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FINDING MY PASSION

For 20 years of my life, I had no specific goals or passion for doing anything. My friends were also just like me, no aim at all. Since there were people other than me who didn’t care what they would do with their life, I thought it was natural to have no particular interests. Furthermore, I was raised in a society where securing a decent paying job is what people usually aim for. Naturally, I also focused on landing a job and earning good money. For that, I needed to study hard and get good grades, which, I did. But I never enjoyed that. Studying was, for me, just an obstacle that I had to overcome to earn money. But everything changed after I came to America.

Honestly, I came to U.S because I thought I could get a decent paying job after getting a bachelor’s degree here. I chose computer science as my major because it could get me a good amount of money in the future. I was not very interested in computers but since it could bring me money and it seemed less boring to me than other programs, I joined it. I was taking regular classes and everything was going normally until one day when I had to go to listen to stories of people for my communication class.

The speech was in Stubbs hall. I went inside the building and entered a room. The room was big. There was a huge screen on my left and seats on my right which were in ascending order, the row after each row were slightly higher. I moved up to the sixth row and sat in a seat. After few minutes, a guy was called forward to present his story to us. His name was Kendrick. He was tall, dark and handsome, literally. He was wearing a black suit, white shirt, and a brown shoe, but no tie. He went in front of the room and started telling his story about how he decided to change his major from high paying job to communication major. He stressed that although he might not earn a lot of money in the future, he would still be happy with what he will do in his life. In the end, he said, ”Please think about what you want to do. Explore the possibilities. Find your passion and make that your career choice. Don’t choose money, choose happiness as it will last much longer than a piece of paper.”

His words got stuck in my head. It felt like he said all those things specifically to me. I couldn’t stop thinking about it, so after the speech was over, I went back to my room, sat in my chair, opened my laptop and started searching for answers, answers to why I haven’t found my passion yet, answers to when I will find it or how can I find it. I searched the internet for hours but couldn’t find any answers that could satisfy me. I even went to many people for advice. All of them told me that I will eventually find my greatest interest and I should not stop looking for it. But the only question was ‘when?’. It might be too late when I find what I love. What if I don’t find it even after a decade or so. This thought bothered me, so once again I sat down on the chair in my room, opened my laptop and googled “how to find passion”. Lots of videos popped up and I started watching those videos. Every day I used to watch new videos and read articles in hopes of finding a decent answer. After few days of searching, a ted talk video grabbed my attention. All the materials I had been through and all the people I went to for advice said, ‘follow your passion’, but the man in the video said the opposite. He said ‘‘It’s dangerous to follow your passion. Passion is just an interest, and interest can change over time.” This hit me. I thought to myself that I might love something today but it is likely that I might not love it as much after 5, 10 or 20 years and after some more years, I might not even have the same drive or passion anymore. The man suggested that instead of searching for my passion I should do something that’s fulfilling. A career that can help my society, family, or any people in need.

All that time, I was hungry for an answer and that man gave me exactly what I needed. After listening to him, I felt confident in myself. I was not in a rush to find my passion anymore. I decided to do something that can benefit the society, like building a software that can somehow decrease poverty, or solve world-wide problems. I know it’s not easy to do that. I have to work very hard and develop my skills and knowledge. But if helping others can motivate me to work with my greatest interest in a certain field, then that field can be the ‘passion’ everybody talks about. I don’t know it for sure yet, but I am ready to take my chances.