

**June 2021**  
**61<sup>st</sup> Commencement Exercises**  
**Online Commencement Video**  
**Haigazian University Beirut**

## **PRESIDENT'S WORD**

Class of 2021,

For the second consecutive year now, our graduation ceremonies have been unconventional, yet real. Real is the fact that your diploma, cap and gown, fully represent the honor that follows your academic accomplishment.

Oh, how I missed mingling with you on campus to listen to your ideas and to share with you some of mine.

On behalf of the Board, Faculty, and their vote to confer upon you your degrees today, I congratulate you with some words of counsel.

You are wearing a gown that represents the responsibility that will come with your Bachelors or Masters Degree. Your gown is not worn to add weight on you. It is not worn to make you hide under it, but rather to lose yourself in the comfort of the knowledge you have received, and the comfort education installs on you.

Four characteristics, then, for you, as Haigazian graduates, to keep in mind:

**Be Graceful.** Be graceful, for you have received so much. You have been granted rich experiences even in the hardest of days. Be graceful in an anxious and angry world, keeping in mind that you have been recipients of grace, kindness and opportunity, and many believed in your potential. Do not feel shy to express your gratitude to those around you, and gratitude for having received God's gift of life, and life's gift of growth.

**Be Observant.** As Haigazian University graduates, keep inquiring, analyzing, and synthesizing. Examine the other side, and develop your side. Do not be artless followers, but leaders in virtue. An observant person focuses on how to assess and build, not to simply possess and freeze.

**Be Willing.** Willing to share, to serve, to stand for the truth, and to go the extra mile. Be willing to change yourself and your world into the deeper, and maintain hope against all odds. You value equals how much you are willing to walk, to meet, to create, and to initiate.

**Be Nurturing.** You grew, so let others grow. You accomplished, so let others accomplish. You were cared for, so care for others. Nurture others through skilled actions, edifying words and fair attitudes so that they may reach high levels of fulfillment in their lives.

Graceful, Observant, Willing, and Nurturing. The four letters of your G, O, W, N, that is what I hope your gown will remind you of.

How about the CAP? And its C, A and P? Well, my time is short, so let us leave that to your next, higher diploma. Just make sure your cap brings you honor and you honor your Haigazian degree. Do not use the cap as a closure to your journey of learning.

May God Almighty bless you and keep you and may you shine where there is darkness, and may your graduation be a sign of hope for those around you.

Mabrouk. Shnorhavorutyoun.

Rev. Paul Haidostian, Ph.D.  
President  
Beirut, June 2021