

select group shares a single feature . . . it demands as much as it satisfies, it isolates as much as it enhances. Each minority possesses a special beauty, wisdom and insight . . . but as is the case with all limited and valuable commodities, these attributes cannot be purchased cheaply.

You may join the minority of people who find their own self-respect in helping others to find theirs.

You may choose to become one of the few who prefer to ask questions rather than to be told answers; who are eager to match wits with the world to make it and themselves the wiser.

You may become one of society's true leaders daring to speak the unpopular thought if it is to defend the public good.

Many of you already comprehend the extraordinary gift granted to members of a minority — compassion and courage; the ability to see in every obstacle to progress, a spur towards progress; and to see in every sign of intolerance or injustice, the incentive and determination to defeat it.

Most of you also realize that this distinction cannot be overemphasized or romanticized; that minority rights are not at all times incompatible with the majority view. You recognize that in all debates there are two sides, and that in some disputes, both sides may possess a degree of validity and a measure of merit.

This ability — to reason without passion, to reject sentimentality which obscures fact — is intellectual integrity.

This gift for clear and direct vision will admit you to the minority of people who keep their dignity in the face of indignation, and release their indignation with a sense of dignity.

Above all, you are a member of the greatest minority . . . the minority of one. For there is no world but the one we see, no dream but the one we dream and no road ahead but the one we choose to travel.

We are all very special throughout the journey of life. We only become the same at the very end.

On this day of new beginnings, may each of you recreate the world in your own image, make a career of its challenge and a profession of its mystery. Let it be said of you that you were not one among many, but to the many you were one.