

Australian International Islamic College

Our contribution in making Australia the world leader in multiculturalism

Address delivered by

Imam Abdul Quddoos Azhari

at

Year 12 Graduation Night

Formal Dinner

17 November 2016

Michael's Restaurant

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Bismillahir-Rahmaanir-Raheem

In the name of Allah, the beneficent, the merciful, peace and blessings be upon our beloved Prophet (s.a.w) and upon those who follow his path till the day of resurrection.

Honourable Principal, The Right Honourable Lord Mayor Graham Quirk, distinguished guests, learned teachers, parents and graduands

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuhu

I am honoured to be a part of this important and memorable AIC 2016 Graduation Ceremony. This no doubt is another milestone in our humble history.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the students, parents, teachers, the Principal and her administrative staff, P & C Committee and the college community as a whole. May Allah bless the graduands and protect and give them more ability (taufeeq) to continue and further their education and training for the betterment of themselves, the community and Australia at large.

As I turn back and look at the days and months of 2016 I realise, what an eventful and productive year it has been.

- Our school had been named as one of the most improved schools in Queensland.
- Our school had been awarded by Independent Schools Queensland, as one of the most multilingual in Queensland.
- Brisbane City Council awarded our school as the most active school in Brisbane in terms of methods of transport to and from school.
- It is very nice to notice that there will be 10 more new classrooms getting ready which will give enough comfortable permanent classrooms for our children.
- A brand new Administration building for occupancy in 2017.
- One of our students, Hassan Ramazani has been selected to travel to England, Scotland and Wales with the "2016 British Football Lifetime Experience" sanctioned by Football Queensland.

Alhamdulillah and congratulations to all those who have contributed and worked hard to make this all possible. Thank you and Jazakumullah.

Islamic epistemology has defined knowledge as Noor, which means light. The function of the light is to illuminate in the darkness or ignorance. Thus the knowledge takes our humanity from darkness of ignorance to illumination of the light. That is how mankind has conquered the forces of nature and crossed the boundaries of horizons in outer space.

Dear students, listen to what Imam Shafi, had to say about education and the light
He says

“SHA KOUTU WAKEE IN AN SOOIE HIFLEE
FA ARSHA DANI LI TARKIL MA AASIE
FA AKHBARANI BI ANNAL ILMA NOORUN
WA NOORUL LAHI LAA YOUTA LI AASIE”

“I have complained to my teacher Wakee about my short memory power and my forgetfulness.

He advised me to keep away from sinful acts.
He informed me that knowledge is Noor and light
The light of Allah will not be given to the sinful”

Dear Graduands, the ideal of education is not merely to enhance knowledge and to provide information but is also to build the character of students and make them good citizens.

Remember what our beloved Nabi (s.a.w) has said,

“MAN IZDADA ILMAN
WALAM YAZDUD HUDAN
WALAM YAZDUD MINALLAHI TAA ALA
ILLA BUDAN”

“Whoever gained more and more knowledge and education and not gained more and more good character, good behaviour and good guidance then they have not gained nearness to Allah nor Allah’s mercy (rahmah)”.

Then Al Qur’an says.

“WALA TASTAVIL HASANATU
WALAS SAYYAATU,
IDFA’I BILLATI HIYA AHSAN
FA ITHALLATHI BAINAKA
WA BAINAHU ADARWATUN
KA ANNAHU WALIYYIN HAMEEM”

“The hasanah (virtue) and sayeah (bad action) cannot be equal”. So you change the bad with good actions. This will surely change the attitude of others towards you. Even your enemy will become your closest friend. (Al Qur’an 34:41)

Education is the key to all kinds of success and a ladder to all kinds of progress. With education all else follows. Without education there is much to lose.

In one hadeeth, Nabi (s.a.w) has said, “Struggle in acquiring knowledge, it is compulsory on each and every Muslim, male and female”.

Nabi (s.a.w) himself never missed an opportunity to educate his companions, most of whom were illiterate.

My Dear Graduands, as we say in Australia, Australia is a lucky country. We are lucky to be living in this beautiful country. Australians are the most generous people, as most of us being from overseas have come to know. We should always be grateful to them. We have to contribute positively towards the betterment of Australia.

Australia has adopted the policy of multiculturalism. We should make this country more colourful, more beautiful and luckier. We can only do this by contributing and working alongside our fellow Australians. Remember my dear students our safety and security lies in the safety and security of Australia. You must work hard for the safety of all Australians for the betterment of all Australians.

My dear students, Islam teaches us to respect others culture, others way of life and learn from others goodness. Rasulullah ﷺ taught us that any good thing that you find anywhere, that is considered lost property, that property is yours. Take it/practise it.

The Prophet (s.a.w) established the first Islamic State in Madinah that was multicultural, multilingual and multi religious society where the Muslims, Christians and Jews lived together peacefully without imposing their views and opinions. We must learn to live together in harmony with mutual respect for others

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my warm congratulations to these young men and women tonight and also acknowledge those of you who have received awards, I wish you all a very happy and fruitful life.

May Allah bless you, bless the community and bless our nation Australia.
I conclude with this famous couplet from the philosopher and poet Dr Alama Iqbal.

Khudi Ko Ker Buland Itna ke har taqder se phele
Khuda bande se khud poche bata teri raza kia hai.

*"You develop and elevate yourself
To the highest possible level
To such an extent, that the creator comes to you and asks you.
Tell me, what you want and what will make you happy?"*

