Scientific Integrity.. in a Story

In 1981 in the College of Engineering / University of Baghdad / the Civil Engineering Department, we submitted our theses to obtain a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering / Roads Division, and my colleagues theses were discussed successively.

One of our colleagues, Mr. Muhammad Abdul Hassan, had a story different from the rest of us.

After fully completing his research titled "Stabilizing Soil Using Lime Mortar or Quicklime (CaO)", chemical tests showed that the substance the researcher used in the research, which was supposed to be quicklime (CaO), was calcium hydroxide Ca(OH)2, as both substances had the form of white powder.

My colleagues; Messrs. Nihad Qassem, Hassan and Afif and myself advised Mr. Muhammad to report the incident to the supervising professor and ask for his opinion on resolving the issue.

At this point, our colleague, Mr. Muhammad Abdul Hassan, informed the supervising professor, the late Dr. Najeh Muhammad Khalil, that the result of the chemical test showed that the substance was hydrate lime Ca (OH)2 and not quicklime (CaO), and therefore asked the professor to amend the title of the thesis to "Stabilizing the Soil Using Hydrate Lime Ca(OH)2", but the supervising professor did not approve of the proposal and asked his student to redo his research using the same material that he was asked to work on in the original thesis, and thus extended the submission period of the research by 6 months.

Early 1981 we graduated and obtained our Master's degree, but our colleague, Mr. Muhammad Abdul Hassan, graduated 6 months later.

The story does not end here. The supervising professor, Dr. Najeh Muhammad Khalil, who was President of the Scientific Research Council, evaluated the scientific integrity of the student and appointed him to work as an engineer in the Scientific Research Council, an award for his honesty. Six months after working in the Scientific Research Council, the President of the Scientific Research Council nominated Mr. Muhammad Abdul Hassan for a scholarship in England to obtain a Doctorate degree as an additional reward for his scientific integrity.

Scientific research has always been associated with scientific integrity, which a researcher must adhere to, as scientific research without the presence of scientific integrity is pointless in the practical and theoretical aspects to give a scientific research sobriety and credibility.

Scientific research is very important in the development of industry, agriculture and all other aspects of life.. serving society and contributing to the development of science in various aspects of life.

Scientific integrity is an ethical principle.. essential for achieving good quality of scientific research and is considered one of the most important principles involved in scientific research. We are living in such times where scientific theft has spread greatly in scientific research due to several reasons, including the researcher's lack of scientific integrity and negligence to associate the research to its author, or other forms of scientific theft.

Scientific research expresses the researcher's creativity and efforts.. we are therefore looking forward to our researchers of master's and doctorate studies committing themselves to scientific integrity while working on their researches for the sake of science development.. not to ignore the research work carried out by others.. mentioning its purpose..

dealing carefully with previous studies.. referring to them in proper footnotes and drafts, which will promote the scientific profile and sophistication of our scientific institutions and universities and among researchers.