

VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

1 Hayden Drive
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Phone: 804-524-5000
10:00 AM, Sunday, May 13, 2012

“KNOW THYSELF”

A COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

By: Claes Nobel

Co-founder & Chairman, National Society of High School Scholars
Founder & Chairman, United Earth
Chairman, World Peace One Global Leadership Council
Honorary Co-Chairman, The Nobel Peace Laureate Park, Eugene, OR

Most Honorable University President Dr. Keith Miller, Distinguished Faculty Members and Board of Trustees, Esteemed Parents and Dear Families and Friends of The Graduates, we are here today to congratulate ... and celebrate The Graduating Students of Virginia State University, Class of 2012.

Dear Graduates ... once upon a time ... nine months prior to your birth ... you decided to come to planet Earth ... the most difficult and popular school in the entire Universe. Also, at that time ... you picked your own good Mother to be the Preferred Mode of Delivery. We are all happy and most grateful for you mothers excellent service. **THANK YOU DEAR MOMS!**

Also, we all have in common a most beautiful, generous, kind and patience mother, i.e. "Mother Earth." Oddly enough, we humans, her own children, we are today causing this celestial mother of ours ... immense, needless pain and suffering. We treat her like dirt.

In order for you and me ... and for all forms of life on Earth to have a future worth having this insane manner of behavior must be changed.

There is "Only One Earth." Planet Earth is absolutely unique. ... She harbors The Miracle of Life. Exactly as we do with our own mother ... we must take care of Earth ... and handle her with utmost love and care.

You see, in order to nourish us ... and all other forms of life ... Earth must be vibrant and healthy. To celebrate her once a year on "Earth Day" is not enough. We should have "Earth Day" Every Day. Don't you think so?

Anyhow, today is "Mother's Day." Therefore, loud and clear in unison let's three times shout: "Happy Mother's Day" together. Here we go: "HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY ... HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY ... HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!" Wow, that was good ... most definitely your mothers ... and Sweet Earth ...

our **“Blue Pearle in Space”** ... heard your voices!

Dear Graduates ... The Professional Skills of Your Teachers ... The Love, Patience and Support of your Parents ... and The All-Important Camaraderie of your Good Friends ... has now constantly, for some 4 years, been infused into your fertile minds. To a certain degree you are now ready to step out into the unchartered world ... we call ... **Our Future.**

To all of you, who have participated in the process of shaping today's honored Graduates, I say: **“Thank You** very much for investing **Your Best Resources and Talents** in our most precious link to the future ... which is **Our Well-Educated Youth.”**

Now, in my capacity as your **2012 Commencement Speaker** ... it's my most privileged honor to seek to give a few words of wisdom.

The function of a **Commencement Speaker** is threefold:

1. **To Congratulate The Graduates**
2. **To Wish The Graduates Good Luck ... and**
3. **To Give Hope and Inspiration to the Graduates**

My 153-year old grandfather ... a man of great wisdom and great self-discipline ... who by now has been in Heaven for some 60 years lived by a fine motto ... I remember it well. He often said:

*“Your time on Earth is a loan
Use it well
In Heaven you shall account for each hour.”*

**(MY CELLPHONE RINGS)
“HELLO! WHAT? A COLLECT
CALL FROM HEAVEN ... YES, ...
YES, ... I WILL ACCEPT THE
CHARGES.”**

“Hello Grandfather! ... Yes, I know, you are very far away! Yes, I can hear you well! Do you hear me all right? I am busy speaking to a bunch of Graduates and they are all very, very smart and very ... what? ... Yes ... of course ... I know that you and Our Great Creator in Heaven always know what we humans are up to.

You said ... aha ... aha ... aha ... I promise I will do so. ... Yes, my Commencement Speech will be brief ... and to the point ... no hour-long, painful sitting for these Graduates ... only 15 minutes you say. OK! And, yes not too much preaching.

I will tell my audience only the Unvarnished Truth ... and if you think I shall so do ... then I will tell them about The Secret of Secrets ... The Lost, Age-Old Secret of: ... "KNOW THYSELF." OK! ... Goodbye Grandfather!" (Sorry, about that interruption!)

Mottos and quotes are Pictures Worth a Thousand Words. Another, right-on saying that will serve you well ... particularly in these turbulent, uncertain times ... is: *"Hope for the best ... prepare for the worst."*

In order for you to have a happy life ... and a worthwhile future ... these sayings are good advise. Apply them every day into your life! ... Do not let precious time slip away!

My goodness ... such sinister advice I give you! In order to lighten up my remarks ... and to help you to better remember my advice ... I will hook on to them ... a humorous quote by Oscar Wilde. He said: *"I always pass on good advice. It is the only thing to do with it. It is never of any use to oneself."*

So, dear Graduates: “The great moment is finally here! You have graduated! You have earned your diploma ... and you can now proudly wear your cap and gown! And in looking at you ... I must say ... you look very distinguished ... and very intelligent! MY BEST CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL!”

On the second point of Wishing you GOOD LUCK I can only say ... “Lady Luck is a fickle friend.” To have her come your way I agree with Thomas Jefferson’s observation, quote: “I’m a great believer in LUCK ... and I find the harder I work ... the more I have of it.” To you Graduates I recommend: “Do likewise ... work hard!”

Well, in my Commencement Address the two first points of Congratulation and wishing you Good Luck were easy to handle.

However, the third point, to give you Hope and Inspiration ... is a much more difficult subject to cover. Financial Meltdown, Worldwide Hunger and Poverty, Catastrophic Environmental Disasters coupled with Rampant, Moral Decadence ... are the Sinister, Dark Clouds of our times. ... And they all hang very low.

You, the young people of the world have seen much of the ugly underbelly of human society. In the most formative years of your life you have in your schools been exposed to shootings, drugs and bullying. And, now lately you are facing an ever low, substandard job-market. This is the Naked Truth! It calls for immediate and fundamental change!

It took me days and days of deep soul searching to find the thoughts and ideas that best could serve you. In my mental files that go back some 40 years of being In Service to Earth and Humanity. ... I found at last the proper subject. I would, as my Grandfather said, reveal to you "The Great Secret of Self-Knowledge" ... that now has been hidden for some 2,500 years.

But first, I must confess, right now, I feel a bit as The Bewildered Mosquito, who all of a sudden found itself over a nudist camp. The field was so vast ... there was so much flesh ... so much ground to cover ... it just didn't know where to start." Don't worry! Don't worry! ... I know exactly what to say.

I will start with a most humble apology. I apologize to all the young people of the world ... and I apologize to all the honest, caring, God-loving people on Earth, who conduct their hard earned lives In Love and Respect ... and who are guided to do so ... by The Light of Truth.

I apologize for the totally unacceptable ways, which many individuals, corporations and governments in my generation have looted, polluted, exploited and seriously harmed our fragile Earth ... and thus have caused unnecessary, life-shattering hardship to millions of millions of innocent people.

Absolute ruthlessness and downright criminal, conduct by many individuals, from both The General Public ... and World Leaders in The Highest Office of: Politics, Religion and Business are the primary cause to most of the great world tragedies of today.

These people, the saboteurs of our dignified future, they have let you down, by paying unrestricted tribute and worship to: The False God ... The Yellow God ... King Gold. They live in A Fool's Paradise ... of Super Egos and Gross Materialism. Their minds are deplorably chained

to the culprits of: Ignorance, Selfishness, Greed, and Lust for Power.

Consequently, in order to have A Future Worth Having, we must "Change The World and Save The Earth." We must do so immediately! And immediately means Right Now. No delay ... no procrastination!

Therefore, with all the passion I have at my command, I say: "The cool heads and warm hearts of a well-educated, youth will transform the world ... from what it is ... into what it could and should be. Dear Graduates, with great confidence you should say to yourself: "We Are The Ones ... We Have Been Waiting For."

Did you know ... that despite the Great Ongoing "Earth Risks" of: Global Warming, Loss and Extinction of Species, Over-Population, Pollution of Air, Water and Soil, Crime and Terrorism, Rampant Drug Abuse, Dwindling Oil Reserves and so on ad nauseam ... that some scientist suggest we should change our generic name of Homo sapiens, the wise knowing man, to Homo sapiens sapiens?... The doubly wise man.

In view of what is happening to the world of today ... I think they are dead wrong. ... A more

appropriate name would be: “Homo stupidus stupidus.”

Even Albert Einstein agrees with me. He once said: “Two things are infinite: ... The Universe and Human Stupidity ... and I’m not sure about the Universe.”

I and many of my colleagues in the fields of Education, Finance, Environmental Stewardship, Entertainment, Religion and Research and Development of Consciousness ... we feel that the fundamental root-cause to most all of human misery is fourfold:

1. We live today in times of Spiritual Famine.
2. We are ignorant about The Purpose of Life.
3. We do not adequately tap into the rare and refined essence, The Tremendous Mega-Power that is lodged ... in “Our Soul.”
4. The singularly most important curriculum for Personal Happiness and Global Survival ... is as of yet not taught in any school or college. That is the subject of: ... “EARTH ETHICS.” My colleagues and I are now in the process of developing that curriculum.

So, what could and should we do Right Now... in order to Transform Humanity and Save The Earth?

Ancient knowledge and wisdom has been lost. For instance despite all modern science of today we really do not know how ... or to what exact purpose ... the pyramids of Egypt were built. Also, the secret of the Great Sphinx is still unknown.

Fortunately ... there still exists an ancient, little known ... and seldom-used piece of wisdom ... that holds the power of creating the elusive goal of “Peace and Harmony on Earth.” This knowledge will ... as surely as day follows night ... transform the four just mentioned issues of crisis ... to their direct opposites.

You see ... 2,500 years ago in the ancient village of Delphi, Greece, there existed an oracle ... who was wiser than even King Solomon. People from all walks of life, both from near and far, came for advice and guidance. Above the entrance to her cave ... engraved in stone ... was the answer to obscure future ... and to all human questions and problems. The Unvarnished Truth ... The Secret of Secrets ... said: “KNOW THYSELF!”

This referred to **“SELF”** is the exact opposite to the Ego. The Ego is highly materialistic ... it only thinks about me and I. The Ego often stinks ... and is full of all kinds of nasty attributes. Like a deadly virus ... to have a **Big Ego** ... brings only misery to both carrier ... and the world at large.

The true, **“SELF”** which we now must learn to know ... to study intensively ... and to use frequently in order to survive with dignity ... that **“SELF”** we find in the hyphenated words of: **Self-Knowledge, Self-Awareness, Self-Confidence, Self-Sacrifice, Self-Realization** ... and so on. This **“Self”** makes us understand the present ... and navigate the future.

Mark well ... that ... that **“SELF”** in us humans is: **“Our Own Exclusive Seed of God ... which we call: “OUR SOUL.””**

And now at last ... I will give you the really most potent World Betterment Remedy of all. It is a fail-proof prescription for **UNIVERSAL PEACE and PERSONAL HAPPINESS**. In honor of dear uncle Alfred Nobel, I call it: **“The Dynamite Medicine.”** **When diligently and constantly used ... this stuff**

can ... will ... and shall change the world. It is called "THE SEVEN RIGHTS." They are:

1. Right Thought. You see ... your mind is a dynamic Master Builder ... it creates reality. Dream lofty dreams! Thoughts materialize! Everything in our universe, in the world, in this room ... yes, even each and every person in this audience ... it all originated ... in thought.

2. Right Word. Remember ... words are most powerful. Once a word leaves your mouth ... not even the strength of 10,000 elephants can pull it back again.

3. Right Deed. Stop talking ... start walking. Let Dignity, Honor and "TRUTH" be the noble hallmarks of your character.

4. Right Attitude. Smile, laugh, and be: kind, positive & helpful to all. Become good listeners!

5. Right Livelihood. Step lightly on the Earth ... leave no footprints.

6. Right Here You do not have to go to the far corners of the world. Start world transformation

in your own community. Start right in your own backyard!

7. Right Now. Do not procrastinate! No more excuses like ... that you have no time! Become an active and very busy person ... for World Betterment and World Change.

Once again ... here are the Seven Rights: 1. Right Thought. 2. Right Word. 3. Right Deed. 4. Right Attitude. 5. Right Livelihood. 6. Right Here 7. Right Now.

Memorize the Seven Rights! Apply them in your daily life! And you will: "Change The World & Save The Earth." And also ... you will Stay Out of Jail!

Most honored Graduates ... Believe in Yourself! Take to heart! ... "The Good Future ... Rests in Your Good Hands!" You have been given the great opportunity to create A New, Major Epoch ... in World History. In You I see ... the creators of:

"THE AGE OF UNIVERSAL PEACE."

**JUST THINK ABOUT THAT! ... INTENSIVELY
THINK ABOUT IT! ... YOU CAN BE THE "CREATORS"
 OF:**

"THE AGE OF UNIVERSAL PEACE."

Finally in closing, the last few lines from Max Ehrman's classical poem called "DESIDERATA"... which means "Things To Be Desired. Quote:

*"You are a Child of the Universe.
 No less than the trees and the stars;
 You have a right to be here.
 And whether or not it is clear to you,
 No doubt ... the Universe is unfolding as it should.*

*Therefore, Be At Peace With God,
 Whatever you conceive Him to be.
 And whatever your labors and aspirations,
 In the noisy confusion of Life,
Keep Peace with Your "SOUL."*

*With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams,
 It is still ... A Beautiful World.
Be cheerful! Be happy!"*

**God Bless You ... Dear 2012 Graduates! And
Godspeed to you all! Thank you! Thank you very much!**

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