**CHARACTER IS HIGHER THAN INTELLECT**

Start with the great name of God who is the cherisher and the sustainer of the lords of the lords and the creators of the creators.

Honorable Chief Guest, Respectful Judges, Dear participants and colleagues

 Assalam-o-Alekum

The topic of my today’s speech is “Character is higher than intellect”

Mr. President Sir,

 We all know how easy it is to follow the majority, to do as everyone else seems to be doing, to do only that which is considered average. It takes a strong individual to live a life based on his or her own ideals. Such a person shows strength simply in ability to remain on a chosen path regardless of the inevitable counter forces.

It is the fear of these counter forces that keeps most of us away from our natural desire to learn in order to fulfill our desire for acceptance. It is the fear of these counter forces that threatens us to inaction rather than face failure.

Dear Sir,

 We offer our highest admiration to those who act, those who demonstrate character. We recognize that it is not only amazing to have reasoning power and knowledge; it is incredible to veer from the norm and act in a way as to be a living example of one’s beliefs. Through our admiration we realize that character is higher than intellect.

If we believe in something, the beliefs of others, particularly those who speak of impossibilities should be ignored. Since we all are able to rationalize that error is part of human nature we should not be afraid of it, rather we should look at it more like Edison who saw it as a stepping stone bringing him closer to his goal.

Mr. President Sir,

 In realizing that character is higher that intellect we should not only admire it in others we should strive to make it our own.

This empowering thought is fuel to drive us to success. We have the power to be the best we can be by acting on our dreams. We can learn what we need along the way.

Character is higher than intellect... A great soul will be strong to live, as well as to think.

Thanks