

Respected Principal, Tarla Tr., beloved parents, honourable teachers, non-teaching staff, my dear brothers and sisters,

At the very outset, let me thank God Almighty for the grace and blessing showered on me.

I remember the days I joined this school at the age of five. As freshers, I, along with my friends, never struggled and earned the respect we deserved. We dared to be bold and made new friends.

As juniors, it was the time for me and my classmates to create a close-knit group of friends. This friendship has lasted for years and will be present for years to come. Friends have always been a part of my life that I could never live without. I truly believe that they are the major source of my motivation and inspiration to carry on in life.

When I look back on all the good times, the bad times, the highs and lows over the past fourteen years, I realize that my teachers have always been present with me. Whether it was through a simple note or a comforting hug, my teachers pulled me through, no matter what.

Together, we have enjoyed our place in this school. With the support of our teachers, we made it to this day. Along with the teachers, we have gone a long way and yet we still have to go further. The world desperately needs people who are willing and eager to serve in difficult circumstances. This became very obvious on November 26th at the time of our national tragedy. Now it is our turn to complete our education and begin our careers so as to make a difference in this world. Today we are victorious, and wherever we go from here, we will always remember this day, an achievement totally dedicated to our teachers.

On this occasion with all humility, the Class of 2009 salutes our principal, Tarla Tr., and her team of teachers and non-teaching staff. I also thank my dear friends who supported me all these years. I wish them all, my fellow graduates in particular, a future full of happiness and success.

I also wish to extend my thanks to all the mothers and fathers out there, for all you have done for us. You have raised us and influenced us to become who we are today. Thanks for all your constant support and endless encouragement.

Thank you teachers, parents and friends, once again.

Thank you.

Ajay

Respected Tarla Tr., honourable guests, parents, teachers, non-teaching staff and friends,

My school, as I sat in your embrace, I prayed this was not it. But it is not fair. It must be the longest goodbye. As each moment passed, I prayed for more. This school has taught me so many lessons in life. To love, be strong and God would do the rest.

I always loved this institution and now it is time to be strong. These past few days have been hard. They just flew past in a blur. This day, we will say our final goodbye. All we can do now is look back on our memories of all the laughter we shared and the days that we cherished. People say I am doing well. I am being strong and getting on with my life. But deep down inside I know that you are not really gone. We may not be able to see each other so often, but that does not mean that you are not here in my heart.

You were my eyes when I could not see. All I have to do now is thank you and thank my parents for letting me study in this wonderful institution.

Thank you.

Respected Tarla Tr., distinguished guests, parents, teachers, non-teaching staff, alumni, and my dear friends,

It is indeed a special feeling to be standing in front of you and I feel privileged to share a few thoughts with all of you. Today as I stand before you, a graduate of Sri Atmananda Memorial School, the feeling is one of immense joy and accomplishment.

Looking back at the thirteen years I spent in this school, I can confidently say they were the most formative of my life. I met so many good friends. I was able to embark on a personal journey of inquiry. I have had the chance to experience the qualities of a fine education - the KPM Approach - that was given by the Founder of our school. It is an education which is hard to capture in words but is one that can be felt by all who have studied here.

The school has been an ideal place for me, as it provided me with space and time in which I was able to combine academic education and building relationships based on love and understanding. The teachers in this school have always been like our best friends, helping and guiding us in many matters. They were my support and gave me the courage to feel at ease with the world I live in. All this has contributed towards making me more mentally prepared and spiritually controlled in my approach to life. One of the greatest gifts the school gave me was the non-competitive nature of schooling. This has helped me immensely to develop a personal sense of worth which is today a part of my inner self. I am so grateful for this priceless gift.

I discovered my passions and what I want to do as I move ahead in life. This sense of direction and focus are the results of the grooming that this school has given me.

It gives me great joy to remember and express my gratitude to all my teachers right from LP to high school for the sincerity and dedication with which they undertook the task of providing me not just a good education but also guidance and direction in all aspects of life. I also believe this is the right moment to express my appreciation for all my friends who gave

me great support and encouragement in whatever I did. Let me wish each of you a wonderful journey ahead as you pursue your individual goals and dreams. Good luck!

I would be remiss if I did not mention the services provided by the non-teaching staff. They have been very helpful, supportive and I express my sincere gratitude to each and every one of them.

All of these great experiences I have had with this school would not be possible if it weren't for the two people who decided to put me in this school: my parents, my life support and a constant source of inspiration and motivation. I know today that they look at me with pride, but let me say it is I who look at them with such admiration for doing such a great job in raising me and educating me.

Finally, I would like to thank God. It is due to His grace and not our merit.... So I thank God for the opportunity to be part of this school. I look forward with hope knowing this grace will always be with me.

And now, just as my days at this great school have come to an end, so too must I conclude my thoughts. Yet, all good things don't necessarily have to come to an end. Life is a journey, and it does not offer you the chance to stay harboured at one port forever. If it did, it would not be as challenging and rewarding. So, friends, let us carry forward on this journey, using the light provided to us by Sri Atmananda Memorial School.

Thank you.

Respected Tarla Tr., distinguished guests, parents, teachers, non-teaching staff, and my friends,

This is the day that all of us have been waiting for. The day of graduation. I have heard from many of my seniors that this is the day on which you realize who you really are as an individual. This is the day on which you make the school proud.

When I look back at the past thirteen years of my school life, I have gained a lot. My school has taught me to share and to love. It has provided me with the ability to understand right and wrong and has given me the courage to accept my mistakes and take responsibility for my actions.

For instance, when I was in the UP, Adarsh, Gautam and I got a matchbox from the lab storeroom. It was something magical and rare at that time. Naturally, being young scientists, we wanted to try it out. So, we went outside and found a rocky incline completely covered with dry leaves. We had brought a piece of paper and started our experiment by lighting it on fire and throwing it on the leaves. We didn't expect such a result and as the whole hill actually caught fire, we ran just as all the teachers and staff came rushing up with water in buckets and hoses. A short time later, we returned to the scene and straightaway took responsibility.

All of these qualities arise from the self-confidence my school has imparted to me. At this point in time I can imagine myself as a diver, standing on the edge of the diving board, competing for the Olympic gold. I have had all these years of training and practice. Now, everyone's eyes are on me and the stage has been set for me to perform. I have in me the courage and determination to succeed.

For all of this, I would like to thank my teachers. My teachers were the ones who have monitored, loved, and cared for me from my childhood onwards. I owe a lot to them for making me who I am today. I would also like to thank all the non-teaching staff for helping me out, from the LP onwards. I would like to thank my parents, who have taken great pains in making sure that I completed my schooling in this prestigious institution.

When I look forward, I only have a few more months of school life left. It hurts a lot to realize that I am going to part from my teachers and friends. But, I don't feel heart-broken to leave my school because I know that this day was inevitable and I was prepared for it. My school prepared me for it. I don't feel heart-broken because I know that the school will always be here for me, and I can come back anytime. But what comforts me the most is knowing that I will always carry a bit of my school inside me.

Thank you.

Respected Principal, beloved teachers, parents, guest and my dear friends,

This is an occasion which the school has given me to deliver my parting words. But even at this juncture, I find it difficult to stand back and look at my school life as if it is a chapter which is about to close.

I loved my school and I enjoyed being here from the very first day. I was fortunate to experience all that a child desires - freedom, care, attention. But these privileges alone could not have given me what I have gained. It was the dedicated effort of my teachers.

I vividly remember many solitary conversations with my teachers. They were just casual talks - on a moss covered step, or inside the quiet library... But now when I recall them, I realize how much they have helped me develop emotionally and intellectually. These conversations remain as one of the most precious experiences of my life.

My teachers always showed genuine interest in whatever I did. They enthusiastically listened to all that I had to say, even when it was a bit over-imaginative. With great care they handled my weaknesses and nourished my strengths, giving attention to every aspect of my personality. But I was never coddled. I was always encouraged to work independently and find my own resources.

All this happened naturally, without my realization. But now I know that I can attribute each and every quality of mine to the constant and deliberate effort of my school.

When it comes to thanking my teachers, all I can say is that I am greatly indebted to them for making me what I am. I don't think I could ever adequately express my gratitude. It feels like an attempt to settle debts with my family.

My parents also played a key role in making my schooling successful. They supported me on all occasions and unconditionally trusted me and my school. Above all, I would like to thank God Almighty for the blessing of this school in my life.

This school has been an indispensable component of my life for the last thirteen years. Now it is time to leave this comfort zone and face the realities of the world. But I feel ready. I understand that this was what my school had been preparing me for. Besides, I know that graduation does not close this chapter of my life. My school will always be alive within me - not just in the form of memories but in the form of all that she has instilled in me. I consider graduation as the privilege to carry my school into the world and use what she has given me.

I believe that the search for perfection continues throughout the life of a person. However, I can confidently say that my school has well begun my expedition.

Thank you.

Namaste,

Respected Tarla Tr., distinguished guests, beloved teachers, staff, and my dear friends,

Today is a very special moment in the life of each one of us in 12th Standard - we are being formally declared graduates of Sri Atmananda Memorial School. I had always wondered how we would feel when our graduation day came and today that day has arrived.

I can hardly believe that I am going to complete my school days in a few months. I feel greatly privileged that I was able to spend thirteen long years of my life in Sri Atmananda Memorial School.

Everyday, I came to my school - a place where I felt perfectly secure and happy. During vacation, I would anxiously wait for our school to re-open. Now, when I look back, I realize that each and every day, each and every moment that I spent in my school has been so precious and rewarding to me. My school is a blend of education and enjoyment, sweetness and greatness.

We have been living in a world full of happiness and freedom. We were surrounded by people whom we liked and who liked us. Our teachers were always there to make us feel comfortable in whatever we were doing. The "do's" and "don'ts" never bothered us, as we could always move towards what fascinated us. Gradually, we gained the strength and courage to take our own stand.

When we reached the higher classes, I was often surprised to find that we had already done many of the experiments which we discussed, in the LP and UP. Be it reflection through a prism, rainbow colours, magnetism or sense organs ... we could immediately recollect how we had done it earlier. Though I had not realized the complexities of those concepts then, I could always recollect the amazement and excitement with which we had done it years ago. Besides, the appreciation that I got from my teachers has always been a source of inspiration to me.

However, the time has come for us to get excited to experience the challenges of the future. I know that it is not like going from LP to UP or from UP to high school, it is from Sri Atmananda Memorial School to a new world.

There I will definitely miss the presence of my near and dear teachers and friends. All these years we have played together, danced together. We shared our joys and sorrows, we solved problems together and somewhere in between those happy hours, learning was going on. And I was learning to love learning!

On this momentous occasion, I seek everyone's blessings for my journey ahead; especially that of my teachers, without whose care and affection I wouldn't have come up to this level. And now, a word about our principal, Tarla Tr. - whose face always radiates a tender affection, whose presence itself makes us feel the warmth of love and care. We could always go to her and talk about anything we wished - sure she would calm us with a gentle smile and arrive at an agreeable solution to our problems.

I believe that the school's approach is the best possible answer to the problems facing the world because a change in the world is possible only through a happy childhood, creating happy individuals.

My pride in being a student of Sri Atmananda Memorial School will be justified only when I live up to the greatness of the values and qualities invested in me by my school. Perhaps that is the best possible expression of my love for my school.

May I conclude by expressing my boundless love and gratitude to all my teachers for all that they have rendered throughout these years.

Thank you.

With due deference to the Founder and Family members, principal, teachers, staff and my loving friends, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my sincere gratitude to the school as a whole, which rendered great moral support to me whenever I needed it. The school is the one who has cared for me with love and affection and who is responsible for my present growth as well as my future development.

I don't know what will happen when I leave school. When I go to college it will be a different atmosphere and I don't know how I will adapt to that, since I have gotten the best teachers and friends from this school. I can't imagine that there is anything left; everything was the best from this school, and no matter how hard I search, I will not find anything that can match what I got from this school.

My teachers have always helped me. When I couldn't do something they would help me out and taught me how to manage and be organized. In fact, they used to save me from trouble. They could see problems coming and would either warn me or protect me from them. They have always been patient with me, and while there were situations where they could have become impatient, they never did.

My friends and I understand each other from our hearts. My friends have always been there for me and are a source of inspiration.

My teachers and friends are not the only ones who have had an impact on me; everyone here has helped me every day for the past fourteen years. There is just not enough time to describe each incident and the multitude of ways I have been helped. But I will never forget the continuous support and care they have given me.

I thank God for being kind enough to let me be one of the fortunate students of this school. I thank my parents for sending me to this school and giving me all the happiness I can ever get.

In every breath I take, in every step I make I will always respect and salute my great school, Sri Atmananda Memorial School.

13

Thank you.

Respected Tarla Tr., distinguished guests, parents, teachers, staff and my dear friends,

First of all, I would like to thank the management for running such a great institution. I thank the teachers for supporting me all these years. The teachers were there when I needed them; they were all like mothers to me. They took care of me like a child all these years. I even used to tell them my personal feelings; they are that close to me. Teachers helped me to overcome shyness, exam tension and tutored me individually. In the LP teachers helped me to join games on the playground and supported me throughout. When I was preparing for the tenth exam teachers were ready to help me anytime between six in the morning to seven at night.

I also want to thank the staff of our school for helping us all these years. They were the ones who helped us by giving us the materials that we needed during Expo and graduation preparation.

I would like to thank my dear fellow graduates who have supported me and guided me for the past thirteen years. I was lucky to have such good friends who helped me whenever I was in need. I can't bear the thought that I am going to leave them, since they have been a part of my life for these many years.

All my school days were great, and I love coming to school everyday. It was just like home-sweet-home. When my friends told me "it's time to leave school" I felt very bad. Then I thought, if the school could build a college, it would be great.

If I could rejoin this school from the LP, it would be nice. I love this school that much. I can't imagine leaving here. Last year's graduated students told me, "You are in heaven, man." Thank you.

Respected Tarla Tr., guests, parents, teachers, staff and friends,

I remember the day I first joined the school. I got ready early that morning put on a pair of black shorts, a green t-shirt, white socks and black shoes. Tucked my new blue "Popy kooda" with its brightly coloured balloons in the crook of my arm and walked happily and proudly to the bus stop.

I loved school from my very first day, back in 1995. Thirteen years have gone by and I still love coming to school. Nothing has changed except for the fact that I've grown a "few inches" taller and gained a "few pounds" heavier.

It was fun in the LP but after a while I yearned to join the middle school. Then in middle school it was an impatient wait to join high school. Now that I've reached the summit - the twelfth Standard, I'd like to make a right about turn and go back to the LP and start all over again. For me, school was a home away from home. Thirteen years of pure joy! Those days of running round the playground, building roads and bridges in the sand, games of cricket and football, or just sitting round chatting. I'd like to play once again on the swings in LP but I'm afraid that the chains might break! It was here at school that we said our first few lines in public and did our first dance steps.

I wish that graduation meant being given the honour of staying on forever in this school. If the school would have me now, with just a twelfth standard, qualification, I'd gladly stay on as a babysitter, or whatever.

My world till now mainly consisted of home and school. And I was pretty content and happy. But now I realize I have to take a big step out into a different world. I know things are not going to be the same anymore but I know that what I've learnt from school will stand me in good stead.

The school has taught us much more than our lessons. We learn the simple things which will help to make life less hard when we go out to fight our battles in the world. Honesty, courage, sharing, industry, faith in God, our fellow creatures and ourselves. If men and women would only

trust, understand and help one another, as the children in this school do, what a wonderful place the world would be.

At this time I'd like to thank God for giving me the opportunity to study in this school.

Then I wish to thank Tarla Tr., for being there, always smiling and encouraging us. Next, I'd like to thank each and every one of my teachers from the LKG to the twelfth. Along with the curriculum, we children of Sri Atmananda Memorial School got the warmth that is a vital element for the soul of a child. I know that I was not a perfect student - rather loud and very playful but all of you were the perfect teachers for me. Thank you for your patience and for having put up with me all these years. I will always remember you when I sit on a bench in some college listening to lectures.

I've got to thank my classmates and all my other friends for the consideration and help they gave me. I'll really miss you and all the good times we had together. I also want to thank the non-teaching staff for all the help they gave me.

Finally, a big thank-you to my parents, who believed in this school and encouraged and supported me all these years.

To conclude, as someone said, "Memory is a way of holding onto the things you love, the things you are, and the things you never want to lose." I'll always cherish my memories of school.

Thank you.