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## **For me, chess is...**

For me, chess is beauty, love, art. I remember my first hand-carved chessboard from wood. The smallest pawn piece was the size of my five-year-old's palm of hand. How beautiful were these figures. The horse, king, queen and other figures were so skillfully and lovingly made that they looked like sculptures, works of art. My father, who taught me to play chess, could spend hours lovingly telling the history of chess, about the game, about the pieces. Among all my toys, I really loved this particular chessboard with beautiful figures with the smell of wood. When my father and I played chess, when I listened to stories about chess, time stopped for me, I ended up in another magical world with my own rules.

We all lose something in life. It is important how we behave after losses, whether we fight further or give up, give up. Chess taught me not to give up when you lose, no matter what happens, go forward with small steps. I lost those very beautiful pieces, then the whole board, and the father I loved. It is very hard to lose a loved one and things close to your heart. But you understand that in life, as in the game of chess, losses are inevitable, some losses you can prevent, some you can't. Your attitude to these losses is important. Therefore, chess for me is also a lesson in losses. You are prepared in advance for defeat, but you do everything you can to win, not to lose.

Chess for me is the ability to appreciate the present, the ability to appreciate time itself, to concentrate on the present, enjoy the process itself, learn from the past and move forward. Each new game with a new opponent brings new experience, and after the game you are already more experienced than before. If you do not concentrate on the current game and do not play from the heart, then the result will not be very good. It's the same in life, if you don't do something from the heart that you are doing right now, then there will be no progress. It doesn't matter what you are doing now: studying, working, playing with a child, playing computer games, if you do all this concentrating on this business and from the heart, then there will be success.

Chess is a discipline, the ability to follow the rules. I think it's like not breaking the law in life, sticking to general rules of etiquette. To become a professional in chess or in life, you have to do it every day, train, study, work. And that takes discipline.

We will always lack something to do something. Time, desire, money, other resources. Chess taught me to make do with what I have and to play on, that is, to do something. When I decided to write this essay, I didn't tell myself I don't have a laptop, computer, tablet, I can't text in Word. I have a phone and the Internet, a desire to learn how to text in Word. I typed this text for a long time, it is inconvenient to write on the phone, but this did not stop me. Thus, in order to do something, I managed with my limited resources. Like in chess, when you don't have a queen, a knight, a rook, you continue to play with other pieces, you don't expect something that isn't there. Therefore, chess for me is the ability to appreciate what you have.