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MART 120

09/07/2023

It was hard to not be reminded the whole lecture of the gravity of his words when he knew this was titled his last. The journey and understanding of one's mortality (especially a shorter mortality than most common) is one that is different for all. To use time, when little time is left, to teach others is something profound. As someone who has learned at a young age of their own mortality through the loss of a family member, it was wholesome and fulfilling to see someone plan and use their time to create something for others, specifically his loved ones.

Childhood dreams were a topic throughout the lecture. I could feel myself feeling cynical since I had seen much of my generation growing up so quickly with much of the people around me never speaking of childhood dreams. I see many of the people around me wanting to fulfill a dream but not a dream from childhood. From my perspective, the dreams of my peers are practical not whimsical or childhood. I enjoyed listening and being inspired by how karma, authenticity, and work ethic create opportunity. At the same time, there is a reason there is skepticism. The dreams of my peers are more about survival and maybe being lucky enough to afford an apartment with a dishwasher.

These thoughts do not take away from the inspiring and thought-provoking lecture by Randy Pausch. There was so much joy in hearing someone talk about their life with such joy in the community and in loving his career and working hard. I don’t have to identify with the whole lecture to take inspiration away from it.