



Our speech for 2018

Our speech this year is an extension of our speeches in the last two years. So you know how we started, our goals, the seriousness of our dedication to the desired goal...

We also talked about the educational curriculums that we are preparing, our method of teaching Arabic and religion, our social activities, and our true identity that we must preserve.



In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful

Praise be to God, may peace be upon our prophet Mohammad, his holy family and noble companions..

I would like to begin my speech on behalf of the members of **HOODAN-NOOR** Association & School by welcoming our dear students first, because they are the reason we are gathering here now.

I welcome dear parents who are striving to achieve a decent life and a bright future for their children.

This year, we have distinguished guests from the Department of Education. We are pleased by their acceptance of our invitation and honored to have them with us despite their busy schedule. They truly spare no effort to implement the Australian State's policy of supporting non-English language education and make extraordinary efforts to preserve Arabic language education in particular, and thus they're helping us in maintaining our cultural identity... They have all our thanks, respect and appreciation.

And welcome to all of you.

Our speech this year is an extension of our speeches in the last two years. We have gathered the speeches together in this booklet, which will help you know how we started, our goals, the seriousness of our dedication to the desired goal and also to keep these broad lines in front of our eyes so we never lose track on this path.

- ◆ **In our speech in 2016**, we quoted sayings by the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him and his family) and sayings by his family (peace be upon them) as evidence showing us the importance, sanctity, and duty to always seek knowledge.
- ◆ We talked about the commandment of the late *Scholar Sheikh Mahmoud Merhej* (may God's mercy and blessings be upon him), which we summarized in seven items, in which the Sheikh spoke about our feelings and duty towards Australia and our community, and the plan of action that we have to adopt and maintain.
- ◆ We also mentioned a quote by the *Scholar Sheikh Suleiman Ahmad* (may God's mercy and blessings be upon him), in which he mourns the painful reality of laziness and lingering from which we suffer.
- ◆ Then we mentioned a quote by the *Scholar Sheikh Abdul Latif Saood* (may God's mercy and blessings be upon him) in which he urges us to praise knowledge seeking and knowledge seekers being teachers or students.
- ◆ And we quoted the words of the Scholar Sheikh Tammam Ahmed (may God protect him) where he warns us against falling into chaos, loss and the decline of morality and he invites us to work to save our history, literature and identity...



In the past year in 2017:

- ◆ We talked about our fear of losing identity, and that the preservation of identity lies mainly in learning Arabic.
- ◆ We also talked about the different ways of the Australian state support to preserve the Arabic language and identity.
- ◆ We talked about the fact that we will not make significant change and tangible progress unless the parents cooperate with us and support us in following up the homework and duties of their children at home.
- ◆ And we talked about our efforts to develop Arabic language teaching curriculums that fit with the capabilities and conditions of our students here, and also with the existing modern teaching style in Australia.

I am pleased to inform you, in this speech, that this year I have made a significant progress, and, thanks to God, I have gained quite an appreciable experience in preparing and inventing teaching curriculums for different levels of education in a simple, understandable, friendly and logically constructed manner that allows the student to learn the structure of the Arabic language in the way sentences are composed, or what we call Arabic grammar, and that's what makes the students understand what they're doing!

In other words, the students do not just blindly copy and paste! They do not just read and write without understanding! But they earn the correct understanding of what they read and what they write, with the ability to translate between Arabic and English, which will now and later enable them to speak and correctly comprehend the language. And who knows! Our students may, with time, gain solid experience and adopt translation as their future career.

The preparation of these curriculums does not just happen overnight! It's rather the result of a research that has lasted for years and still going on, and it is a painstaking and continuous work at all hours night and day and throughout the days, and this will continue in the coming years, if we were destined to live longer, so that we can finish preparing all the levels... And I believe that this curriculum will make the lives of students and teachers much easier...

And I cannot forget to thank the respected teachers and dear students for their contribution by correcting any typos and making notes of them in the booklets I prepare for them, and I have modified many things and I still do... and I can say that they are my partners in this work.

Our way of teaching:

We have focused in teaching on quality rather than quantity in the sense that each class consists of about twenty to thirty students taught by four teachers (three



female teachers and a male) at a rate of five to six students per teacher, in addition to my children Alexander and Noah who also assist in teaching where possible. And if we need to increase the number of teachers, we will seek to do so in the coming year, God's will.

We also provide the lovely atmosphere and fun in our dealings with our students so they feel we are not only teachers but their teachers and friends at the same time.

And I would like to take this opportunity to thank the teachers for their hard and exceptional work. Thank you to Ms. Sonia, Ms. Malak, and Mrs. Naamet my wife and my coordinator both at home and at school.

We also adopt modern methods of education. So in addition to pen, paper, colouring, and the use of songs and flash cards in education, we have introduced technology through the use of useful educational applications on iPad, and we will seek to use a projector in class next year. We are also planning to implement other modern technology tools that we talk about in due time.

As for the religious teaching, I'm also preparing a variety of booklets to teach and explain the importance of prayer, or to learn some religious supplications and ethics, in addition to booklets dedicated to teach about religious festivals and events that happen to be celebrated during the school year. There are also booklets including stories of the prophets, and others focusing on verses from the Holy Qur'an... And I try to relate the teachings in all those booklets together as sequentially as possible.

But please be aware that we see the students only once a week! This is if one does not miss some lessons! And even if we have a positive impact on changing the logic and way of thinking of students, or in changing some of their life behaviours; And even if we planted a shadow of the faith light in their small hearts, which need permanent and continuous care. And even if we made them love Arabic and religious teachings somewhat.

we will not make much progress without the cooperation of parents and close follow-up of their children at home!... Therefore, we thank the parents who collaborate with the school for the good and success of their children, and many of you did this, but we always look for more commitment and involvement in the coming year, God's will. May God reward you.

Our social activity:

It remains to be noted that we promised you in our speech last year we'd seek to establish activities for students outside the classroom so as to revive the spirit of social communication between the school, students and parents, which fosters a sense of belonging, strengthens the ties, expands acquaintance and helps in



preserving identity and language. And we kept our promise and organised after each semester a school picnic where all of us -or those who attended- gathered in a public park and we prepared various entertaining sports activities. The virtuous teachers were also present, and we all participated in the kids' play in an atmosphere filled with joy and happiness... and we will carry on doing such picnics in the coming year, God's will, and each time we will try to introduce new things to entertain so we delight the kids as much as possible.

Dear audience, the Prince of believers, Imam Ali bin Abi Talib ^(peace be upon him), says:

“Induce people’s passion towards us, not their hatred.”

And we remind you and ourselves of the human image that we should be on, and it is our true identity, which is presented in the words of Imam Muhammad al-Baqir ^(peace be upon him).

“Our followers are only those who obey God, those who are only known by their humility, reverence, trustworthiness, always remembering God; those who pray, fast, are good to their parents; those who help the poor and fellows in need among their neighbours and orphans; those who are truthful, who recite the Holy Qur’an, who say nothing but good of people and those who are worthy of their community’s trust and confidence.”

Dear students, honorable parents, honored guests,

The path to knowledge is long, it begins and never ends, but it's dignifying. Almighty Allah says in surat Azzumar in His Holy Qur'an:

“Say: ‘Are those who know equal to those who know not?’ It is only men of understanding who will remember.”

Prophet Muhammad (prayers and peace be upon him and his family) says:

“He who goes out to seek knowledge is indeed on the path of Allah until he returns.”

And Imam Ali (peace be upon him) says:

“knowledge is life.” “There is no treasure more profitable than knowledge.” “There is no source of dignity like knowledge.”

Welcome to all of you and thank you for attending, we wish you a good time with the rest of our ceremony today, and sorry if the speech was long. May God leads us to what is good and fruitful, and prayers and peace be upon prophet Muhammad and his family.

May God's mercy and blessings be upon you.



Sleiman Mouin Harbouki (Abu Iskander)

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