

About the Book

In *Secret Canons For Academic Excellence*, you will unearth the tested and proven secret rules that guarantee academic excellence. These secret principles for academic excellence are succinctly written in a summarized on-the-go approach to help students perform extraordinarily in their academics. This book will help struggling students to become top performers and help high-performing students to become exceptional and continuous record-breakers. The specificity of these rules makes them readily applicable for outstanding performance in academics.

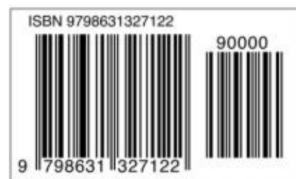
If you read this book and apply the principles in it, you are guaranteed to perform outstandingly in your studies. Moreover, the universality of these principles also guarantees excellence in other areas of life. The goal of this book is to equip students (and those who love them) for all-around excellence. The principles are written in a simple format for students at all levels to understand. By reading this book, you are in for a positive transformation in your academics and all other areas of life.

About the Author

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SECRET CANONS — FOR — ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

SAMUEL AYINDE

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Oluwatobi Ayinde, my helpmeet

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Mr Michael Araoye Ayinde and Mrs Rachael Sijuwade Ayinde.

*Thank you very much for striving hard to be models of
excellence and for showing with your lives that impossibility is a
coinage for "important possibility"*

And

To

All other hands that mold me or are making me.

I am most grateful to you all.

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INTRODUCTION

Read these secret canons for academic excellence. Study each of them. Meditate on each of them. Put each of them into practice. This book has the capacity to transform you academically. The treasures unleashed in this book can transform your life. I wish you all the best in your academic endeavor and other areas of your life.

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CHAPTER 1: TIME MANAGEMENT

Sowing right, and at the right time yields optimum harvest. Each day, twenty-four hours are credited into your account. How you spend it places you in a company: the failure, the average performers or the distinct.

If you are playing when you should be reading, you need self-deliverance. Your academic transcripts will be influenced by how you are able to manage your time. Give no room for procrastination lest it takes the entire territory.

The outstanding students maximize their discretions to do what is expedient per time, the poor performers wait till they are instructed. If all your productive time is spent behind the screen, you are not wise and you may not likely appear on it, except as spectator.

If all you spend your gracious time on is games, you are not prudent. If you spend your leisure substantially on unprofitable discussions, you are not wise. If you spend all your inelastic time on fashion, how unwise of you. Some students pile up their notes till few days to exams, overstretch their brain to cover up, yet they wonder they perform so poorly.

Round-the-clock reading without giving a measured time for relaxation is not right. A student who is doing what is right every minute is worthy of an honor, the one who is doing the right thing every second is worthy of several honors. Whatever you devote your time to takes it. If you wait till tomorrow to do "round-the-clock"

studying, then you are in for a long wait, perhaps an eternity of waiting because, the “tomorrow” that you await may never come.

Students who spend their time to major on the minors scarcely excel. You will never escape poor performance except you devote your time to studying. There is no time to say, 'no time'. Be consumed up by the principal—studies. It is at your detriment to use up your study time for momentary self-gratifications and leisure. Guide against it.

Time is inelastic; maximize it.

High-flying students and poor performers have this in common: twenty-four hours, every day. Students who expend their time in irrelevant discussions end up with irrelevant results. Will you like to look back in years to come on your academic pursuit and rejoice? Looking back at yesterday, how much time did you devote to studies? That is a very good sign.

CHAPTER 2: DILIGENCE

If you study but do not excel, study hard; if you study hard but do not excel; study harder; if you study harder but do not excel, study hardest. Keep increasing your study-intensity until you emerge an academic shine.

The art of studying can be compared to being taken over by a spirit. While for some students, they wait for the spirit to take them over, thereby subjecting themselves to the mercies of the spirit. This is not the kind of perspective that breeds excellence.

For excellent students, when the spirit refuses to move them, they invoke the spirit and actively engage it to its limits. Therefore, to attain academic excellence, don't always wait to be move by the spirit. When the spirit refuses to move you, move the spirit. Study until you are fully convinced that you have truly studied, after which you should study more. What is important is that a party should move another, and their collisions should birth a process of intense scholarship, and dislodge laxity, lethargy, laziness and mediocrity with full force.

Sloth makes you poor; diligence brings wealth.^[1]

At the commitment table, let your reading roar. Work hard and become a leader; be lazy and never succeed.^[2]

Do not be deceived:

**you can never attain a stage wherein you
will not study hard yet have exceptional
results. Study!**

Many want to be the best student but are not ready to pay the price that comes with being the best. What a contradiction! Embrace the art and act of studying. Without it, you will be reduced to a loaf of bread in studentship. Whether you are a day reader, a night reader or you combine both, this is the chief: Let your aura of addicted studying fill the atmosphere. Claiming distinction is an empty claim if you do not bury your head in books.

Every student is working hard, either to excel or fail. Which group do you belong? Many a student feign passion for studying, but a diligent student who can find. Build up yourself in the most expedient studentship. Read comprehensively. If you wait till you are fully comfortable before studying, you may not likely study. Don't fold your arms and expect "miracle" to happen. Study hard. Assimilate it. If not, draw a formula to study it. If not, cram it. Whatsoever it will take, do everything godly to be outstanding in that course (or subject).

Who shall ascend to the zenith of the academic mountains? They that have studious hands and learning hearts. How can an aspiring student keep flying? By holding the doctrine of dedicated studying very firmly. To maintain resounding success, let the aura of diligence keep flowing. Books is to the student as water is to human beings. Sow sparingly, reap sparingly. Sow enormously, reap enormously. Some students claim that schooling is not for studying. But why does school authority primarily admit students?

**Excellent students study, not only because
they don't want to fail. Much more, they study
to be outstanding—they are never on the
defensive but always on the offensive.**

Until you put all that you have and that you are into your studies, you would not have shown your dogged determination to be outstanding. Studying hard does not kill; it is not studying that destroys. The light of a dedicated, devoted and diligent student shines brighter and brighter and brighter boundlessly. How much you know determines how high you will soar.

Heavy eating and heavy studying are mutually exclusive. Diligence and poor performance are mutually exclusive. Read everywhere, be it by action or by conduct. Continuous studying is the best form of studying, and it produces best results. You have not put in your best until you put in your "very best". Remember, your very best is infinite, limitless and boundless. Read until you are read as the best of all the best. Keep studying hard even when you become the studied in your field. However, keep in mind that studying hard on the irrelevant and not studying at all are twins.

Academic excellence does not come by accident; it is a product of deliberate and devoted commitment. How sacrificial you are at studying places you on a grade point, either low or high. There are no hard and fast rules to studying. Discover how best you study and be devoted to it.

Do you desire to be distinct? Throw a distinct commitment into studying.

Be persistent with all diligence and with all your strength because without diligence, no student can see nor have distinction.

Having done all to excel, excel outstandingly!

CHAPTER 3: COMPLACENCY

The sybarites, hedonists, and the complacent have a common denominator: microscopic grade points.

Despite their desires, the lazy will come to ruin, for their hands refuse to work.^[3]

Give no foothold to complacency, lest it becomes a stronghold. Don't give up just yet! You can be better than your current best. Since your academic business is your Maker's business, handling it with levity is an insult to Him. If you are apathetic to academic excellence, you are a cog in the wheel of studentship. A student handling his studies with levity is unwise. The lazy and the complacent have this one thing in common: insignificant grade points. The complacent students discuss academic challenges while the studious students proffer solutions to the challenges.

Do you want to anger a lethargic student? Bring up a discussion on academic excellence. Some say "they cannot kill themselves" but no student has died engaging wise studying.

Students who thread the path of apathy end up looking for sympathy.

Little show of apathy here and there will eventually form an avalanche of poor grades. Regressive academic performance takes

over the moment you think you have “arrived”. That you are at the brink of finishing and the domain of your grade point is already set is not an excuse for complacency.

**There are no students who cannot excel.
There are only those who are unwilling to
work themselves to excellence.**

There can be students who study (without direction) and fail, but it is an aberration to have those who are lethargic yet have distinctions. Lazy students are never outstanding; outstanding students are never lazy. If you are the best in your class, never go complacent, else you will be outrun. In the school of academic excellence, overtaking is legal.

You can overtake if you are determined; you can be overtaken if you are complacent. Never get satisfied with a good result, when you can have a better one. Never stay satiated with a better result, when you can have the best one.

**Negligence in studying might not only give
you poor result, it can as well position you for
a repeat, re-sit, “carry over” or an advice to
withdraw.**

Laxity and fantastic grade points are antithetical. Presiding over past success closes door to future successes. Apathy towards course work produces “apathetic” results.

CHAPTER 4: ASSOCIATION

In electromagnetism, like poles repel; but in life, likeminded people attract. Befriend the insouciant and fail; court the distinct and excel. Those who follow the crowd thoughtlessly disappear into the thin air of nothingness. If you radiate zeal for excellence, you will be surrounded by the excellent sooner than expected. If you radiate compromise, expect the bandit of “compromisers” soonest.

Walking with students of higher academic standing is not an *outré*; it is rather needful and beneficial. A leaf left for a long time on a soap, becomes just like the soap; if you maximize the company of the intelligent, you fit into their number.

Without well-defined stand, you cannot be a standard. Don't be capricious, being pushed here and there indiscriminately by every waves of friendship. Rather, define your stand. Make it excellence. Do you envision academic distinction? Have you ignited the passion to be outstanding? Be careful with whom you share it, lest you become a specimen for fire extinguishers.

It is better to relish the blessedness of solitude than to company with fools. If you cannot beat them, walk alone because you cannot join the bandwagons of unserious students. Keeping the company of students who are all out for excellence is a sure way of making distinction. Habituate it. Whether you are an optimist or a pessimist, your thoughts are magnetic, they attract like-minded fellow students to you. If you keep rubbing mind with the great, you are on your way to greatness; if you keep outstanding students as friends, you

may soon become one. Keep your distance away from those indifferent to failure; stay away from spaces that indulge failure.

You cannot keep dwelling in the company of negative students, emulating their ways and having excellent results.

Are you easily influenced negatively? Excellence in studentship and other spheres of life may become elusive to you. Good influence is to excellence as bad influence is to failure. Some students have either consciously or unconsciously signed up for failure. Never be found in their company. If strong students submit to bad influence, they are crushed. Keeping mere pleasure-seekers as friends is a hallmark of foolishness and it is one that ushers you unto the high road of poor-performance. Some students despise success; some discuss success; some do success—which group do you belong?

Build bridges with the committed students and walls against the unrepentant insouciant. Who is your mentor in the academic terrain? Who do you aspire to be like? Take a step backwards and assess your mentor. Hard truth: you can hardly excel if your mentor is a poor performer. Your transcripts may be the carbon copy of that fellow's.

Exam period is not an appropriate time to break up a relationship. Be wise! Be watchful of the group you join. It determines how you far in your academic pursuit. Any group that is apathetic or indignant to academic excellence is not worth joining, as a student. It is better to walk away than listening to self-defense of poor performing senior colleagues. Bad influence will not come your way with its identity boldly written on a placard. Watch your steps.

How successful you will be as a student depends on the friends you keep, the books you read and how sacrificial you are. Remember, you are admitted individually. If you permit indiscriminate friendship to deter you from excelling, you are not wise. Have academic success-oriented friends (students of like passion for academic excellence) and spend time with them.

The student who does not walk in the way of the insouciant nor stand in the path of the complacent nor sit in the seat of the

negligent nor heed the counsel of the lethargic but assiduously studies will hit a home run of dwelling in the tabernacle of soaring students.

CHAPTER 5: PRETENSE

Students who keep double standards encounter several challenges and have numerous troubles. Who you are is more pivotal than who you pretend to be. Studentship is an orange. If it is ripe inside, it will be evident outside. Never feign knowledge. You don't know until you truly know. Never feign understanding. You don't understand until you evidently understand. The result of pretense is shame and disgrace.

Don't be an empty talker; empty talkers always have poor results. Don't just talk excellence. Do it! You may prop those big textbooks before you, feigning diligence for several hours, while your mind is uncoordinated. Who are you deceiving? Yourself! Big textbooks are no guarantees for excellence. Some students cover their lack direction and sense of purposelessness with the big books and so the world does not see past the deception. Still, these students are surprised that they fail; funny!

If you sincerely cry out for help, you will surely be helped; if you struggle in silence, you will have yourself to blame.

CHAPTER 6: CHARACTER

It is an aberration for those who are bent on achieving excellence to toil with sins. Therefore, come out of impurities and live holy.

Your mistakes on the journey to excellence will be very minimal if you learn through instructions; it will be maximum however, if you learn through experience.

Students who talk too much amount to nothing. The full make no noise; the empty are hysterical, making the loudest noise. Overconfidence is a symptom, academic decrease is the resulting illness. The wise, the smart and the intelligent have this in common: they make the most of every opportunity to have the very best.

Except you conquer post-success exuberance, it will conquer you. Integrity, discipline, moral soundness, godliness are words common in the dictionary of the great. Your attainable height is directly proportional to your level of imaginative power. It takes discipline to be disciplined. Embrace discipline.

Excellent students are not born, they are made. The capricious and the mercurial have this in common: they struggle but never excel. However, the best students have this one thing in common: they do a few things and they do them differently.

When things go wrong secretly, something in you points your attention to it. Why not reshuffle immediately?

Do not bother yourself with what you do not have; rather, maximize what you have to your maximum advantage.

Godliness is key to studentship. Are you godly? Immoral students may pass exams, but they will never amount to much in life. The secret place is either a shining place or a failing place. How is your secret place? If your confession and action disagree, you will scarcely make progress. If you claim to abide by academic principles, yet not excelling, check yourself thoroughly. It may be that something is wrong somewhere, for the principles answer 100 out of 100 times.

Never lose your grip on courage except you want to take the back seat. The persistent students will ever outshine their non-persistent counterparts. Persist. Your doggedness, determination, persistence and diligence will take you far beyond your imaginable height both in studentship and beyond. Move on to perfection!

Wrong mindset does not descend like cloud; it is an accumulation of indiscriminate compromises. Renew your mind daily! If you lack discipline, you can hardly have good success and you can never have a lasting good success. "Self-sincerity" is a highway to success. Be sincere with yourself. If you habituate doing all you need to do when you need to do them, most likely, you will excel. Feel-too-big-to-learn = feel-too-small-to-excel. There are no courses (or subjects) too difficult to pass excellently.

There are only students too difficult to be convinced of their ability to excel in their courses (or subjects). There are no difficult departments; instead, there are students who are difficult to be convinced to excel in such departments. No matter how proficient you are, you can scarcely convince failing students that they are to blame—except the few ones who are not bent on failing. Wood dries outside-in while student excel or fail inside-out.

It is better for a student to cry herself out of misdemeanor early than after performing incorrigibly. Bombard your sub-conscious with the word of excellence. Let it register in your unconscious and spare

not your conscious. Students of excellence are not born; they are made. If you have outstanding performances in a continuum without a progressively high degree of moral correctness, you are just a brilliant student.

If you are an excellent student but your fellow-students are not drinking from your cup of excellence, you are a substantial disgrace to studentship.

Even though you are smart enough not be caught while engaging in exam malpractice, you will surely pay heavily for it, sooner or later. Many an uncaught cheat are having a sorrowful retrospection. Do you want to join the team? Overconfidence takes students over the boundary of success to the territory of poor performance. Thinking too highly of yourself closes your heart to new learning and corrections. When you are too full of yourself, there is no more room to contain progressive academic increase. When you look down on fellow students, you are looking down, and down you may eventually go. Be humble, godly, and well-mannered; indiscriminate habits are cogs in the wheel of studentship.

An excellent student is a student who has outstanding performances in a continuum with a progressively high degree of moral correctness. Such a student is a light preparing to shine, locally and globally. Conversely, a brilliant student—a student who has outstanding performances in a continuum without a progressively high degree of moral correctness—is a disaster going somewhere to occur. Except you excel in learning and in character, you have a deformed excellence—and it will ultimately be to your detriment. Stand! Guard the door of your hearts; your thoughts are you, whether optimistic or pessimistic. At breakfast, lunch and dinner, speak success. In the morning, afternoon and night, affirm excellence; then see the difference it makes.

You eventually gravitate towards your predominant thought: Failure or success. From now on, dear student, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these

things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise.⁷

Without discipline, you will hardly amount to anything in the academia and in other spheres of life. No matter how great your grade point is, you can still learn from your colleagues with lower results. Stay humble. Outstanding students have this in common: they are principle addicts.

Foolishness is not poor performance; foolishness is rather doing those things that culminate into poor performance. How can you know that you are progressing in learning? If your honest self-evaluation reveals that you have grown in the knowledge of the relevant. They are disgrace to studentship, those who hoard knowledge for which fellow students desperately search.

You cannot be steeped in debauchery and still expect all to be well with you. Studentship is a privilege to learn practical adaptation to diverse behavioral acts; use varied students' behavior to your advantage.

CHAPTER 7: FOCUS

Lost-focus equals lost-success. The best athletes have practiced under very stringent conditions, likewise, the best of students. Give no room to wandering thoughts. They will surely distract you. Concentration and distraction are mutually exclusive; you can never have the two together. Choose today which you will court.

Appetite is an incentive to work; hunger makes you work all the harder.^[4]

Persistence is expressed in term of your performances especially in the “most difficult courses.” Even if you are not studying your choice course, you have no tenable excuse for poor performance. Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.^[5] If you truly desire excellence, you must say NO to several things. How are you faring in the 'ministry' of saying NO?

If burning midnight candles is necessary to give you that academic rise, start burning it from the first day into the session. Engaging in several activities is not a guarantee for distinction. It is however doing the few right things rightly. If you bug down yourself with plenty activities, you are not wise. Instead of wholehearted commitment to studies, some students want to be everywhere. Unfortunately, they end up nowhere.

There is space at the very top for those who are willing to keep climbing. The leading students have this in common: they are tied to the principles. Do not lose focus and do not be distracted; those

who do normally suffer regrets. Students who keep double standards end up in nothingness. Subscribe to the standard of excellence and be devoted to it. Your academic pursuit will never grow tired of you if you don't grow tired of it. Look straight ahead with honest confidence; don't hang your head in shame.^[6] Keep your eyes straight ahead; ignore all sideshow distractions.^[7] If you truly know, you will be known. The entrance to academic rise is an eye of the needle. You can never go through with all that baggage on you.

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to poor performance, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to excellence, and only a few find it.^[8] Keep your eyes straight on your course, and you will hit success.

Excel!

Some students say all they need is minimum pass mark, but they eventually have lesser; a few students aim at distinctions, and they have it. If you give attention to the mockers, you do not have focus in the first place. High flying students should take heed, lest they drop. If you are willing to abide by the principles, you can not only beat the best, you can as well become the very best.

How can a student say that all is well after having lost focus and direction? You may be a multi-sided, provided it does not deform your studentship. Do you want to reach the peak academically? Let go of all those weights that slow you down. Travel light. Weights weigh you down and settle you in the company of poor performing students. Discard weights.

We are surrounded by a great cloud of people whose lives tell us what academic excellence means. So, let us run the academic race that is before us and never give up. We should remove from our lives anything that would get in the way and the encumbrances that so easily holds us back. Persistence, perseverance, perspicacity, persuasiveness are prominent in the core values of excellent

students. Do not mock the student who fails. Rather, get him out of the swamp, teach him how to excel.

CHAPTER 8: OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

Challenges come, not to dominate you, but to ask a question: "Where is your initiative?" Your tenacity to persist in adversity tilts you forward and further till you hit that glorious mark. A challenge under which a student crumbles, another student uses same as a steppingstone to academic excellence. Hence, challenges show up not to not to overwhelm you but to ask: 'Where is your initiative?'

What should you do if you put in your all but you don't attain excellence? Scrutinize your doings with critical eyes. Figure out where the wall cracked (those things you did not do well); repair the broken wall; move on and do all you can do; and prevent past mistakes from recurring. Challenges surface to test your tendency to resist determent. Challenge the challenges by ignoring prompts that enjoin you to relent.

If you are ultimately resolute to have academic rise, you are set formidable, redoubtable and undefeatable to impending impediment. Don't doubt your strength to have distinction, for you truly can. If you wait till you have perfect state emotionally, psychologically, financially and environmentally before you study hard, you may not study at all. Are you a butter-student or a clay-student? Who you are determines the effect academic sun will have on you.

The academic giants are not the muscular. They are rather those who weather challenges and come out unscathed with their heads raised high. You grow against gravity. You excel upward against

impediments and obstructions. While other birds are cautious to respect the storms, the eagle soars through it to its maximum advantage. If you don't attempt that question, you will never discover a better approach to it. That you are studying under an atmosphere that is not conducive is not an excuse to fail. Many had studied under more excruciating conditions yet excelled.

Do not be deceived: without strive, there can be no triumph.

In the final analysis, you can be intellectually sound yet fail, but you cannot be unconquered and ultimately fail. When all is over, may it be said of you that you came; you saw; and you conquered. Many students want to have academic rise without any obstruction, but academic rise is a product of culminated overcoming of obstructions. The hallmark of studentship is culminated in distilling possibilities out of impossibilities.

Perhaps you have lost some academic battles, strive hard not to lose the ultimate: the academic war of finishing strong in studentship. Be informed: there is no challenge too great to impede you from excelling if you are very determined. If you want to be victorious academically, make victory your watchword. Your decision to stay steady under pressure will wrought greater wonder than you could ever imagine.

If the history of excellence in your department is not good enough, re-write it.

When you think all hope is gone, there is this last thing to do: move up! If you are having psychological challenges continually, seek professional attention. Many students could have made waves if they had not let down their guard to depression.

If you are feeling ill, seek appropriate medical attention

That nothing seems to be working does not mean nothing will work. Persevere! The formidable and the faithful attract fruitfulness

and fulfillment even when upon lives' bellow they are tempest tossed. For there is hope for a student—if he has performed poorly or failed, he can rebound again, make necessary reshuffling and achieve a better performance. Though tutors, colleagues and loved ones may have written him off and tagged him a never-do-well and a dullard, he may meditate and catch the revelation that he is extraordinary and engage the principles of excellence with utmost dedications, beat the best and emerge the very best, locally and globally.

You may not have control over the barrage of challenges fired at you, but you have charge over the ones you will allow to penetrate. Somewhere within the dark gloomy clouds, the stars become visible. If you relapse to laxity in the days of academic pressure, you are a disgrace to studentship. For every poor performing student, there is light at the end of the tunnel. A mistake is not an impediment to academic excellence if you learn from it and guide against reoccurrence. The storms will blow to test your decision to be distinct, but you will stay steady, and unscathed if you truly mean business.

Some students justify prostitution and other immoralities with shortage of financial means, but they are grossly wrong. If they do not consider whoredom as an escape route, they would still have survived. Financial incapacitation is not an excuse for poor performance. Many were more incapacitated than you, yet they were outstanding. Do you say that your course of study (or subjects) is the most difficult? Substantiate that with a proven, conventional and unbiased definition of 'difficult'.

Have you built up your courage? For you will surely have to deal with pressure. Have you attempted excellence but were knocked down? Rise up, keep trying—at least one more time. Success is certain if you persist. What can stop you from emerging an excellent student? Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing. Nothing can hinder you but you. In the final analysis, nobody nor situation can hinder you from shining academically, but you can hinder you.

Learners learn from all situations and circumstances without getting discouraged or raise excuses. Be impervious to discouragement, resistible to distraction and resolute in the face disappointment. And though you face obstacles, resistance, and great pressure, you will not crack; you will not give up until things are set right.^[9] If you are sincerely determined, you can rise from being the least in your class to become the very best. There is no challenge too big to challenge. In fact, academic challenges are to be challenged and surmounted. If you don't hang up, you will make up. That you start with poor results is not an excuse for making poor performance a culture.

CHAPTER 9: TUTORS

If you devalue your tutors, you may have devalued results. If your tutor appears to be rigid, what should you do? Adjust and adapt but without ungodly compromise. No tutor is interested in empty show of vocabulary; substance is supreme. If you are very attentive to tutors, you can as well hear them teach the contents of the forthcoming exams. Some students lose interest in courses (or subject) because of tutors' attitude. That is a colossal mistake, baseless excuse and the worst attitude to learning. If you are always on the look-out for the weaknesses of tutors, you will see plenty of them, but to your detriment. Your tutors are your tutors. No matter how more intelligent you think you are; honor them. If there is a tutor for a course, then, you can excel in that course. If there is none, nothing stops you, still, from excelling and becoming one. There are largely no difficult tutors; however, there are unyielding students who are never ready to abide by tutors' principles—to their detriment. Never hate your tutors; students who do mostly have “hateful” results. Studentship is an opportunity to learn how to adapt to various behaviors. Use varied tutors' behavioral acts to your maximum academic advantage. Wisely weigh the actions of each tutor, for some unconsciously sow discouragement in students.

CHAPTER 10: THOROUGHNESS

Doing the right things at the right time at the right place with the right principles brings about the right results. Even though you claim you are not sound intellectually, if you study hard, your results will be substantial. Hard work means prosperity; only a fool idles away his time.[\[10\]](#)

**Do not assume that you have known it.
Confirm it.**

Highflyers achieve such great feats because they are willing to go the extra mile by doing those things which average performers ignore.

We worked night and day.[\[11\]](#)

This note of warning is sounded to those who care to listen: study hard. Slack habits and sloppy work are as bad as vandalism.[\[12\]](#) Having put in your best into your studies, there is still one more thing to input: your very best, and finally, your boundless best. "Hasty" preparation (fire-brigade approach) is a harbinger of 'hasty' (poor) results. Let your very high propensity to study hard be evident to all. Master each of your courses (or subjects) until you become master of it and gain mastery for it. Go to work in the morning and stick to it until evening without watching the clock. You

never know from moment to moment how your work will turn out in the end.^[13]

What makes the difference between an 'A' student and a 'D' student? Intelligence? Not really. Luck? Not applicable. The difference is culminated in the little extras that the former does but the latter ignores. You don't sacrifice as much as excellent students. Why then are you annoyed that you don't match up to their grade points?

Fire-brigade approach is an insult to studentship. Start studying early. Attempt no question in haste. Think deeply, think through. Wishy-washy approach to studentship is a gross mismanagement of your innate ability.

If an outstanding student tells you, “It just happened suddenly”, he (or she) is a liar.

Pressure is force per unit area. The larger the force you exert per unit area of study, the more excellent you become. Study to know, because someday, you will have to apply what you have learnt directly or indirectly. Some students go to present seminars ill prepared, yet they question their poor performances. Efficient, effective, efficacious, eloquent, excellent are recurring E(s) in the core values of the diligent. You cannot just gloss over your course materials and expect to have outstanding result which is harnessed ONLY by digging deep.

Always inspect through recalling whether you have truly assimilated what you think you have assimilated. Be not deceived: your level of excellence is a function of your sincere commitment to studying. Studentship is an occupation; be fully committed to it. If you gamble or randomly select topics to read for exams, you are on the fast track to poor performance. Studying to teach co-students is good but studying to have academic excellence is far better. You can study to teach, yet fail—haven't you heard of students who teach a course's tutorial, and still fail the course? Here is some deep truth: you cannot study to attain excellence and fail. Studentship is a process. Through it virtues are built in you. The more committed you

are to it, the greater the degree of the intensity of the virtues, and the better you emerge.

Do not study to get-by; rather study to know and to be outstanding. High-towering nations of the world do not arrive there in a rush; the same principle applies to you. You can never attain academic excellence by rush-reading. Your capacity to have academic excellence is not the function of your age. It is rather the function of your devotedness, thoughtfulness and attention to details. There is only one mark between an A and immediate lesser grade. Why not push a little further to have an A? To have distinction, how much you read and how much of the reading you can apply, matter. Until you give your very all—which is inexhaustible—you are a complacent student.

Except you are doing the little extras, forget being that extraordinary student. Poor performance is a cumulative effect of little things a student fails to do. Do you want to make First Class Grade? Study like “the first in the class.” Attendance, Practical, Assignment, Test, Group work, Quizzes and Examinations are handled seriously by exceptional students.

Academic excellence can be achieved by luck if you define LUCK as Laboring Under Correct Knowledge.

Pay attention to details or pay dearly with your grades. It can make an intelligent student to have an 'A' while the other would make a 'D'. Dot all your “i”s; cross all your “t”s; peruse your work before submitting your answer sheet.

You are not qualified to write that exam until you are a 'mobile course curriculum'. How would you have prepared for an exam if you are promised a trillion dollars plus all-your-heart-desires-granted, if you excel? Prepare the same way, with the same passion always.

CHAPTER 11: DECISION

Cast down terrifying imaginations; they lead straight down-the-road to poor performance. There is a reserved energy latent in you when you conclude that you are fully spent; activating it separates you out from among the complacent. Nobody can ultimately change you except you. You will do you great favor by always changing to become a better you. Assuaging unwanted circumstances by embracing them is foolishness in disguise. What lies ahead is far more important than what lies behind you, put your heart to the journey ahead without distraction. There is a 'you' in you seeking to come out...to shine...to manifest. Why not give that 'you' a chance.

If you have grabbed the plough of academic excellence, do not look back, lest you become unworthy. Man is a product of his own thoughts. If you produce excellent thoughts you will have excellent results, and vice versa. Your imaginative capabilities—what you think, and how you think what you think determines what will become of you.

Being physically challenged is not an excuse for poor performance. The physically challenged do excel if they are willing. Your ultimate decision is the culmination of your 'little' decisions. Pay attention to them. No student excels suddenly; no student fails accidentally. If you stand by the principle, it will stand by you, even if you have no prior standing among the outstanding. Until you are resolute to go all-the-way, you can never realize and appreciate how much tenacity you possess.

Conquering mountains makes you a conqueror. Conquer your academic mountains! You have received the shield of victory,^[14] you are admonished to take up the shield of faith.^[15] The victory that overcomes is your faith.^[16] Your shield of victory is your shield of faith. Therefore, how much faith you have in God and in His ability in you ultimately determine how much victory you will have.

There is no accidental success neither are their inadvertent excellence. Both are committedly worked towards. The race of life is all about decision. Decide to decide; decide to excel. If your desire for academic excellence is second-to-none and your determination is indomitable, you can achieve it. You must move, but you cannot move forward and backward simultaneously. So, which one is your decision? Arise! Shine! Your light has come.^[17]

Ideally, everyone will like travelling when the weather is optimum, but the ultimate measure of zeal is inherent in travelling when the weather becomes rough and almost unbearable. After all, the smooth seas have never made a good sailor. Your current result was a product of both conscious and unconscious decision. You are already spelling out your next result. Some students think in circles, some reason straight ahead and welcome the future from afar of. To which group do you belong?

Let the profession of distinction be in your mouth and a studious pen in your hand to execute judgment on poor performance. They that ride on the wind of 'reigning facts' arrive at the destination of inconsequential grade points. You can keep shining academically as long as you are a principle-addict. Saying yes to almost everything equals saying yes to insignificant results. What makes students stumble is substantially what they are aware of but are unwilling to take responsibility for. Some claim it is impossible to make some higher grade in some departments, but the records were eventually broken. Many students succumb to discouragement at the brink of breaking through. What a great loss!

If you are decisively strong to be an exceptional student, nothing can ultimately hinder you. If troubles come up and seem overwhelming, say, *"I am an overcomer."* On your pathway to excellence, discourage discouragement. The appellation people tag

you is but a tag—you choose whether to wear it or not. You are not discouraged because you perform poorly, or things are not in shape. Rather, you are discouraged because you are willing. Discouragement is not process acquired, it is a choice.

Believe that you can excel, and you are fifty percent done excelling; believe you cannot, and you are ninety five percent done failing. Do you know that some students could have retained their studentship if they had not listened to unsolicited advice from no-gooders who are nothing but excellence-extinguishers? Ignore anyone who tells you the negatives lest you end up being ignored and kicked into the dirt.

If you have truly discovered purpose, whether it is academic-oriented or not, you will not trample your academics underfoot. Who says that you are too young to handle that course? The person is steep in error and is worth ignoring. The principal question is not whether you are able, but whether you are willing. Undaunted, resolute students have this in common.

Some students come to school to play, some to fail, some to have get-by results and a few to break records of excellence. Which group do you belong? If you can see academic excellence, you can have it. If the aged fall, they look backward; if the youth fall, they look forward. In the same vein, if a student falls, he looks backward to learn from what has brought him down. He gets himself back on his feet and advances forward to do right things.

Excellent students speak themselves into excellence; poor performing students speak themselves to failure. That nobody has ever made distinction in your program implies that you are the chosen student for the honor. Hear the solemn cry of that '*you*' in you, longing to be excellence personified. Why not ignite this '*you*' to action and allow him/her to work unhindered. Deep down within you is a subtle desire to be distinct. Fan it aflame.

If you are not willing to study hard, why being a student in the first place? You cannot have your dream results if you are not determined to pay the commensurate prize. Study hard or fail hard. If you believe you can be distinct, then prove it by being distinct! Excellence is the hallmark of studentship. Court it with your all.

CHAPTER 12: PLANNING

Draw a workable plan and be committed to it or fail. Some students let down their academic hooks, yet they frown their faces for not catching much 'fish' like counterparts who let down academic nets. Prepare committedly to be distinct. Moreover, develop a buffer to contain uncertainties. This will keep you keeping on always, regardless of the situation. Every plan devoid of pursuit is empty! Careful planning puts you ahead in the long run; hurry and scurry puts you further behind.[\[18\]](#) How you start a semester (whether with optimism or pessimism) substantially determines what you will make out of it. So, start well. Some students venture into the academia without any vision, yet they are surprised they are finishing without any accomplishment. Some students are not committed to their academic plans, yet they wonder why academic excellence is beyond their reach. What result do you desire? What are you doing to achieve it? If your doing is not consistent with your desire, you may not have your desired results, (except if your planned desire is an inconsequential, dismissible result).

Write your goals, place it in a conspicuous place and run with it. Writing inconsequential goals and expecting consequential results are antithetical. Academic excellence is not accidental neither is poor performance inadvertent. Each is prepared towards either consciously or unconsciously. Drawing an academic plan but not keeping to it, is just as bad as not-writing-it. If your academic plan does not change you, it is either it is not worthwhile, or you are not committed to it.

You don't need to be among the genius to beat the genius. All you need is to discover and beat their strategies. Great academic strategists do only a few mandatory things aside studying. If your plan does not amount to a total integral academic increase, it is mere child's play. If your academic plan is less demanding, you are grossly irresponsible.

CHAPTER 13: EMOTION

Emotional immaturity is a gate pass to poor academic performance. Your emotion is transient; never let it rule over you. Your feelings are not dependable. Master them lest they master you and drag you down to the pit of failure. Nothing substantial can be achieved when your heart grows cold. Beware!

Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.^[19] Do not condemn yourself: you cannot un-happen what has happened. Learn from it and move on. They are not wise who mourn over the spilled milk. Master your emotion when things are not going as expected, lest you welcome greater havoc.

He who will excel globally must be able to take hold of himself/herself when he cannot take hold of nothing else.

Rule your emotions. Wise-display-of-maturity is to highflyers as childishness is to poor performers. Tears don't change a thing. You'd better arise and start afresh with distinction in view. If you read only when you have external motivation, you may never dig deep enough to touch the heart of studying. Discourage the elements and situations that discourage you. This is a lubricant to progressive academic increase.

If you need someone to motivate you before you study hard, how immature you truly are. Regardless of your temperament, you can be the very best. Emotion has practically nothing to do with

excellence. Ride on the wind of maturity. You will not become a successful student simply by having the feeling in your spirit. You need to get at your books and work those feelings to reality.

If you are waiting till you feel like studying before you study, you will not likely study. Whether you feel like excelling or not, excel! Many students' hearts are in their mouths during class presentations. Fear. No wonder their results are nothing to write home about. Whatever has happened has happened. Never stay prolonged crying over the spilled milk at the expense of your academic pursuit.

Self-condemnation is a worst enemy of academic distinction. If you habituate condemning yourself, you will have a condemned and shaming results. Never turn your mistake to tabernacle wherein you dwell. Learn from it and thrust the details behind you. The truism, *"What happens to you is not weightier as what happens in you"* is applicable in studentship. If you are down-trodden academically, you are to blame.

Frustrated? Without your permission, no one can frustrate you. You are permitted to do one thing to your trouble: trouble it! Be wise! Don't let your heartbreak rob you of your goal of excellence. The excellent ones are strong and are in control of their emotions. Trouble-minded students hardly have distinction. Stay away from trouble. Whether you are an introvert or an extrovert, you can have distinction.

CHAPTER 14:

SUPERNATURAL

Studentship or no-studentship; without holiness, seeing God is impossible. If only your inner eyes could be opened to see who you really are, you will detest your current level with passion. Pray continuously.^[20]

But unto you who revere and worshipfully fear God's name shall the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in His wings and His beams.^[21] Bombard your spirit, soul and body with the sure Word of excellence; walk sincerely in the consciousness of excellence; then see challenges give way. God created you and He has given you the right to choose what title that will come before your name through your doings: failing, poor performing or excellent. What is your choice? If any of you need wisdom, ask God for it. He will give it to you. God gives freely to everyone. He doesn't find fault.^[22]

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of advice and power, the Spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord.^[23]

Love your course, your tutors, God and yourself. Without this, no student can have meaningful results. If you are a proud student, you will have several challenges; even God will oppose you. “Where are the brilliant ones whose names resounded yesteryears and who ignored God unrepentantly?” “They have disappeared into the thin air of obscurity. They have become histories right in their lifetime.”

God is not tyrannical; He does not request that you sacrifice academic excellence to work for him. He rather asks that you boost the former with the later—He is an excellent God. Using work-for-God as a cover-up for laxity in your academic pursuit and excuse for poor performance is imprudence.

God teaches you that which is the best.^[24] He cannot stomach poor performance. Dear student! Your standing with the Ultimate One (God) determines your standing in life. You surely would not want to pass academic exams but fail life's exams and fade away. May this be your testimony: "Today I am who I am because of God's grace, and I have made sure that the grace He offered me has not been wasted. I have worked harder, longer, and smarter than all the rest; but I realize it is not me—it is God's grace with me that has made the difference."^[25]

*If you persist,
God will assist.*

Of what use is impartation-for-excellence without diligent studying? You can have the best desired result if you put in your limitless best and connect with the best-God. Hooking up with Him whose name is Excellent makes your journey to attaining excellence easier—how Excellent is your name, O Lord! Even God will grant the desires of your heart—the desires that have permeated your spirit, pervaded your soul and exuded uncontrollably to your body. Fountain-of-Understanding is at your disposal. Connect and appropriate Him to your maximum advantage. Woven in the tapestry of academics is the soul yearning of every student silently whispering: "Lead me to the Rock that is higher than I". No one is just prayed into excellence, there is always hard work, persistent studying and a commitment to paying attention to details. If you were God and bestowed ability to be outstanding on a student, but the student decides to be a failure, will you be happy?

In a bid to attain academic excellence, do not neglect God. As a diligent student, your spiritual life is very important. Never lose grip of it. This is because studentship is a triangle with student and

studies at the base and God at the peak. Some say academic excellence is antithetic to spiritual growth. What a horrendous error! Working for God is not an excuse for poor academic performance; it's however a bolster to have distinction if done wisely for God is a Rewarder of those who diligently serve Him^[26]. Serve God within the capacity which will not pose threat to your primary purpose in school: to study hard and become academic shine. When you are told: 'Deny yourself and serve God', that does not mean you should become negligent in your academic pursuit.

Academic excellence as accorded to the just is a form of service to God. When all circumstances seem unfavorable and studying unresolvable, the acceptable “-wards” to go remain: upward, onward, front-ward, soar-ward and God-ward. You may not need God to pass exam, you will need him to attain academic excellence (which far surpasses passing exams). Much more, you will need Him to pass the uninformed examinations of life.

As you must be wealth-conscious to be wealthy, God-conscious to be spiritual; likewise, you must be study-conscious to have academic excellence. Since the spiritual controls the physical, asides deep and critical scholarship, you may have to defer to the spiritual through fervent praying in order to achieve your academic goals. In addition to critical and assiduous studying, academic excellence is worth fasting and praying for.

To achieve outstanding academic performance, gravitate Study-ward, Principle-ward and God-ward. These three directions have these in common: They are in the same plane, along the same axis. Praying is an essential leverage to success; stay committed to it. Faith is the antidote of fear. Have faith in God—throw not away your confidence.

Fervent praying without hard work is like pouring water into a basket. Running after divine impartation for excellence without studying hard is a sheer waste of time, a waste of life. Poor academic performance is a disgrace to studentship, an embarrassment to Divinity.

The Lord God will help you to attain academic excellence, so you will not be ashamed. Be determined to take responsibility for your success and know you will not be disgraced.

You are created in the likeness of God. Smartness, wisdom, brilliance and intelligence characterize God—and likewise, you. God created everything excellently. He created you. Poor performance negates excellence. Hence, it is not part of your make-up. You cannot ignore God and expect all-round excellence. In studentship, these Three must be taken seriously: God, Principles and Studying. In studentship, God has positioned an incandescence for those who will arise to be illuminated. Arise! Have faith in God and think best of yourself. They are both rudimentary to academic excellence.

Writing exams without backing it up with importunate praying is like preparing a soup without adding seasoning. To have excellent eternity of which academic excellence is a subset. Accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and personal Savior.

Your determination to excel grants you the ability to harness the Divinity and become a reality to humanity on the platform of possibility.

CHAPTER 15: EXAMINATION

The first exam in life is weathering the gestation period in the womb. Some failed it by becoming stillbirths, but you didn't. You succeeded. This tells you something—that you have the tenacity to be successful in every other exam. Preparing for exams without success in view is like boarding a flight without destination in mind. Exam tension does not only harm; it jeopardizes; it does no good; resist it firmly. If you find it challenging to remember some essential in exams, maintain decorum and stay unperturbed, for the more you shiver, the more you forget.

Cogent points are to success in exam, as water is to fish. Studying past questions are good aids to success, so study them as much as you can. Nonetheless, note: it is not a sure guarantor for success. Read instruction carefully and interpret it correctly. That may place you on 'A' or 'D' grade. Some students ignore examiners' instruction, yet they query their microscopic grades. Some students write tomes but miss out key ingredients of the answers; yet they call examiners names for performing poorly.

Examination timetable may not always favor you. Stay flexible. Unfavorable examination timetable is not an excuse for poor performance. Beware! If you believe that exam period is your sick period, you will always write exams on sick bed. Impatience-in-exams has a twin sister: colossal mistakes. Testifying that you succeed in exams for which you did not prepare is grossly wrong. It does more harm than good, and it is misleading. Keep silent!

Arguing over an already written exam is of no use. After all, you can no longer make any physical correction. At best, arguing over written exams leaves you neutral; at worst, it leaves you bitter. There is no special reward for it, but there could be special heartache afterward. Poor performance in exams is not the end of life. However, be sure that you did not have it intentionally. Then learn from it. Be prepared for examination always!

Make hay while the sun shines; start preparing for exams the first day into the semester (or term). There is no exam too difficult to ace; it's all about your level of preparedness and mindset. One may fail in an exam that asks: *'Write A – Z'* if one fails to prepare. Without adequate preparation, you can have poor result in the simplest exam.

CHAPTER 16: ATTITUDE

What does studentship mean to you? That determines where your lot will be cast therein. A bad attitude will thwart your potential. Give it no breeding space. It is either you conquer bad attitude, or it conquers you—there is no co-existence. Whether you like it or not, your attitude will catch up on you, be it good or bad. Slothfulness disrupts; complacency destroys; and insouciance kills. Part companies with the triune completely.

“Why are there students halfheartedly commitment to studies?” “Because they are not well-informed on the demand studentship place on them: to excel.” One of the fundamentals to success is living in the consciousness of success. Some students live on the bright side, others thrive on the dark side. And their results place them accordingly. Be careful what you think; your thoughts control your life.^[27]

Because some students are not excelling, they quit but can two wrongs make a right? While you cannot rewind those gloomy events from not happening, you can start from now and still have a glorious ending. Nothing is impossible for those who believe; absolutely nothing is possible for those who relish in unbelief. Students who study to defend (to maintain current result or get by) substantially drop. Play the offensive.

Do you say academic pursuit is inconsequential? Based on dedication, warriors are chosen from among the “inconsequential” things. Do you claim you worked very hard but did not hit the target? Is it when you relapse to laxity that you will hit bull's eye?

With this laxity of yours, are you not posting letter to a higher dimension of failure using the fastest courier service?

If you are encumbered with things that orchestrate failure, you will fail. Do not be deceived; that you will not use your certificate is not an excuse to handle it with levity. Who do you say you are—an excellent student or a poor performer? That is who really are. Except you renounce wrong thinking, you can never embrace right thinking. Many claim they would have done better if they were more comfortable—what an untenable excuse! Your current level of comfort is at least manageable to push you through. Utilize it judiciously. Edinburgh had rich background, Faraday had poor background, but both had this in common: they were epitome of academic excellence.

Many students fail not because courses are hard, but because they have failed from within themselves. Your defining scope of excellence affects your attitude. Have a very broader scope. No matter how fascinating or ridiculous your current result is, it has become a history. Meanwhile you are preparing to make another history, be it fascinating or ridiculous—it depends on your attitude.

Intelligent students are opened to learning; foolish counterpart put up *I-cannot-kill-myself* boldface disposition. Some students claim they are not naturally brilliant. What a baseless excuse of deleterious academic consequence! Build affection for studying and you will most likely excel in what you like doing. Academic excellence and poor performance are calling very loudly. Your attitude determines to which of them you respond. Your attitude is the answer, not your word of mouth. You cannot have bad aptitude and attitude to learning and have outstanding results.

Many admire excellent students but detest excellent process. What a contradiction! Your predominant thought will place you accordingly—be it among the complacent or outstanding students. If you think you are an inferior student, you are wrong, because the great Maker did not make you so. Excellent students take responsibilities for their mistakes, poor performers shift theirs.

Speaking negative words is an act of sending speed post to challenges. You may not have acute aptitude for learning, but you

can cultivate one. Aptitude for learning is not congenital; it is acquired. An enthusiastic student is already fifty-percent closer to distinction. Your education is your life; guard it well.^[28] Don't waste your energy on the incorrigible students; waste not your zest on the recalcitrant. They are set in their mind; you can hardly change them. Some say it does not matter what their results are saying. Then what matters? There is nothing like too-old-to-excel. There are only students who believe they are too old to humble themselves at the gracious feet of learning. Some see academic pressure as excruciating and undefeatable, others see it as a building process. You are what you see. If you are bent on excelling without cutting corners, you will be motivated to study hard. Some see studentship as a necessary evil, others see it as a pathway to fulfilment. You are what you see.

If you affirm that everything is against you, you are wrong. If you are persuaded that nothing is against you, you are right. Who will you blame if you finish with inconsequential grade point? You! What will you hold responsible if you drop out? Your attitude! Looking up in the day, some see empty cloud, other see a shining sun. You are what you see. Looking up at night, some see a blanket of dark clouds, others see bright stars. You are what you see. Gazing at the sea, some see troubled water, others see rising tide. You are what you see.

Some students think poor performance, some think average result, some think academic excellence. You are what you think. Several students are uninterested about their course of studies, yet, they are shocked they perform so poorly.

You think that your course of study is the most difficult because you think so—not because it is so.

There are no easy courses, there are no difficult courses; it is a matter of mindset. If you think a course is esoteric, it will eventually be—at least, for you; and at most for you and those who subscribe to

your school of thought. Whatever the course of study you find yourself in, be it deliberately or unpremeditatedly, study it wholeheartedly. No course of study is too easy neither is any too difficult. Whether it would be easy or difficult depends on one person: you.

Court punctuality and excel; detest it and perform poorly. Some students are very unpunctual in class, yet they are surprised they fail. Students who are involved in so many non-academic activities scarcely have exceptional academic results. Students who despise academic excellence hardly have it. There are no courses with dim prospects. There are only students with dim knowledge of the splendid prospects of those courses.

Many students presume that it is only those who want to be in the academia that should excel academically. What a wrong presumption! Academic fatalism, the belief that students' performances are controlled by some forces beyond students' limits of control, is erroneous. If you think ability to excel is a gift, then all students have it, but many have hidden theirs under a bushel.

Q. "Why are you handling your studies with levity?"

A. "Because I will not use the certificate."

"What a fool you are!"

Set goals at the inception of every semester (or term) and be addicted to it. Are you aware that your commitment to academic excellence can position you for excellence in every sphere of life? You are who you think you are, be it an intelligent-success or a dullard-failure. Think excellence; speak excellence; work excellence; pray excellence; and have excellence. Some say education is "one of those things". Do not listen to them! For it is your life—guard it jealously.

Developing an excellent aptitude for learning is a pathway to excellence. If you give up because you have result(s) that fall(s) below the threshold of your expectation, you are a failure indeed. Impossibility is nothing but a coinage for "important possibility". In studentship, see every impossibility in the light of possibility which is

very important. If you think you have an excuse for having low grade point, you are a failure. But if you think you have not, then you can rise and excel. There is literally no unsupportive learning environment; there are rather students who are unsupportive of the environment to use it to their maximum advantage.

There are no helpless circumstances; there are only students who are unwilling to discover the available help and use it to their maximum advantage. You cannot talk failure and have success. You cannot be a heavy sleeper and expect to lead your class. You cannot expect to succeed by examination malpractices. You cannot think poor performance and have excellent result.

CHAPTER 17: BE WISE!

That there is strength in weakness leaves every student without excuse. That you don't have all the textbooks is not a tenable excuse for poor performance. Many students who have textbooks read themselves to failure by reading off-point. Let your eyes be focused on your goal, not allowing it to deflect leftward but always rightward. Defeat-incubating thoughts are not worth harboring. Discard them immediately they show up.

The beginning of excellence is: get Wisdom (skillful and godly Wisdom)! [For skillful and godly Wisdom is the principal thing.] And with all you have gotten, get understanding (discernment, comprehension, and interpretation).^[29]

It doesn't do a fool any good to spend money on education since he doesn't have common sense. Everybody cannot understand the reason for your zeal. Don't waste your precious time convincing everybody, rather, let your results do the convincing. Arguments wither in the face of evidence. Buy the truth—don't sell it for love or money; buy wisdom, buy education, buy insight.^[30] After school, what next? Constructively design afterschool plans but without anxiety lest you are distracted from the bottom line: excellence.

Academic excellence begins with the invisible in you before it becomes visible to you. Some say academic pursuit is worthless and is not worth channeling effort into. Meanwhile, they concede that it takes substantial part of their productive lives. Hence, their lives are altogether worthless.

That poor performance is preeminent in your lineage is not a tenable excuse for having microscopic grade point.

Who are the wise students? Those who study with the consciousness that academic distinction is worth the demanded sacrifice. Those who get distracted by the accolades of fellow students and encomium of authorities are not wise. They run after you because you are performing greatly. Keep the zeal burning lest your light goes out. If your performance falls below the threshold of perception, those pressing you for help will soon disappear. Assist wisely.

How would you handle the critics? Filter their comments; absorb the helpful; trash the residue. You are not wise if in a bid to please people, you are having academic retrogression. Adjust according to the helpful observations; move forward. You must move, but you cannot move forward and backward simultaneously. So, which one is your decision? Your thoughts eventually become you: distinction or poor performance. Any thought that is not excellence-inducing is not worth nurturing. Cast it out! Occupy!

Some claim academic pursuit is irrelevant, yet they spend at least roughly two decades of their productive years acquiring formal education. What do you say? Having gathered multitude of information, subject it to academic distillation to draw out the needful. By the needful, I mean the excellence-inducing information. Stay unperturbed by past failure; don't be carried away by past successes. Love is to hatred as prudence is to carelessness.

If you think aptitude for learning is congenital, then you have it. Daily, you are either walking towards success or away from it—there is no middle ground. If you have a brain, nothing stops you from having academic excellence. Covet not the comfort of other student, lest you are tripped over to the pathway of poor performance. And if you're all set and comfortable, do not be carried away by comfort. Use it to your maximum advantage. Comfort is a bolster to academic excellent, but never a prerequisite.

Several students run after elective courses to boost their grade points. How many of them eventually have the boost? In the final analysis, your thought will make or mar you. If you can breathe in and out, you can have academic excellence. Think it! Breathe it!

You don't need to have a bright academic history to make one. Do you know that your brain capacity is so magnificent that academic pursuit is infinitesimally small in the litany of what it can handle fantastically? Class discussion, tutorial and group studying are good if they are beneficial to you; don't be rigid. Life is not all about academic pursuit. However, you will spend averagely, thirty percent of your productive life in it. Is that not too much to waste away?

How you will ultimately fare in life is a function of how you are faring now. Watch. No one can make you fail except by your approval. Some students hold that school must pass through them as they pass through school. They may be right once that does not open them up to poor performances and immoralities.

Although very early in the morning and evening offer good reading times, effective reading can be effectively done any time of the day. Find out the time that works best for you.

Some students are diurnal while others are nocturnal. Know yourself. Never be intimidated by the oration of colleagues nor be overwhelmed by the braggadocio of counterparts. The kingdom of studentship is not in word but in results. Discouragement can be a coinage for 'distracted courage'. Permit nothing to distract your courage. Many students dress improperly to seminars and presentations, yet they are alarmed their results are so inconsequential.

Do you think that academic pursuit is inconsequential? Good news: Stars erupt from the inconsequential things of life.

Shortcuts will cut you short.

Expecting magical revelation of answers in exam hall is a form of mental delusion, a major highway to an alarming failure. That some students see exam questions in their dream does not guarantee that

you would. You'd better sit up and read if you really want to succeed. Your academic pursuit is an event. Make the best use of it. If one-time dullard could rise and lead class, what is your excuse? Studentship is an occasion. Rise to it. As there is no dress rehearsal in life, there is no dress rehearsal in the academia, a pivotal integral part of your life. Whether you agree or not, you can have academic excellence.

Your best motivator is you. Every other motivation you harness is appealing to the motivator within you. You can never know it all. Be very adaptive to gaining wisdom. Calling yourself a poor or average student is not humility; it is elaborate foolishness in disguise. Many students get puffed-up by their excellent session results. Now, they have disappeared to obscurity with microscopic grade points. Be wise! Never allow a one-time excellent result to distract you; there is nothing as good as graduating excellently. Never allow the exceptional academic history of colleagues to throw you off-balance. History is "hi-story". What matters is now; and everyone has equal chance. Even the word hopeless has "hope" in it; there is an excelling strength in you.

Are you a fresh student? You are becoming what you will become—a success or a failure. You had better start on a note of excellence, so that you may have outstanding finishing. In a bid to be all-round and multi-sided, some students lose focus on the principal (academic pursuit) and finish weak. Before loading yourself with optional electives, think twice; be wise.

Watch your steps. Your academic transcript is the algebraic cumulative effect of what you do and fail to do. Important facts you ignore may just place you among the ignored. Do your best to help fellow students who demand for it, but never offer such assistance at your own detriment. Your definition of best is wrong if it falls below the threshold of distinction. Don't tell how brilliant you are, show it! If you turn your back to principles guiding excellence, your prayers and fasting for excellence will be hindered and dishonored.

It is good to compete with fellow students, but it is better when you compete with yourself. Having beaten the fellow students, you may go complacent; but if you can beat yourself always, you can

always emerge a better you. Are you aware that some people are deeply regretful of handling their 'academic days' with levity? Endeavor not to join the bandwagons. How you handle your academic pursuit may not determine what you will become in life. Nevertheless, it will affect it. Your academic pursuit is a test that is placed before you. How committed and successful you are in it may determine the extent of greatness you will attain in life.

Be careful what you believe. Be very careful of what you program in your sub-conscious; it controls what you do in your unconscious and conscious which eventually determines your academic performance. Some students have sold themselves to propagating errors. Don't proclaim how intelligent you are; your result is your best voice—it keeps speaking. Announcing your smartness is a bore; let your transcript speak.

CHAPTER 18: ACADEMIC INCREASE

There are stages in studentship: sleeping, sitting, standing, crawling, walking, running, flying and soaring. On which stage are you? Who says academic increase is an unachievable empty theory? Do not be deceived: you are capable; you have the required intellect; and you can experience academic increase. Ultimately, those who have academic rise are those who believe they can. Turn your excuses around to the reasons you must have academic increase. If you bombard your mind with amorous thoughts, you will hardly have academic increase.

Regardless of your race, background, Intelligent Quotient (IQ) level, gender, ethnicity or other differences, you can surely have academic increase. When you look before, behind and around you but there is nobody else with which to compete, commence the hallmark of competition—with yourself—with which you can never feel arrived.

Keep enlarging your capacity to excel and stretching your tentacles wide. Without this, you may never achieve and sustain academic increase in a continuum. That your scores varies among subjects is a strong indication that you can have a better performance. Having done all to have academic increase, have academic increase!

Even if your grade point on a scale of 4.0 is 4.0, you can keep increasing by making 100% in each of your courses (or subjects). Do you say grade point is not used in your course of study? Then

use the obtainable standard and see if you are truly making progress. Although you may have excuses not to move forward, you have no excuse either to move backward nor be stagnant. There are wards that students should never go: backward, downward and wayward.

Oh student! Why are you walking when you should be soaring? That you have a least score and a highest score in your results is a pointer that you can have higher scores, higher than the current highest score in all future exams. Have you scored a hundred percent in all your subjects? You can do better; for someone has scored above a hundred percent. Do you want to keep excelling? Always thrust past successes behind you and look straight ahead.

Say this from the depth of your heart, "I shall have academic increase."

If you make past academic increase a tent wherein you dwell, you will scarcely get out of it to increase further. Never say that you have reach your limit, for your limit is limitless. Keep moving on, up, and forward, for therein lies success. That you have scores in courses which varying grades of improvement is a strong premise that you can have a better academic performance.

In studentship (and in life generally), there are four wards to go: onward, upward, forward and soar-ward. If you agree that you can have academic increase, why not throw in your all and have it?

CHAPTER 19: RELATIONSHIP

Relationship can be beneficial if it is excellence boosting; but if it is not, rethink, rethink and rethink—keep rethinking until you ultimately rethink. It is a truism: “one will chase a thousand, two will chase ten thousand.” But some two(s) are chasing almost nothing; the twosome is inimical to academic excellence. Hope you are not a party of such two(s).

Entering relationship prematurely is a gate pass to poor academic performance. Inordinate agitation to getting engaged is a sure way to academic retrogression. If your premarital relationship is affecting your studies retrogressively, make attempts to iron out issues between you two. If it persists, consider a breakup.

Some students are into relationships that are not excellence driven; yet they wonder why their grades are going down. If your relationship consumes most of your precious time, you are not prudent. Some students are into relationships that are feeding on their grade points, yet they claim they will die if they back out of it. Are they not “dying” already?

CHAPTER 20: STUDY

To emerge the best:

*Study daily;
Study regularly;
Study voraciously;
Study rapaciously;
Study avariciously;
Study ravenously;
Study aggressively;
Study perseveringly,
Study absolutely;
Study tenaciously;
Study meticulously;
Study perspicaciously;
Study undauntedly;
Study persistently;
Study insistentlly;
Study consistently;
Study invincibly;
Study instantaneously;
Study dedicatedly;
Study premeditatedly;
Study intentionally;
Study consciously;*

*Study subconsciously;
Study unconsciously;
Study thoroughly;
Study holistically;
Study thoughtfully;
Study prayerfully;
Study until you have truly studied; and after that, study more.*

CHAPTER 21: ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Life is compartmentalized; academic life is a crucial integral part, how are you faring academically? That you do not believe there is the place of God in attaining excellence, even academic excellence, does not nullify what the truth is. Prosperity comes from hard work but talking too much leads to great scarcity. [\[31\]](#) Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown men. [\[32\]](#) Nothing is strong enough to stop you from attaining academic excellence, except you. Start excellently, continue excellently, and finish excellently. Humility, integrity, goodness, and faithfulness are peculiar to students who makes excellence a continuum.

Excellence is not mysterious. If you do all you should do rightly, you can always excel. If you have brain, you can excel. If you are not excelling because you fear excellence, you need to be transformed by renewing of your mind. Don't just wish it; don't just plan it; don't just pray it; also, do excellence. Regardless of the stringency of the financial situation, those who have signed up invincibly for excellence will eventually excel. Why? Because they understand only one language: excellence. Excellence is near not only students who have everything they need to excel at their disposal but also to those who are committed to using their scarcely few resources to their maximum advantage.

Your earnestness and avidity to have academic excellence will pay off in the long run. You have an excellent mind. If your academic

performance does not commensurate to the capacity of your mind, you are to blame. Who will never have academic excellence? Those who have shut themselves out by writing themselves off. Stay away from doubters; abhor the company of skeptics; ignore the cynics; and refrain from the complacent if you are truly bent on excelling. You will eventually deliver what you conceive, academic excellence or poor performance. If you truly desire excellence in all spheres of life, see that your academic biography is not a 'but'.

Are you encountering frustration in the academia? Become a higher frustration and frustrate the frustration lest it frustrates you off the highway of academic excellence. What should you do after encountering excellence? Pursue a higher order of excellence, for whatever your level of excellence, there is a higher order. Spend less than five percent of your time and energy celebrating recently encountered success and throw the remaining over ninety-five percent into the pursuit of a higher order of success. You are not too young to excel neither are you too old to fail. Academic excellence has no regards for age.

When all is said and done, excel!

If you court an excellent spirit, you will excel; if you court poor performing spirit, you will fail. Even if the Most Anointed has decreed over you the blessings to have academic excellence, if you do not cooperate with the blessing by working academic excellence, you will never have it.

When all is said and done, it is your strong resolve to excel and be distinct that brings excellence on your table. Do not deflect, even slightly, off the path of excellence; for the farther you go, the bigger and more obvious the deflection becomes. At every point in life, there is something to stand for. While you are still a student, why not stand for academic excellence and, beyond the shore of studentship, all-round excellence?

If your road to excellence is frictionless, you are most likely on the wrong road.

If you are travelling a frictionless road, you will likely slip off. Watch it! Beware of insouciant religious leaders who draw the hearts of students from their primary purpose in the academia which is to achieve academic excellence. They have resolved not excel and they do not see any reason you should. Stay clear of apathetic leaders who hide under the canopy of politics to draw the hearts of students from their primary purpose in the academia which is to achieve academic excellence. They have resolved not excel and they do not see any reason you should.

Every student wishes to excel but not every student excels because not every student is not willing to abide by the principles governing excellence. Are you willing? If you absorb and apply the principles guiding academic excellence, you will have all-round excellence. When the rain is over, the cloud becomes clear; when exams are over, excellent students emerge.

Diligently pursue academic excellence with eternity in view.

In studentship, few things are compulsory: attaining academic excellence and “one or two” other mandatory things. You may not need moral uprightness to pass exams; you however need it to attain academic excellence—which goes far beyond passing exams. Amass your strength, harness your potential, maximize your intellect, do all you can do and have academic excellence. If you do not stand for excellence, you will fall for anything else but excellence. No matter how challenging the journey to excellence is, never let go of the central message: excellence.

If you keep reading, you will soon be read; if you keep studying, you will soon be studied as an epitome of excellence, locally and globally. Ponder on excellence. Ruminant on being exceptional. Meditate on leaving an indelible footprint in the sand of time. “Give up!” “Give up what?” “Give up everything that is deterring you from attaining academic excellence!”

Self-sacrifice is an indispensable price for academic excellence. Have you paid it? No boxer wins in the ring if he has not won at

private training. No student excels publicly if he has not excelled in the secret. Since academic pursuit is worth apportioning time for, it is worth working perfectly at till distinction is attained. The inexhaustible debt of excellence is paid in continuum; you can never be through paying it.

The battle for excellence is worth fighting. Fight for it! There may be several forces that guide academic excellence; a student offers a strong contributory effect. You have what it takes to be distinct. Therefore, be distinct. What one word should be said, if a privilege arises to address a gathering of expectant students? Excel! By anointing, the yokes are destroyed^[33]; by hard work, academic excellence is harnessed. Which of the following is never found in the core values of excellent students—Aspiration, perspiration, inclination, dedication, determination, procrastination? Procrastination.

As you strive to attain academic excellence, virtues are being built in you which will be your mainstay as you journey through life. Winners win; conquerors conquer; warriors war; excellent students, study painstakingly. If you are intoxicated with the eulogy that accompany academic excellence, you are on a fast lane to falling off the cliff of significant performance. Students who live for excellence do not loaf around. Be guided. To stay healthy, you bath always; to stay successful, dip yourself into the aura of excellence always. Excellence and failure have a common denominator: they are both contagious. Mind those with whom you associate.

If you claim that you are not wired to excel, you lie. Although what it takes to excel is a reverse of what it takes to fail, there is just a thin line between the two. There is no conviction as strong as self-conviction that you can achieve excellence. If you have ever written an exam in life and passed, you can excel. You can have academic excellence if you have its core sunk deep in your mind and spirit.

Never be weary of grand old consciousness of academic distinction. It is an esteemed mark of studentship. A student who does not stand for excellence will eventually be lost to the fold of the desultory. Academic excellence is a continuous outstanding

performance in studies coupled with progressively high degree of moral correctness. Give your definition of excellence. There is still a higher order. Academic excellence is a straight-line graph with positive slope. Don't make yours sinusoidal (wavy) or straight line of negative slope. Academic excellence involves a profound knowledge of what you study demonstrated by exceptional practical application and outstanding results in test, practical, assignment, seminars and examination.

Wishful thinking is not academic excellence but a traffic light to it. Excellence is a want; want is insatiable. Why are you satisfied with your current result? Some students talk about excellence; some attempt excellence; some strive for excellence; some have excellence; some become excellence. On which level do you belong? Except with eternity in view, academic victory is a pyrrhic victory, a victory won with unacceptable losses. Who will not have academic excellence? Those who have either consciously or unconsciously signed themselves out of it. Nobody can talk you out of academic excellence without your consent. Academic excellence is great. Excellent eternity is infinitely glorious. Therefore, pursue academic excellence with eternity in view. Academic excellence and poor performance are opposite. You cannot be at both ends simultaneously.

Over-eating, over-playing, over-discussing and oversleeping are great impediments to academic excellence. Beware! Some argue that academic excellence is achieved not only by studying hard, but they never disagree that studying hard is pivotal. Do those you respect the most call you dullard? Prove them wrong, not by oral reaction but by performance (distinction— by having outstanding results). Practically no student will reject academic excellence if it is offered freely, but many will reject the process of attaining academic excellence. Meanwhile, without the latter, no student can have the former. Do not be deceived: your input determines your output. There is no short-cut to academic excellence: abide by the rules and rule; discard them and fail. Negligence and academic excellence are mutually exclusive—you can never have the two together. There is no short cut to climbing the palm tree; there is no short-cut to

reaching the zenith of academic excellence. Look deep, think through, evaluate your deeds, ask yourself this question and give honest answer:

Am I working towards academic excellence?

Will you be happy if your child is performing poorly and negligently? Likewise, your Maker is not happy if you are performing poorly and negligently. Students who give little regard for academic excellence despise teachings on it but the ones who aspire and embrace excellence in studentship with passion attain great academic height. Whether you agree or not, you can have academic excellence.

Academic excellence is achieved by doing the right things at the right time in the right place using the right method. Excel! Build the fire of excellence in your spirit. Communicate it to your soul and instruct your soul to impose it on your body. When the fire of excellence builds up in your spirit, burns through your soul to consume your body, you become irresistible.

Some says academic excellence is not a prerequisite for amassing wealth, but they fail to realize that every step, every phase and every stage of their lives are of great interest to their Maker to whom they will give account. Academic excellence is not genotypic: it is not hereditary, but "study-typic" and "principle-typic". It is earned by assiduity. In the pursuit of academic excellence, there is no such statement like: "*I have arrived.*" You can never 'arrive' in academic excellence as your splendid attainment is another student's starting point.

"How can I have excellent eternity with God in heaven?" "By receiving Jesus Christ as your Lord and personal Savior." "How can I do that?" Kindly say, "*The Lord Jesus Christ, I accept you as my Lord and personal Savior.*" "What are the consequences of not accepting Jesus Christ as my Lord and personal Savior?" "Eternal separation from God, in Hell." You may think that you don't need to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and personal Savior to pass exams. That may be true. However, you need Him to have excellent eternity, that

is, eternal life—the hallmark of all-round excellence. Thank you very much for reading this book. See you at the top!

ACADEMIC PLEDGE (READ DAILY)

I pledge to my academic pursuit as my occupation
To be diligently committed to it
To put in my all and never be complacent
To keep academic friends and thread the pathway of excellence
To maximize the use of my brain and make best results
To do all my assignments, practical, group works and research diligently
To pray every day for academic excellence
To put in my best and be the best in all my academic endeavors
To attain academic excellence
With God I can; I will; I must

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE HYMN

(To the tune of "O happy day that fixed my
choice")

1. I have the brain to be best

In all my tests and my exams
I will prepare and be the best
In all my tests and my exams

*I will always excel
Because success is my portion
I will read my books everyday
And ask questions if I have need
I will always excel
Because success is my portion*

2. I will keep academic friends

And pray always for my studies
I will have academic rise
Never have better yesterday

*I will always excel
Because success is my portion
I will never procrastinate
Bye-bye to bad attitude
I will always excel
Because success is my portion*

3. I will be attentive in class

And give no room to distraction
All my thoughts will be positive—
Thoughts of excellence in studies

*I will always excel
Because success is my portion
I will do all my assignments
My practical and my research
I will always excel
Because success is my portion*

4. I will draw reading timetable

And use it to read everyday
I will respect all my teachers
I will always stay encouraged

*I will always excel
Because success is my portion
I will have confidence in God
And give no room to any fear
I will always excel
Because success is my portion*

5. Away from me, the lax and laze

Away from me, the complacent
I have seen possibilities
I have drawn academic plan

*I will always excel
Because success is my portion
I will strike possibilities
I will pray possibilities
I will always excel
Because success is my portion*

6. Beyond the shore of studentship

I will abide with principles
Excellence will be my watchword
In all the areas of my life

*I will always excel
Because success is my portion
I will do exploits in this world
All to the glory of my God
I will always excel
Because success is my portion*

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- [2] Proverbs 12:24 (TLB)
- [3] Proverbs 21:25 (NLT)
- [4] Proverbs 16:26 (MSG)
- [5] Ecclesiastes 9:10 (NIV)
- [6] Proverbs 4:25 (GNT)
- [7] Proverbs 4:25 (MSG)
- [8] Matthew 7:13-14 (NIV) [destruction is replaced with poor performance; life is replaced with academic excellence]
- [9] Isaiah 42:4a (Voice [you emphasized])
- [10] Proverbs 12:11 (TLB)
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Samuel Ayinde holds a PhD in mechanical engineering from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and a Graduate Certificate in counseling from the RCCGNA Seminary, Greenville, Texas, United States. He graduated with a First Class grade in Wood Products Engineering and as the best graduating student of the department of Agricultural and Environmental Engineering, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He has authored a couple of books including Let the Lord be Magnified, Attaining Academic Excellence, Make Your Life Count for God, Set An Example, Exploring the Multidimensional Mercies of God, and Secret Treasures For Purpose Fulfillment, Volume 1-9. He is ordained and serving as an assistant pastor with the Redeemed Christian Church of God. He is passionate about people discovering, understanding, and fulfilling the purposes of God for their lives, with eternity in view.

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**Attaining Academic Excellence: Becoming An
Invincible Academic Reference**

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