due to the sacrifice of so many persons.

Friends, having been a student of this great institution would always give you a distinct advantage over the others. I can proudly say that I am a small example of that. The learning you had here would always help you wherever you go and I am sure that all of you would exhibit the great virtues you have learnt here.

Youth is a summer time of life, the maxim, my Professor, the Most Respected Shri. Valluvan Clarence Motha would use very often. With enjoyment comes responsibility. Friends, what is enjoyment? Here I would like to recall a small incident. One day one of my friends met his retired principal. He proudly introduced himself to the old man and said "Sir, do you remember me; I am your old student". The great man with some degree of difficulty recognised his student of yester years and then asked him "Young man, How do you like your job" My friend replied. "Sir, I am enjoying my work". Pat came from the old one "that is good. If you enjoy your work, then you do not need to work for the rest of your life". Therefore please do enjoy whatever the work you involve yourself in and what is important is the enjoyment and involvement in the work than the work by itself.

Maya Angelou said thus "Life is a pure adventure, sooner we realise the quicker we will treat it as an art". Hence take the life as an adventure and try to enjoy and excell in your work. Attitude is the most important thing of all. Dr. Martin Luther King Junior observed thus "If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michael Angelo painted or as Beethoven composed music or Shakespeare wrote his poetry. He should sweep the streets so well that all the host of heaven and earth will pause to say, "Here lived a great sweeper who did his job well".

Friends, we must always aim higher, the great Saint Thiruvalluvar has said:-

‘கான முயலெய்த அம்பினில் யானை
பிழைத்தவேல் ஏந்தல் இனிது’

It is better to hold a spear aimed at an elephant that gets missed than an arrow that killed a running hare. One would be known by the efforts he makes and if the effort is greater then even the resultant failure is better than achieving something lesser. Therefore when a window of opportunity comes to you please do not let it go by but grab it with both hands.

It is not the failure that is dangerous but the fear of failure is. A failure is sometimes better than a success since it teaches us more than what a success does. Success sometimes gets one complacent and arrogant whereas a failure would bring more knowledge, strength and resolve. Again in the words of the great Saint Thiruvalluvar:-

‘தெய்வத்தால் ஆகாதெனினும் தம் முயற்சி
மெய்வருத்தக் கூலிதரும்’

Even if a goal could not be achieved with the divine help the attempt made would help a person in many other ways.

What is future? It is nothing but a continuation of the present. What is present? It is nothing but a continuation of the past. It is we who sometimes consciously and sometimes unconsciously decide and determine our own future. Therefore we must be ready to face the future. As Swami Vivekananda said: "You are the master of your own destiny". One who is prepared for a journey would reach the destination faster than the

one who starts late. Future will always be good. One's fear and hesitation would have a greater impact on his future and life. When the great Tamil Poet AVVAIYAR was left behind by her mother at an early age this is what she said:-

‘இட்டமுடனென் தலையில் இன்னபடி என்றெழுதி
விட்டசிவ னும்செத்து விட்டானோ? - முட்டமுட்டப்
பஞ்சமே யானாலும் பாரமவ னுக்கன்னாய்
நெஞ்சமே அஞ்சாதே நீ’

The great lady said to her distressed mother not to worry about her future since it would be taken proper care of by the Almighty. True to her words and the confidence, she later turned into one of the greatest scholar and philosopher. It is because she believed in herself.

In simple words, Get ahead when others waste their time in frivolous activities. Time is a fast flying phenomenon but you can be its pilot. Develop while others are loafing; prepare yourself while others are playing. Your dream is the starting point of your destination while others are just wishing. As James Allen says: ‘Dream lofty dreams, and as you dream so shall you become. Your vision is the promise of what you shall one day be; your ideal is the prophecy of what you shall at last unveil. Your circumstances may be uncongenial, but they shall not long remain so if you perceive an ideal and strive to reach it’.

Be receptive to new ideas and keep on learning. It is said that when learning stops the downfall starts. Learning is a continuous process and hence we should reorient our goals and one goal if achieved should lead to the other. Will Durand said thus, “ Education is Progressive Discovery of one's own ignorance.”

Man is a social animal, because ancient human beings began their behaviour patterns in a crude and unrefined manner. Over a period of time, refinement became essential and soon many refinement methodologies such as Education as a knowledge source, Experience, Position and the Situation etc began to emerge as enablers of such refined behaviour. Among this. ‘Education’ still remains and retains its status as the prime enabler. I am really glad that all possible avenues for sourcing this prime enabler, were made available to you in abundance by your Alma Mater which today, has made you, a privileged lot among others. However, education is often perceived as the only tool for learning by many people, where as, in fact it is ‘one of the tools’ for the Learning Process to happen, I strongly believe that with the excellent education so far provided to you and with the amount of quality learning accrued, your present capability level must be mature enough to facilitate and guarantee your own splendid performances without any external guidance or intervention.

I am sure that with the knowledge and values imparted by your Alma Mater, you would be very successful in life. However, let me remind you that Materialism, power and position alone will not make you great. You must try to attain greatness by your right attitude and conduct and through right ways and means. The path chosen by you to

reach your destination must be a virtuous and honest one. In the words of the great Saint Thiruvalluvar:-

‘சிறப்புஈனும், செல்வமும் ஈனும்; அறத்தினூஉங்கு
ஆக்கம் எவனோ உயிர்க்கு’

The power, position and wealth should be obtained by a virtuous method and not otherwise. When once you achieve a desired position or status then you must conduct yourself with utmost integrity, humility, honesty and dignity. A person’s greatness is not achieved unless the above said characters accompany him.

Dear friends, you should also develop the habit of helping others. Good things must be done at the earliest point of time without any hesitation. By helping others we only help ourselves.

Saint Elango in Silapathikaram has said thus:-

‘நாளைச் செய்குவம் அறம்எனில் இன்றே
கேள்வி நல்லுயிர் நீங்கினும் நீங்கும்
இதுவென வரைந்து வாழுநாள் உணர்ந்தோர்
முதநீர் உலகிற் முழுவதும் இல்லை’

The great Saint said that good and virtuous actions should be performed at once because the life is uncertain and no one in the world can ever say with certainty as to how long one is going to live. Therefore in an uncertain world good things shall not be postponed and should be done immediately. As John Wesley puts it, “Do all the good you can, at all times and places, and in all the ways possible”.

On this occasion, I congratulate the proud parents who have come here to see their wards being felicitated. Saint Thiruvalluvar said that parents would be more happier when they hear from others great things about their children than while they were born. Says Bible “Thy Father and thy Mother shall be glad and she that bore thee shall rejoice” (Proverb 23:25). Of all the wealth, children are the greatest wealth and that would be measured by their good conduct, behaviour and attitude. As parents we should understand that every child has its own special and distinct talent and ability. We should act as a guide without imposing our views on the grown up children. No one is born great but becomes one because of the great qualities. One has to find out such qualities and try to become great. I am quite sure that your wards would bring you more and more happiness in the years to come by.

Dear Friends, I am convinced that in the days to come I will definitely be a proud witness, along with the great men here, to your success and growth in all aspects of life and that would be the greatest gift you could possibly offer to them and this great institution which they richly deserve.

I conclude my speech by wishing you all the possible success and happiness in your life. Enjoy this moment and keep progressing.

Thank you very much.