



ST JOSEPH'S INSTITUTION  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MALAYSIA  
(TROPICANA PJ CAMPUS)



**Eng Ying Xuan**

Br. President's Josephian of the Year Award & Tan Sri Tan Foundation Book Prize Award Winner  
IBDP Class of 2018

Graduation Ceremony Speech Transcript

Guests of honor, Brother President (Bro. Thomas), High School Principal (Dr. Brown), the past and present IB coordinators of our cohort, Ms. Carter and Mrs. Fitzgerald, teachers, parents, family members, guests, and finally, fellow IBDP graduates from the Class of 2018, a very good evening to all of you. It is my pleasure to be speaking at SJIIM's first ever graduation ceremony.

Today marks the end of a 2-year-long journey filled with a series of intense academic and mental challenges, sleepless nights, heightened anxiety levels; well you know the drill, things you say to an A-Level student when they say their course is difficult. Anyways, I have never been more proud to say that I am part of a cohort this talented, this humble and this Lasallian. We have so many passionate people in so many disciplines, ranging from music, to theoretical physics, English and the list goes on. And I have never imagined there would be people actively volunteering in service, in the midst of the busy nature of IB. It is I think safe to say, out of all graduating cohorts from SJIIM, that we are the best one.

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Now, I would like to share 3 lessons I have learned throughout these 2 years. Upon reflection, these lessons seem very familiar and I think it is because of the fact that they come from proverbs. As a proud Malaysian, I believe there is no better way than to enlist the help of 3 proverbs from Mandarin, Malay and English, languages central to my identity to help explain these lessons:

Lesson #1: 孔子曰：學而不思則罔，思而不學則殆。 Confucius once said: Study without reflection is a waste of time and reflection without study is dangerous. I have never truly realized the power of a short, 1 minute worth of silent reflection until my time in this school. And it kind of makes sense, doesn't it? What would be the point of the times we have struggled to meet deadlines because of procrastination, if we are just going to do it again in college? What would be the point of saying sorry to a friend if you do not remember what you are sorry about? And what would be the point of these two years' worth of experience, if we don't think, understand, and remember what we have been through?

Lesson #2: Bagai kacang lupakan kulit, or rather don't, as it means forgetting the people that have helped us become who we are. Living independently has emphasized this to me more than ever before. For without my father making me memorize those multiplication tables on the way to breakfast, for without my mother's sacrifice in making arrangements to give me a ride to my various music lessons, chess lessons and many more while giving me advice on so many matters, I WOULD NOT be who I am today. Thank you mom and dad, for all you have done for me. At the same time, on behalf of the cohort of the class of 2018, I thank all the brothers, teachers and staff for your patience and time you have given us as well as the maintenance crew for keeping our school clean and well maintained. And on behalf of the hostel buddies, I thank the hostel management team, 3 of which are from the Phillipines, for giving so much of their time to us and treating us like your children. Especially Mr Ooi and Ms Yee, thank you for listening to my ramblings.

Lesson #3: Benjamin Franklin once said, if passion drives you, let reason hold the reins. I simply cannot emphasize this enough, given that it is such a cliché nowadays that the formula for success is passion. To truly be great at something, it takes a lot of pain, sacrifice and hard work. Elon Musk didn't just build the multi-billion company that is Tesla simply because he was "passionate about science". The hours of hard work, tears and sweat, things we don't see, is how he did it. I say we should see passion in a whole other way: passion is the willingness to sacrifice all of one's energy and time on something.

With that in mind, I would like to end my speech with my favorite quote from the movie "Rocky": It ain't about how hard you hit, it's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward! Class of 2018, congratulations for getting hit so hard, but moving forward nonetheless. LET'S KEEP MOVING FORWARD! Thank you!

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