

Graduation Day

Dr John Anderson*

Amidst a festal atmosphere of varied colours and fine attire,
The graduands gather with a sense of anticipation.
They clamour to ensure the best vantage point.

Meticulous planning and organisation come to fruition.
Many groups of graduands and guests assemble
To begin the ceremonial clockwork of the graduation day.

Fanfare sounds in the packed auditorium.
The academic procession of grandeur follows.
Every person stands – a sense of awe pervades.

The endless parade of graduates walk ‘across the stage’.
Rewards are claimed to the sound of reverberating applause.
Audible cheers accompany prominent achievers.

My turn has come to mount the stage.
A mixture of emotions – remember the protocol.
Doffing and shaking of hands – eyes all cast toward me.

Feelings of immense pride – a momentous glory.
A surreal and uplifting experience.
Testamur firmly clenched in my hand to the sound of resounding
acclamation.

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A mystical day of ceremony and pageantry.
The musical interlude and occasional address,
subsumed in a torrent of adrenalin and high emotion.

As photographs are taken in amongst a sea of faces,
there is much congratulation, and
one pauses to contemplate the meaning of graduation.

A confusing whirl of feelings rise above the noble sentiments.
The overriding feeling;
launched into a world of endless challenges with unfathomable
opportunities.