

The first man who climbed mount Everest, returned nearly dead. When asked: "why did go up there, to die?" he said: "I didn't, I went up there to live"

Starting medical school comes close to climbing a mountain. Those of you who have climbed a mountain would probably agree that this endeavor consists of mostly pain. So, people may ask: "why in the world would anyone do this to themselves?" my answer is: "because it's worth it". On our way to the top, we have the chance to witness some of the most fascinating things and in this case of human thinking. Knowledge garnered from the brightest minds, distilled over the centuries, and squeezed into a 6-year program enabling us to contribute to human progress.

That you are sitting in this chair is the result 400 generations working for 10 000 years to put you here and all this came with a lot of suffering, hard work and foremost with the greatest hope to be used wisely. Now you are the tiniest fraction of a percent of the most fortunate people who have ever lived it's on you to earn this. While your nights and weekends are wasting away to wrap your head around all these things a physician will have to know, remember that you sacrifice today for a better tomorrow.

Now, enough of the tough words and if you permit me, I would like to close with my favorite story, and it just so happens that it reminds me of my first year in medical school and probably by the time you get to second year you will understand why.

This story is regarding Albert Einstein, arguably the greatest scientist of our time. Einstein in his later stages of life was still attracting a lot of attention and even while driving from A to B he was explaining his story to people over and over again. After 20 years Einstein got tired of it, so he was approached by his driver. He said: "you know what Albert, I've been listening to your stories for some many years I know all of them, and I probably haven't mentioned it yet but I'm not just a driver, I'm also a part time actor! Why don't don't we switch places? You take the wheel and rest, while I get into the back and explain to people are your stories." Einstein loved that joke so they switched places. It all work at famously until one day a mathematician showed up and asked a very difficult mathematical question. Einstein thought:" Alright, that's it, games up!", the driver however was a clever guy and just replied:" you know what, Sir. This question is so elementary, that my driver here can answer that!"

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