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THE LAST LECTURE

I found “The Last Lecture” to be incredibly powerful, not just in the emotional sense, but also in the sense of the importance of the message being conveyed. Randy Pausch told this story of himself and his beginnings and growth as an individual. He didn’t convey these all as him being the teacher, but rather conveyed this story from the eyes and perspective that he was a student himself, and learning along the way. To me, this made his points have even more impact, and showed that we’re all still learning, regardless of age or where we’re at in life.

The aspect that affected me most was twofold. First, the lecture opens up with him essentially making it clear that by the time most will be seeing it, he’ll be gone. That was tragic, but his outlook was bright, and even cheerful. This made the entire lecture carry a weight of importance, but at the same time, a lot of that importance was to have fun in what you’re doing, and you saw that point made repeatedly in the lecture. The second aspect of this was the very end. When Randy stated very clearly that the lecture wasn’t for anyone watching, but rather for his kids. I choked up at this, as it was such a sudden blow of emotion, and such an incredible example of legacy for a father to leave to his children.

I identified a lot with Randy’s message, and in my life I’ve continued on much the same sense that he did, challenging the status I had grown accustomed to, and wanting to continue forward, learning more, growing more, and never giving up the passion to continue that journey of personal advancement in various ways. The emphasis and importance of family put forward in the lecture spoke to me as well, and I greatly enjoyed his approach to incorporating their support for him into the aspects of his storytelling.

The concept of pursuing dreams is something that I believe strongly in as well, and seeing such an accomplished individual stating this as a sort of guidebook for himself was incredibly interesting, especially when it came to the adaptation of his childhood dreams into his adult realities. It shows that even small goals, or potentially unrealistic goals can be realized in new and creative ways.

Overall I found “The Last Lecture” and Randy Pausch’s story to be inspiring and hope-giving. I feel it was one of the best lectures I’ve heard, and after watching it I feel even more committed to my own goals in education, as well as in helping others. This has always been my goal, and more inspiration and hope on that front is always a good thing!