

Pierre- personal recollections by Stefan Pokorski

Pierre played a very important role for our group in Warsaw in developing research at the interface of particle physics and cosmology. However, in this short message I would rather like to share with you a few moments with Pierre that we always remember, my family and myself.

Pierre visited us in our house in Warsaw on several occasions. Once, during his visit I had to leave the house for a while and Pierre stayed with my wife. Later she was telling me: What a charming young boy...He told me a lot about his work and I think I understood almost everything (by the way, my wife knows nothing about physics ☺). At some point he told me: close your eyes, imagine the sky full of stars. This is where my thoughts are. I am trying to understand all that.

The other story I would like to tell you is probably known to a wider circle of people but since it was witnessed by my son I feel it also is „our“ story. My son studied at Ecole Normale in Paris and in his DEA program he attended a course on gauge theories given by Pierre, and he told me this story. Once, waiting for Pierre in the classroom, they see a TV team with cameramen entering the room and waiting for the professor, to record him. Finally Pierre appears, first they pay no attention to him (one more student comes?) but later, seeing Pierre starting his lecture, they mumble: Oh, you are the professor... there is not enough light in this room to record. Stephane Lavignac also knows this story from Pierre and told me a few days ago that Pierre actually checked where the TV team had moved to. To a class where an old professor, with a long beard was giving a lecture.

A charming young boy- this is how Pierre remains in our thoughts, of my family and mine.