

EN 101
Nostalgia for the Light
Shannon Downey
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Nostalgia for the Light is a moving documentary about not losing hope, discovering the future and unraveling the past. This film holds a lot of meaning, from the astronomers searching the skies, to the archaeologists searching the earth, they're all searching for answers, for the past and the future. A large amount of people may not know anything about archeology or astronomy but, to understand the true meaning of this film or the lesson it is trying to portray, has nothing to do with either of those.

Nostalgia of the Light is to show people the importance of the past and what we can learn from it, as well as teach society that we can always learn something new from the stars. We have to study our past to understand our future. I believe Patricio Guzmán was trying to reach out to the public and emphasize the importance our past holds. Society has chosen, for years, to pay little attention to our past, but without our past we're no one, we must all learn from our past to further ourselves.

One of the main subjects in the movie that truly caught my attention was when Guzmán was interviewing Gaspar Galaz, an astronomer from Chile, and they started to talk about how fast moonlight and sunlight travel, at one point during the interview Guzmán asks Galaz, "So we don't see things at the very instant we look at them?" Galaz simply looks at him and states, "No, that's the trap. The present doesn't exist."

The simple and determined look Galaz had when he said that, almost seemed to astound me and if you truly understand what he means, it's true, the present does not exist. This simple, almost basic thought, sends my head through mazes upon mazes, it's such a simple statement that holds so much meaning. If the present does not exist, we can't live in our future, so we must live in our past. Therefore without learning our past, we simply can't exist, our past is our present.