

5D (22) Grace

“Your deeds are your moments,” written by R.J. Palacio in the book *Wonder*, meaning that we should be remembered for the things we do.

Good deeds often resonate not through grand announcements, but through quiet actions that change lives. Among the many stories that inspire me, one about a renowned Harvard professor, Jorge Dominguez, stands out, not for its scale, but for its profound personal kindness.

Years ago, during a vicious Boston snowstorm, a first-year international student from a tropical country found himself stranded. He had no winter boots; his thin shoes were soaked and he was shivering uncontrollably after a long walk. As he stood miserably in a campus building, an older gentleman approached. It was Professor Dominguez, a distinguished figure in political science. Noticing his distress, the professor didn't just offer sympathy. He asked for his shoe size, then promptly left.

Twenty minutes later, Professor Dominguez returned, carrying a brand-new pair of sturdy, warm winter boots. “Try these on,” he said simply. The student, overwhelmed, stammered his thanks, worried about the cost. The professor waved it aside, insisting only that the young man get back to his dorm safely. For that student, those boots were more than footwear; they were a tangible symbol of empathy and unconditional support of a moment of vulnerability and loneliness.

This story, shared by the student years later, captures the essence of a true good deed. It was observant, immediate and practical. Professor Dominguez used his position not for prestige, but as a tool to extend simple human care to someone feeling miserable and out of place. He asked for nothing in return and would likely never mention it again.

This deed reminds me that goodness is about seeing a need and filling it with dignity. It bridges the gap between status and circumstances, proving that kindness is the most universal language.