Baker apologizes for plagiarism with totally original speech

Dr. Phillip Baker, the University of Alberta’s former dean of medicine, delivered a moving speech to medical school graduates last week, in which he apologized for his infamous speech last spring discovered to be largely plagiarized from another speech written by Atul Gawande.

The dean explained that this year’s speech, which he called “The Sermon On the Mount,” was written entirely by him. In his speech, Baker reminded the graduates not to lay all the blame on him for screwing up so colossally last time.

“Four years and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal,” Baker stated in the opening line of his address.

Baker explained that any remaining anger students and staff may have towards him over something as silly as plagiarism was pointless and detrimental to the faculty.

“A house divided against itself cannot stand,” Baker solemnly noted.

Baker then turned his attention to the graduates preparing to leave the U of A and venture out into the world. “Graduating from school is nothing to fear. The only thing we have to fear is fear itself,” Baker said.

The latter part of the dean’s speech was devoted to highlighting social and political injustices plaguing the world today.

“I have a dream and I am prepared to die so that all men are created equal,” Baker shouted with a fist in the air.

“I am the luckiest man on the face of this Earth. Ich bin ein Berliner,” Baker continued with fervor. “Whether ‘tis nobler in the mind to suffer The Slings and Arrows of outrageous fortune, Or to take Arma against a Sea of troubles, that is the question. Mr. Gorbachev tear down this wall!”

Graduate Eric Holiday said he was deeply inspired by Baker’s new, entirely original, never-before-heard speech.

“I’m proud of the dean for doing the right thing. It couldn’t have been easy for him to write a completely new speech from scratch,” Holiday said. “It takes a big man to get up there in front of everyone and apologize.”

Dr. Baker set aside some time at the end of his speech to take questions. When asked by The Getaway on why he hadn’t written an original speech the first time, Baker responded by saying, “You talkin’ to me? You talkin’ to me? You can’t handle the truth!”