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“You would say, be still.”

For approximately eighteen years, we, the class of 2013, have been observers. We have gone about the years bouncing between schools, home, the occasional venture into other cities, and if we are lucky, maybe we have seen more than just what we have become comfortable with in Arkansas. For the past eighteen years, we have been watching, learning, and still. Suddenly we are graduating, and we are being thrust into a world we barely know, and we become more than just observers, more than just teenagers, more than just students. We become the doers, the people of action; we realize there is a future, and it is us.

But what are we trying to do? Throughout history, entire civilizations have attempted to answer the same question; two stand out. The Visigoths of Germany, for one, rose to power roughly 1700 years ago and were known for two characteristics: one, the fact that they were excellent horsemen; and two, their goal of pillaging most of Europe. They were widely known as being uncivilized, crude, greedy, and were never happy with what they had. Alternately, there were the Athenians of Greece 2500 years ago. They believed in reason and invented ideas that still influence our culture today, such as philosophy and democracy, but more importantly, Athenians strove for satisfaction in themselves as well as within their society. Everything they did and everything they created all centered on the idea that a sense of fulfillment and peace was attainable through their actions, and this is what influenced the world so resoundly. And that is what we are trying to do. Like Athenian concepts, we have the capability of being unstoppable. Go save the world or create a new one, meet your goals or get new dreams—regardless of where we all go and what we all do after tonight, we are all motivated by knowing we have the ability to actively achieve satisfaction, both personal and global, no matter the obstacles. We are, starting now, working on creating our legacy.

At some point in your life, there will come a time when you must break away from being the still observer we have all gotten used to being and begin to move towards this satisfaction and impact. “Move with the full force you would find behind the eyes of someone who could’ve spent their life satisfying a million desires, but instead decided to conquer just one; move like a legion of natural disasters; move as swiftly as the knowledge learned by the students of practice; move so [no one can] dismiss you; like sunlight through stained glass, not around but through each mass, ...raised against you; move because being still is something [no one can ever] make you do.”

Fellow graduates, it is our time to be Athenians, it is our time to be satisfied juggernauts. It is our time to move.

Thank you.

*It is our time to be great*