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Last Lecture Reflection

When I first saw the length of the video my heart dropped, and I procrastinated having to dive into all one hour and twenty minutes of it for as long as I could. Now that I finished it, I noticed, comically enough, that my first reaction to the video itself addresses one of its main premises, the brick wall theory of dedication. Where the intimidation of an obstacle is a test to prove that you are dedicated to achieving something. Which I agree with to an extent of context to what that brick wall is. Where I believe that circumstances can exacerbate the effects of unfairness of a brick wall. Systematic repression is a big example of such, where some employers intentionally avoid “black sounding names”. This to me is an unfair brick wall. Bringing me to the degree where I almost feel that a brick wall should not be intentional, but only be determined on self-employment of the courage it takes to try something or jump on an opportunity. Despite where I interject his point, this is becoming more and more charming of a talk the longer I sit on it.

The biggest takeaway I found is that attainment isn’t locked by skill but by fear. Subsequently, I liked how much he emphasized believing in people and celebrating what they are capable of and who they are. Randy Pausch at one-point mentions “There’s a good way and a bad way of attaining things”, which is a simple observation but is the entire theme of his speech. Beginning with a growth mindset, which comes full circle to what we previously discussed in this class. Then about the fact that it is about who you know balanced with what you can achieve, where Pausch describes his enrollment into his school he desired being denied until he found someone who knew someone within its ranks. But Pausch first had to have what was needed to achieve what he wanted and un-bailing determination even when he’s not sure what to do.

Pausch ends it by talking about how he started the speech by introducing the fact he was going to piece together a secret message or a head-fake. Which was: “it’s how you lead your life then your dreams will come to you”. And as Mac Miller once said: “I was looking for what was looking for me”. Who, despite how he ended, was high successful to achieving his dreams. Pausch mentions a belief in karma at some point and I think this is an extension of that as much as it’s an extension of who you know.