**Best letter**

from **AZERBAIJAN** (English translation)

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**Age:** 14 years

Write a letter about your hero

Hey Stephen, you know, sometimes I ask myself… Why do people consider themselves feeble for using their skills in the areas that change the flow of humanity even though they know that they have boundless mind and perception that is characteristic only for human or why an ordinary man does not try to create theorems that overpower all the laws of the physics although he has all the physical capabilities? However, they say, “Turtles only make progress when they stick their necks out of its shell”

 In our world, people are always in a hurry and panic. But what is all this hurry for? To be born, to grow, to study, to get a job, to get married and to pass away? No… We are not obliged to live with perfect living standards and to consider the information correct that has come to us from the past to the present day through generations without investigating them via modern technologies! We were taught to walk looking down at our feet in our childhood. You, matchless sky, you taught me to look up against any kind of irony and you taught me to see a universe full of words in the place I look, not just sky. You are really different than others. But unfortunately, this difference brings you constant misfortune along with luck.

 Imagine that, you are a young man of 21 with vivacious character and a bright and perspective future. You have dreams that are not made and you have sentences that are not completed. But at this moment, during this wonderful eve, life pricks you with a sharp needle all of a sudden. Imagine that you are diagnosed with a rare disease called “Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis” in which nerve cells gradually break down and die in two years. What a miserable situation? As your physician speaks, you feel like your life is flowing out of your palms like water. I know that reminding these memories touches you. But my dear hero, do not forget your motto about life “There is definitely something you can do even when life gets tough.”

 I do not know about others, but the basic peculiarities I have learned from you are thinking, learning and perseverance and never giving up. Despite the physician's predictions, or even the loss of your ability to speak, you have gained some achievements that a healthy person can by advancing theories such as Quantum Gravity, Hawking radiation. You have occupied the position of Lucasian Professor. Its first holder was Isaac Newton three centuries ago. Besides, you are getting famous with endless awards and you are considered as Einstein of 21st century. That is why I can only welcome such a man: the most successful physicist – theorist of our time – Stephen Hawking – that is you, my hero!

 There is a book in the world that has been written by someone who does not handle the pen, has sold 25 million. Stephen, probably this name is familiar to you: “Short story of time”. But here the time was not short, the story was.

 The teacher is like a candle; it melts and gives others light. You were my teacher. Not only mine, but also millions with your writings. You have been the sun of many of those lost in dark space. Until March 14, 2018… The science world experienced one of the greatest losses on that day. Of course, when I was writing this letter, I knew that it will never reach his owner. But I believed, hoped, worked, and waited for a miracle… Exactly like you…

 Farewell, my immortal hero,

 Farewell, my ideal man,

 Farewell…