

You've spent years meeting expectations, doubts, and demands —
and along the way, you gained a hidden superpower:
proof that you can endure long stretches of pressure, change, and learning.
That strength will stay with you for the rest of your lives.

And today you'll hear that the future is bright and full of possibilities.
That's true — which is why I won't say more about that.

Instead, I want to ask you a question:

What is your greatest asset now that you've graduated?

You might say your knowledge or your experience.
And knowledge is important — but knowledge grows linearly.
Step by step, course by course, exam by exam.

And experiences matter — but they're like islands in a sea of time.
Each one means something,
but none of them define your direction on their own.

The thing that shapes a life the most
is not knowledge or experience in isolation —
it's how they meet.
How they amplify each other.
How they — together with your background, your mistakes, your interests,
your relationships, and everything you carry with you —
start to multiply rather than merely add.

That's where the combination effect of a life emerges.
And it's powerful.

You can see it everywhere in nature:
A single atom is almost nothing.
But when atoms combine, they form molecules —
with properties no atom had on its own.
When molecules combine, cells appear,
cells become organs,
organs become organisms — and life emerges.

And when people combine their abilities, societies appear.
And when societies combine their ideas, civilizations are born.

The entire world runs on combination effects:
parts that are limited on their own,
yet together become something entirely new.

And the same is true for you.
It took me a long time to understand how important this is.
For years, I thought my own parts were in conflict:
games, mathematics, writing, art, music.
I thought my restlessness was a flaw,
that I lacked a clear label,
that I didn't quite fit anywhere.

But everything I tried to sort out or set aside
turned out to be the raw material for something larger.

It was the combination effect of everything I carried with me
that gave rise to Pugstorm,
and later became the foundation of Core Keeper —
and the emails from players around the world
who said the game helped them through difficult times.

It was never a plan.
It was a multiplication of everything I had lived.

And the same is true for you.

You already hold a unique combination:
your education,
your background,
your interests,
your relationships,
your strengths,
your failures,
your doubts,
everything you've carried,
and everything that has shaped you.

It's only when you see how your parts amplify one another
that you'll understand your real potential.

So my message to you is simple:
Look inward.
Value your own combination effect.
It is far greater than you think —
and it is your greatest asset.

Congratulations on your graduation. And my warmest wishes for the future. Thank you.