

Father of Technoblade, YouTube Minecraft Star, Says his Son has Died

He read his son's last message on the YouTube channel where the 20-something had entertained more than 11 million subscribers with Minecraft games and hilarious commentary. The title was "so long nerds."

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By Amanda Holpuch

Technoblade, a YouTube persona who earned a following of millions with his wry comments on videos of him playing Minecraft has passed away as his father announced in a video posted on his son's account.

More than 11 million subscribers made it a habit of watching screen recordings of Technoblade's Minecraft gameplay as he provided commentary on camera. While he usually focused on what was happening in the game, in a few videos he described life events as mundane as visiting the D.M.V. or as devastating as being diagnosed with cancer.

Technoblade's YouTube channel posted an original video titled "so long geeks" on Thursday. It has been seen more than 26 million times since Friday afternoon. The video is a departure from the usual aesthetic of the channel that features vibrant bricks that are pixelated. Technoblade's dad is instead sitting in a chair with an adorable white dog and an unmistakably white background.

His father, who does not identify himself, reads the message from his child that begins: "Hello everyone. Technoblade is here. If you're watching this, I am dead."

The message continues to reveal Technoblade's initial name, Alex, which he did not use on the internet. The video also features a handful of images of Alex with his loved ones. He had rarely appeared in his YouTube videos, preferring instead to portray himself as his character: a crown-crowned and sword-wielding pig.

"If I had another hundred years to live I'm sure I'd choose to be Technoblade again every single time," Alex's letter says. "Those were the most joyful years of my life."

His father, who is crying throughout the video, says that the two of them had been discussing for months about whether to record a final film. Instead, Alex decided to write the letter and died around eight hours after completing the letter, according to his father.

He states, "I don't think he said all he wanted to but I think that he understood the major points."

The video concludes with a written declaration that Alex's mother (who is not identified) wrote. She said Alex was not famous and was self-deprecating in spite of his channel's popularity growing.

Minecraft-java.org

She wrote that Technoblade was always looking for ways to delight and reward their audience. He gave away prizes online, encouraged good sportsmanship, and, most importantly, shared his Minecraft adventures to provide entertainment and laughter.

Alex's family could not contact him on Friday. Hypixel, a gaming company, said that the family asked that no comments be made to them. "The video they posted contains all information they are confident about sharing at this point," Don Pireso, the company's chief administrator, said in a Twitter direct message.

Alex first acknowledged the diagnosis of cancer in a video that was posted on his channel in August. Like the others in the video, it featured the game as he spoke off camera. He maintained his self-deprecating, humorous style, refusing any attempt to be too serious. He also admitted his age of 22.

In the video, he narrated how the first round of chemotherapy made him so exhausted that he couldn't even get up to make a virtual appointment with a doctor. He then joked "Sitting in the chair do I look like Superman?"

After experiencing extreme pain in his arm, he said he was diagnosed. Although he initially dismissed the pain as a result of a repetitive strain injury from playing video games, he later admitted that his shoulder was swelling after a few days of rest.

He also advised people to get a Covid-19 vaccine, saying that the cancer treatments had weakened his immune system, putting him at a higher risk of developing serious illness from the coronavirus.

"I'm going to go ahead and speak on behalf of all cancer patients when I say it is extremely annoying that hospitals are overwhelmed by patients dying of preventable illnesses," he said in the video. "I'm just saying, we're entitled to the beds in hospitals."

Technoblade's fans, friends, and followers on social media have praised for his humor, as well as his role as an example for Minecraft players.

Minecraft is different from other games in that the owner, Microsoft does not have control over the servers on which players can connect online. Instead, players are able to create their own servers and join with others to form a vast network of worlds within the Minecraft universe.

Hypixel, which manages a network of Minecraft servers, announced that it had created a digital book where people could write messages and then they could be printed and sent to Technoblade's family and friends. The tribute featured a photo of Technoblade's pig character as a statue. "In many ways the success of many of us is dependent on the success of Technoblade," the company stated.