



Letter of Inheritance to the Graduating Students

"It matters little to me whether my pupil is intended for the army, the church, or the land. Before his parents chose a calling for him, nature called him to be a man.

When he leaves me, he will be neither a magistrate, a soldier, nor a priest; he will be a man," Said Rousseau.

Men acquire liberal education for no other purpose than that it would help them to be men, to lead human lives, and better lives than they would otherwise be able to lead.

The liberally educated man has a mind that can operate well in all fields. He may be a specialist in one field. But he can understand anything important in any field, and can see and use the light it sheds upon his own. He may even derive from his liberal education some conception of the difference between a bad world and a good one, and some notion of the ways in which one might be turned into the other.

The democratic ideal requires the attempt to help everybody get this education. Great changes like the rise of science, industrialization make the effort to give everybody this education more necessary and urgent.

The great books have been the principal instrument of liberal education, the education that men acquire as an end in itself, for no other purpose than that it would help them to be men, to lead human lives, and better lives than they would otherwise be able to lead.

**Robert M. Hutchins, Editor : "Great Books of the Western World" : Vol. 1-54,
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