

**Speech by the Chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association
at the Bar Scholarship Presentation Ceremony**

CJ, Members of the judiciary, Members of the Bar, Ladies and Gentlemen

I welcome you to another year in the history of the Bar Scholarship scheme and another six scholarships to present.

These are more glittering prizes for the scholars to add to their already long, long lists of achievements.

The phrase 'glittering prize' is apt in this context because it was coined by a famous English barrister, F.E. Smith, later Lord Chancellor and first Lord Birkenhead.

F.E. Smith was a formidable advocate, a real hard-worker and possessed of a fine legal brain that was truly remarkable.

He was so astonishingly brainy, but vain with it, that the Margot Asquith, wife of the PM, said of him "*F. E. Smith is very clever, but sometimes his brains go to his head.*"

When he was Rector of Glasgow University he gave an address in 1923 on the shape of the world after WWI.

He noted the tensions always present in the evolution of societies and the opportunities they presented to individuals. He said:

'The world continues to offer glittering prizes to those who have stout hearts and sharp swords..'

Those words are all that are remembered from that address and, because of the academic context of the occasion of the talk, are often used to encourage gifted men and women who are starting out on a career.

I say to the new scholars, take note of them.

Even though blessed with scholarships and status, it will not be all plain sailing. You will inevitably experience some difficulties and disappointments in your careers. You will need fortitude and heart to overcome them.

As for the sharp swords, your wit and intellect may indeed equip you to strike hard in a court-room context and, indeed, circumstances may require that you do this from time to time.

But remember that swords should stay in their sheathes normally and an excessively combative advocate hounding a colleague who is trying to make the best of a poor case is not a pretty sight.

Such a barrister proves the truth of Isabella's words in Shakespeare's 'Measure for Measure':

'Oh, it is excellent to have a giant's strength, but it is tyrannous to use it like a giant.'

With these words, I now invite the Chief Justice-a legal giant-to speak and then present the Scholarship certificates.

Philip Dykes SC
Chairman
Hong Kong Bar Association
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