

Business Speech (Voorbeeld)

Christmas speech in business context

Honoured guests,

This is really a special privilege to be allowed to address you now that the feast days of Christmas are approaching. This is the more so because, since my very earliest recollections, I have roamed about the fascinating rooms of this laboratory and used to play there. How exciting they were, these strange devices and odd objects. Furthermore I have relished, for nearly my whole life, the little nuts analyzed by you and roasted by myself. In addition I got even more acquainted with the inside of this lab as a result of holiday work. And in this way I got to know many of you even better. I myself live over a laboratory, together with three nice fellows who work there, which enables me to go on sniffing the odour and inhaling the atmosphere.

Fortunately the family will not entirely sever the bonds with the company one will go on following the developments with every possible involvement and concern.

Well, what would I like to tell you in this Christmas speech? There is no need to worry on that point, because, although I am a minister, I will not speak to you in a moralizing way this afternoon.

However, a metaphor occurred to me, when giving a more serious thought to this company, which, strictly speaking dealt with a church or a religious organisation anyway.

Once there lived a passionate man who propagated the wisdom of Jesus, whose name was Paul. He founded many small religious communities which he compared to the human body: "Many limbs, one body".

In essence this image fits an organisation like this just as well. One needs a clear vision, or target, just like a human being but many limbs are necessary which have to be organically interconnected if the body is to function properly. Only when all parts - or rather limbs - in this particular case YOU, are harmonically geared to one another, is the body able to form an integrated and sound unity. Everyone of you is equally necessary!

And I need not point out to you what the negative consequences are if one member fails or falls ill; in that case the whole body is in disorder, let alone if it is assaulted from the outside. Then the impact makes itself totally felt. So far this comparison seems quite reasonable to me.

In a human body too, parts must sometimes be replaced just as well, while it remains essentially unchanged. However never completely. And in this way you will develop jointly, along with the changing times. Here too people come and go but the original ideas of the team spirit continue, jointly guaranteeing superior quality and authentic domestic style.

Now that somebody else is taking the place of the chairman we might as well drop the comparison with the human body. Otherwise the picture would become a bit strange.

It is true that again several changes in policy will take place, but I am personally convinced that the qualitative ingredients I described just now, as well as the time-honoured élan of this company, will be warranted in a modern way.

In addition, this notion of values, such as honesty, keeping appointments, loyalty and correct mutual relations, will always be held in high esteem. And let's not forget the jokes and fun everyone often had.

It is therefore appropriate in this context, to dwell nevertheless upon a person who, unlike anyone else, introduced these values into the world: Jesus himself.

Whatever your opinion is about him, he demonstrates by his life and deeds that it is these values which are essential. And that it appears almost unnatural when one is motivated by egoism, greed, envy and commercial hardening, to mention just a few.

During these days we again celebrate his arrival on earth in order to maintain these positive values.

I wish you every fortitude and inspiration when outlining and abiding by the right course between sound trading and maintaining the humane approach which, in my view, are so typical of this concern.

I raise my glass to a bright future with each other and a merry and blessed Christmas.

If you allow me, I would like to say a few words to the director.

Dear friend,

Very soon the time will come that you will rest on your laurels. This means that you may relax on a couch decorated with laurel leaves. These leaves are a symbol of a well-deserved rest after work done, although I doubt whether you will use this bed very often considering the many things you love to do.

The laurel leaf is not only a symbol of rest but also a sign to show appreciation.

When laurels are bestowed on you, you experience homage. I will hand you these now for I know that, with all your devotion and originality you possess you have accomplished your task here. So, here you are: As a symbol a laurel tree. I wish you good health and happiness.