



# DR HASAN SOHAIB MURAD

(SHAHEED)

Founder, ILM Trust and UMT  
(1959 - 2018)

A LEGACY OF SERVICE,  
LEADERSHIP AND  
EXCELLENCE

Leader. Mentor. Visionary









Sophia  
Perennis



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**THE SAYINGS OF  
DR. HASAN SOHAIB MURAD  
(SHAHEED)**

***Sophia Perennis:  
The Sayings of Dr. Hasan Sohaib Murad (Shaheed)***

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# PREFACE

The demise of our beloved leader, Professor Dr. Hasan Sohaib Murad (*Shaheed*), (1959-2018), it would appear, had left us in the depths of despair. Once we overcame our grief and desolation faded, we realized that he had not left us as an orphan. Even in his quietus he bequeathed a lasting legacy that we are just beginning to discover. His generosity lives in perpetuity.

Dr. Hasan Sohaib Murad (*Shaheed*), in his rather short lifespan, fulfilled a generational mission. A visionary leader in every sense of the words, he was God's gift to us, to Pakistan, and to the rest of the world. A universal man with universal values of humanity.

Spanning a wide arena of human endeavour, his towering intellect manifested in many ways: a teacher, a patriot, a philanthropist, and much more. His scholastics propagated the core value of the free flowering of human thought. He dared to go into the unknown with courage and tenacity.

Education without compassion was unthinkable for him. Learning that failed to inculcate the spirit of innovation was a waste of human potential and resources.

Uncompromising was he when it came to human character. He forcefully argued for and won the case for education as an instrument of human evolution. This perspective on evolution was unique for he believed in and implemented it in his own life and that of others a visible streak of spirituality.

The collection of his speeches, lectures, and writings are but merely a few drops from the vast ocean of his wisdom. One of the most distinguished traits of his personality was the absence of a gulf between his words and deeds.

No success or material gain was a cause célèbre for him. He kept his vision firmly focused on the future – an all-inclusive future where human values played a pivotal role. He distributed those gains for a shared human future.

Dr. Hasan Sohaib Murad (*Shaheed*) was not an armchair ideologue. His dynamic persona created a chain of reputed institutions where his message of enlightenment could be heard. From a humble beginning, his indefatigable efforts have paid off and these institutions stand today as an icon of his life-long struggle.

He was a true son of the soil who toiled for the uplift of his people; who exhorted his students and colleagues to pay their debt to the nation. He visualized Pakistan as a leading nation of the world whose intellectual acumen would be respected by all.

A voice of peace, harmony, justice, and equality, his crusade for human dignity embedded in his deep thoughts and iconic institutions will come to have enduring impact upon the lives of people here and abroad who have been blessed by his message.

This selected collection of his quotes is being published on the first anniversary of his death. It is a small tribute to a man whose ideas and actions transformed the lives of so many human beings. These quotes should serve as guiding principles for a fulfilling life. It is an indelible message of hope.

*Janab-e wala*, you will never cease inspiring us.

May Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala bless his noble soul.

Professor Dr. Munawar A. Anees  
Founding Director, Dr. Hasan Murad Institute for  
Knowledge Futures  
University of Management and Technology



The highest form of worship is to provide leadership to the world. The future leadership will be in the hands of those who will introduce to the world a system based upon societal happiness, everlasting happiness, societal justice and reduce occurrence of crisis and an endorsement of assets and whatever society has earned periodically.

**M**y own reading of the Holy Quran tells me that knowledge is linked with justice and there is no sense of knowledge, there is no serenity in knowledge and there is no wisdom in knowledge if it leads to injustice and exploitation. Knowledge has to create a balance, it has to contribute toward justice in the society.

If I have an idea, then I need some time and minimum resources to develop it, to help it grow. There is a seed in my mind and I need a fertile ground to lay that seed and then nurture it and see how it grows before I take it forward. So this is a time of experimentation, this is the time of looking at the idea how it turns out. I believe that this is another connection which is very important from discovery to development.

**W**e need to have invention. We need to have innovation, development, discovery. But then this is the world of disruption. Disruptions are taking place in garages, disruptions are taking place in cafes, disruptions are taking place in corridors, in classrooms and people are finding alternatives --- better ways how to go about it, how to do it, what's missing, what's needed, what's not there and people find it. They trace it and they come up with an idea how to get it forward. So this is the world of disruption.

Disruption then leads towards breakthrough. A disruptive idea can achieve a breakthrough.

**H**uman thought is unstoppable.  
Human thought is relentless.  
Human thought knows no end. Human thought has no beginning and no rest. It marches on and on. It evolves, it transforms, it overlaps, it builds one after another and is led by incessant human urge to be curious. It is driven by human urge to explore, to discover, to trace at the frontier and to lead afresh, to discover and make something new. And it is ultimately the march of invention and innovation which cultivates human thought, that adds value to how we live, adds value to how we work, how we behave, how we conduct ourselves and how societies evolve and progress over a period of time.

**T**he culture of invention and innovation requires just one characteristic, which is in-built and ingrained in humans by Allah Subhanahu wa Taala and that is to think, to reflect. It doesn't need fuel, it doesn't need power, it doesn't need money, and it doesn't need land. It needs self-confidence and the ability to think. Unfortunately, due to centuries of our mental slavery, we are highly constrained to think independently, think freely, think creatively. We have to train our generations in just this one very basic essential skill. We must train them to think boldly, to think loudly, to think practically, to think contextually, to think productively, to think critically, to think reflectively, to think natively, to think futuristically, to think naturally, to think analytically, to think spontaneously, to think collaboratively, to think professionally and to think technologically.



**F**ormation of an inclusive character. If we are inclusive in our mindset, character bearing, I think we will also be better global citizens because we will be able to appreciate the differences. We will be cognizant of and able to adapt to all the contrasts and differences. We will be collaborative and we will be able to set up bridges and interconnect, despite the differences. So if we want our citizens to be culturally intelligent and if we want them to be consciously behaving in this regard, then I think this is the kind of character that we need: inclusive character, inclusiveness in the character, an urge to be inclusive and seeking inclusiveness.

**A**llah Subhanahu wa Taala has created us once but he has given us the opportunity to recreate ourselves and to renew ourselves every day, every night, every moment and every year. Take this opportunity because this is your last, perhaps second last before you walk into the real world. So take this opportunity to re-craft yourself, to reconfigure yourself, to renew yourself, to transform yourself, to enhance yourself and to elevate yourself. This is your chance, this is your opportunity, and this is your challenge. Wherever you are coming from, whatever is your background, whatever education you have received before is a matter of past now and whatever is going to happen in the future will be the result of what you do from now on.

If you want to learn, the first thing you need to do is to take some interest in you and discover your 'I'. What is your 'I'. What does that 'I', mean. This 'I' as a result of you meeting you, at yours, in you, within you, as a result of that reflection, as a result of that exercise, you will discover the world of 'I'. And this 'I' will change every moment, this 'I' will change every week, every month because of your performance, because of your character, because of your refinement of your thinking, because of your eyes that would be able to see higher and higher and farther and farther, because of your maturity and because you already have gone through miles and you would be having a better shape, a better idea of 'I'. If you are not aware of 'I', then what is this all about? This degree will not help you, these teachers, their exams, these books, these computers, they would not be of help to you at all. So your target today is 'I', to discover 'I', to know this 'I', to figure out this 'I', so that you can shape it, you can mold it, you can build it, you can develop it, you can cast it, you can chisel it, you can construct it, you can renew it, and you can launch it. You can be then confident about yourself because you would know your worth, you would know who you are and if you know who you are then people would also take you as what you think you are.

If you want to lead the world, you will not lead the world by wealth, you will not lead the world by muscles; you will lead the world by being ahead of others, by being more skillful, with better imagination, more knowledge, and more information. If you read just today's newspaper, then you will feel, it adds to your communication, it adds to your knowledge, it adds to your writing, it adds to your speaking.

To live sincerely is the easiest and the best way. It means every step and every moment has to be just in line, steadfastly focused towards the destiny.

**T**o be living means to be able to sense and do something. Only the alive can be living as well. Not incuriously all alive are not living yet amazingly some living are actually not alive.

**T**o reach someone who is none but  
one. There has to be only one way.  
Just like a straight line to be direct  
and fastest.

**W**ork hard to reach your goal. Once you're there, you come to know the art of how to remain there and sustain. Going through this procedure is actually history.



If destiny is at the end of a way forward  
which is just and straight then even a  
very slight deviation means its  
displacement and waste of life, unless  
there is corrective action.

L ife comes to one only once so live it  
for none but the One who is  
only One.

**W**hen we align ourselves to faith and declare our faith, it suddenly transforms us. It helps us relate ourselves to first of all our own beings. So it is a different story than anyone else who does not profess faith or who has no faith. We relate ourselves in terms of our beings, where we have come from and where we shall return to. This brings major questions before our eyes.

Secondly, this helps us to relate ourselves with not just the world that is around us, but also to a Higher Being and we discover that Higher Being.

**Y**ou need to think first, act first, lead first, question first, answer first, arrive first, stand first and sit first, and you will see how world opens its doors for you and how it welcomes you with its arms wide open.

**K**nowledge is in many things and can have many different garbs and can have many different directions and dimensions. But the knowledge that is gained by seeking the truth and knowledge that comes out of the pursuit of truth, unbiased, unprejudiced, based upon crystalline reasoning and logical understanding and rational thinking is the one that we care for and value. Knowledge is actually consisting of truth and nothing but truth.

**T**here has to be an emphasis for the development of character, for the development of moral character, moral fiber of the community and then only a character-based, a character-led person can become a host and a recipient of knowledge based upon truth.

**W**e may earn in trust and trust can lead to success or failure but I believe that in human working and in human operation and in human relationship, trust is the only way which can develop the goodness and can help us follow the path of virtue and can help us develop the good self among the people. When I feel that my parents, friends and family are showing so much trust in me, that becomes my inspiration, my motivation and my stimulation to hold on to that trust. Because then I use that trust and that trust makes my life better, it helps me do things in my life.

Degrees are temporal and degrees are for transitions, Diamonds are forever and diamonds are meant to be transcendental. Diamond is the purest and the hardest thing on the surface. It cannot be compromised and it cannot be contaminated. So transform yourself like a diamond to become everyone's desire to have you around.



**T**here is no word like 'ar-Rehman'.  
There is no word that can promise for us what this single word can do. There is no word which has magic, which has a treasure in which the heavens and the skies, the planets and the earth all can merge together and whatever is in between, whatever it was before and whatever it will be thereafter. So this word 'ar-Rehman' is the word that guides our journey, that indicates our destiny and that highlights our source. All glories and praises reserved for this 'ar-Rehman'.

Our humble existence is but a manifestation of the infinite attributes of this word.

**Y**ou should strive to stand for ideologies that you would have to succeed in this world and it also stands for your international outlook because this world is a global society and you cannot succeed if you can find yourself to the limits of your own locale.

**W**hat's important is your spark. Do you have this spark? Do you have the momentum? Do you have what it takes? So it is your spark. Live by your spark and believe in yourself and hold on to yourself accountable for that. Your spark is the most important asset for yourself. And remember, Facebook is important, Twitter is important but face to face relationship, face to face conversation is more important. I am seeing that we are sacrificing our relationships at the cost of .Facebook and other things. It is face to face interaction that is most important.

**A**ll praises are devoted to none but the Allah Subhanahu wa Taala, Who has created us and has made it possible to hold this convocation and reach this far. Who enabled us and Who I'm sure is much delighted to see this event and Who is certainly a key witness to all that we do here. Who unleashed whatever is there, whatever was there and whatever is going to be there by a very easy command that is 'Kun', 'Kaaf' 'Noon' Kun, which means 'Be'. When He says Be, it becomes whatever He desires, whatever He aims at. He governs with the keyboard which has just one key and that is 'Kun'. To Him we owe our gratitude because whatever we have has come from Him. To Him we owe obedience because He governs and He rules.

Cheating and teaching are two opposite things. They have no resemblance, they have no connection.

You know this is a great crime, serious crime that you want to learn and yet in the process of learning you are cheating. What to talk of performance? You look at Pakistan. What is happening to our governance, what's happening in our bureaucracy, what's happening in business and industry. If 'I' stands for Islam then I stands for complete code of life, moral conduct, truthfulness, trust. These are important variables.

**G**ood life, good society. These are very noble goals and we all share these goals. We all are willing to invest our lives for the pursuit of good life and good society. But then there is another thing which really attracts our attention and that is the possibility of attaining happiness but also the possibility of being able to meet and attend to all desires that we may have. So my ability, my unlimited, unrestricted ability to meet my desire is important for me. And I call it my freedom. If there is any restriction on my desire, I feel that my freedom has been checked and that's wrong.

I see a great potential here, I see a great promise here. I see a great future here.

This is something which was unique, because here we are trying to not distance from each other. We are not trying to overwrite each other. We are not trying to knock down each other in the ring of debate, but we are trying to relate to each other, we are trying to collaborate with each other.

**T**he mission of UMT is 'Learning'.  
Learning to do, learning to know,  
learning to live, learning to excel, learning  
to lead and learning to be. Learning to be  
what they can be, learning to be what  
they want to be and learning to be what  
they could be. Their challenge is their  
imagination about themselves and we  
help them launch themselves into a  
process of self-exploration, self-  
development and self-actualization.



**W**e need to have passion for education. We need to have a passion for the success of our people. We need to be cherishing and we need to be striving to see our people crossing milestones, developing themselves, beating the previous records and surprising us with their outstanding and brilliant performance.

I was lucky. I was fortunate that what I thought what I saw for myself and what I dreamt and these perhaps are the only two positions that I ever could think of in my infancy and in my teenage. And He wrote those things for me and it has been then my distinguished honour, my extreme privilege to serve the University of Management and Technology, and to do whatever I can to the best of my ability to build this institution.

UMT was never meant to be a copy of some other institution or to be just an imitation of something that has just come out. We have spent a lot of time in thinking that what is the best that we can achieve.

What is it that is needed to be done.

Whatever our mind guided us and whatever we came up with together, we followed that path and we never felt that any stereotype or any model or brand or any other leading institution that we should follow. Yes, we always identified good practices wherever we could find them, but then we tried to make UMT a new crystal, a new beam, a new beacon, a new fountain and a new initiative having its own flavour, having its own colour, having its own identity developed thought out by the people who are actually part of it.

**H**igher Education to me is about transformation of society by advancement of knowledge and development of people. So whatever you do, whatever job you have, whatever course you are teaching, whatever position you hold and whatever you contribute, just tag it and try to see how it is contributing to the transformation of society by advancement of knowledge and development of people. UMT's contribution is directly proportional to the transformation of society by advancement of knowledge and development of people.

I'm a Pakistani and I hold a Pakistani ID and a Pakistani passport, and I have a residence within this state, that's the minimum. But at a maximum, I am motivated that being a Pakistani is my identity and I have to work for my state. I have to help the state perpetuate itself and to help this state to be growing and progressive and becoming respectable, and dignified in the future. So universities are pretty much like state and we as citizens are part of that state.

The advancement and progress of nations in the future depends upon universities. Universities carry the nations to the future, which means that I have to look to the future. We have to plunge ourselves into our current times. We have to make sense of what has gone before. But we have to then be able to see long, take a long view of the future and do things now in this classroom, standing behind this rostrum, talking besides this board and showing the things on the slides, which will be futuristic, which will help them tomorrow, day after tomorrow. We are future builders and we are the architects of the future.









## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

This presentation is based upon the record of addresses, speeches, and lectures of Dr. Hasan Sohaib Murad (*Shaheed*).

The text appearing in this presentation is derived from the verbatim transcription of the audio and video material. It underwent appropriate editing for clarity.

Janab Muhammad Taufeeq Sahib, erstwhile Director of the Office of Communication and Media and the current Director of Archives, deserves our gratitude for preserving the precious memorabilia. Having close working relationship for decades with Dr. Hasan, he was ideally suited to collate the transcriptions. An admirable job indeed.





## **Dr. Hasan Sohaib Murad (*Shaheed*)**

(1959-2018)

Dr. Hasan Sohaib Murad (*Shaheed*), an illustrious son of the revered leader of Muslim renaissance, Khurram Jah Murad, (may Allah be pleased with him) has left an enduring legacy. Born in Karachi, Pakistan, he graduated in Civil Engineering from NED University and later obtained his MBA from Washington State University. Dr. Hasan was awarded his doctorate by the University of Wales in 2001. His composite persona carried the flair for profound knowledge. His vigour to imagine the futures and tenacity to face the challenges was an intense inspiration that motivated people into action. As a great visionary and a pioneer of innovative education, he was instrumental in incepting a bold new scholastic tradition in Pakistan and founded the University of Management and Technology in 1990. He displayed much diligence for the establishment of schools and colleges: He was the Chairperson of ILM Colleges, a network of 50 colleges, and that of The Knowledge Schools a conglomerate of 200 schools. Never forgetting his pedagogical responsibilities, he initiated and actively participated in programmes on educational management and professional advancement. He was twice appointed as Chairperson of National Business Education Accreditation Council, set up by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan. He was the Founding Chairperson of Association for Academic Quality (AFAQ), a leading educational publisher with some 350 titles in use at 20,000 schools in Pakistan and abroad. Exercising his extraordinary organizational and diplomatic skills, Dr Hasan represented Pakistan as a member in the Executive Board of International Association of Universities (IAU), a UNESCO body. He was a founding Governor of the Board of Governors and Secretary General of International Business Forum (IBF), a network of prominent CEOs from 120 countries based in Istanbul, Turkey. We celebrate his achievements with the pledge to emulate the values and the character that offer lasting inspiration for all.