

ASSIGNMENT I-1 Thinking More Deeply: Essay on Laura Levin's Quote

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"Don't laugh . . . I felt I was born for that moment. To stand there, on that street in Paris in the middle of the night, with this idea at last clarified in my mind, Oh, that clarification! It was as though the idea had come into my head so that one day I would know the incredible joy of the clarification. Nothing else can touch that experience for me. Let me tell you, there's not an "I love you" in the world that can touch it. Nothing."

(Laura Levin, as quoted in GC 170A Class Notes, Fall 2011, p 14)

I was quite surprised to see this quote coming from a scientist. I had never heard the process of science described in quite this way and it really captured the excitement of scientific discovery and insight. It also struck me as amusing, touching, and a little bit sad – all at the same time.

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In conclusion, this quote really opened my eyes about how exciting and fulfilling science can be even though we also learned in class that it takes a lot of persistence and sometimes monotonous effort. Although I may not become a scientist, I hope that I, too, can one day experience the joy that the scientist Laura Levin felt when she discovered the muscle mechanism of the clam!