

The NASA logo, featuring the word "NASA" in white capital letters on a blue circular background with a red swoosh and white stars.A close-up photograph of an astronaut wearing a black space helmet with a clear visor. The astronaut is looking upwards and to the right. The background shows the interior of a spacecraft with orange and white panels.A view of the International Space Station (ISS) in orbit above Earth. The station's complex structure and large solar panel arrays are visible against the bright blue and white of the planet's atmosphere. The background is a deep blue space with some light streaks.

DOWN TO EARTH

EPISODE 16 All in This Together

1
00:00:01,134 --> 00:00:02,268
>> IN FIRST GRADE,

2
00:00:02,268 --> 00:00:03,136
WHEN WE WERE ASKED TO DRAW

3
00:00:03,136 --> 00:00:03,970
A PICTURE OF WHAT WE WANTED

4
00:00:03,970 --> 00:00:05,438
TO BE WHEN WE GREW UP,

5
00:00:05,438 --> 00:00:08,108
AND I REMEMBER DRAWING A PICTURE

6
00:00:08,108 --> 00:00:09,609
OF AN ASTRONAUT STANDING

7
00:00:09,609 --> 00:00:11,244
ON THE SURFACE OF THE MOON.

8
00:00:11,244 --> 00:00:13,012
THE KIND OF ICONIC APOLLO IMAGE

9
00:00:13,012 --> 00:00:14,114
IN THE SPACE SUIT

10
00:00:14,114 --> 00:00:15,515
NEXT TO THE FLAG ON THE MOON.

11
00:00:15,515 --> 00:00:17,550
AND THAT WAS WHAT I DREW THEN

12
00:00:17,550 --> 00:00:18,618
AND SAID I WANTED TO BE

13
00:00:18,618 --> 00:00:19,252

AN ASTRONAUT.

14

00:00:19,252 --> 00:00:20,153

AND THEN ALWAYS SAID IT

15

00:00:20,153 --> 00:00:21,988

ALL THE WAY THROUGH

16

00:00:21,988 --> 00:00:23,323

SINCE THAT TIME.

17

00:00:27,293 --> 00:00:31,798

[INDISTINCT RADIO CHATTER]

18

00:00:31,798 --> 00:00:33,099

>> I KNEW THAT I WAS GOING

19

00:00:33,099 --> 00:00:34,367

TO BE ECSTATIC BEING

20

00:00:34,367 --> 00:00:35,201

IN SPACE, YOU KNOW?

21

00:00:35,201 --> 00:00:36,603

IT WAS MY-- MY LIFELONG DREAM

22

00:00:36,603 --> 00:00:37,871

AND I KNEW THAT IT WAS

23

00:00:37,871 --> 00:00:39,339

GONNA MAKE ME HAPPY.

24

00:00:39,339 --> 00:00:40,807

BUT I DIDN'T--

25

00:00:40,807 --> 00:00:42,409

EVEN I DIDN'T EXPECT

26

00:00:42,409 --> 00:00:43,810

HOW INCREDIBLE IT FELT.

27

00:00:43,810 --> 00:00:44,878

AND I SAID THAT A LOT TO PEOPLE,

28

00:00:44,878 --> 00:00:46,880

THAT IT'S EVEN MORE INCREDIBLE

29

00:00:46,880 --> 00:00:48,081

THAN I EVER IMAGINED,

30

00:00:48,081 --> 00:00:49,315

AND I REALLY MEANT IT

31

00:00:49,315 --> 00:00:50,216

BECAUSE I HAD THOUGHT

32

00:00:50,216 --> 00:00:50,917

SO MUCH ABOUT IT

33

00:00:50,917 --> 00:00:51,885

AND I KNEW IT WAS GONNA BE

34

00:00:51,885 --> 00:00:53,019

THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY

35

00:00:53,019 --> 00:00:53,887

EXPERIENCE OF MY LIFE

36

00:00:53,887 --> 00:00:55,488

BUT I WASN'T EVEN PREPARED

37

00:00:55,488 --> 00:00:57,824

FOR HOW I FELT.

38

00:00:57,824 --> 00:00:59,726

THE-- THE-- THE LEVEL OF

39

00:00:59,726 --> 00:01:01,561

EXCITEMENT AND JUST PURE JOY

40

00:01:01,561 --> 00:01:03,329

THAT I FELT ALL THE TIME IN--

41

00:01:03,329 --> 00:01:04,664

IN THAT ENVIRONMENT.

42

00:01:04,664 --> 00:01:06,266

I REALLY FELT LIKE I WAS HOME,

43

00:01:06,266 --> 00:01:07,033

I FELT LIKE THAT WAS

44

00:01:07,033 --> 00:01:07,934

WHERE I SHOULD BE.

45

00:01:07,934 --> 00:01:09,469

AND-- AND I DON'T THINK

46

00:01:09,469 --> 00:01:10,270

I STOPPED SMILING

47

00:01:10,270 --> 00:01:11,037

FOR PRETTY MUCH

48

00:01:11,037 --> 00:01:12,572

THE ENTIRE SEVEN MONTHS.

49

00:01:18,778 --> 00:01:20,113

I WOULD FIND MYSELF THINKING,

50

00:01:20,113 --> 00:01:22,282

HOW CAN THIS BE REAL THAT

51
00:01:22,282 --> 00:01:24,451
I'M FLOATING ABOVE THE PLANET

52
00:01:24,451 --> 00:01:25,752
AND LOOKING DOWN ON IT?

53
00:01:25,752 --> 00:01:26,486
YOU KNOW, EVEN AFTER

54
00:01:26,486 --> 00:01:27,754
SEVEN MONTHS AND, YOU KNOW,

55
00:01:27,754 --> 00:01:28,855
KNOWING WHAT WE HAD DONE

56
00:01:28,855 --> 00:01:29,823
TO GET THERE AND THAT

57
00:01:29,823 --> 00:01:30,924
I'D REALLY WORKED FOR THIS

58
00:01:30,924 --> 00:01:31,658
MY ENTIRE LIFE.

59
00:01:31,658 --> 00:01:32,826
IT STILL IS ACTUALLY HARD

60
00:01:32,826 --> 00:01:33,827
TO CONVINCING YOURSELF

61
00:01:33,827 --> 00:01:35,061
IT'S ACTUALLY HAPPENING,

62
00:01:35,061 --> 00:01:36,429
WHICH MAYBE SOUNDS A BIT FUNNY

63
00:01:36,429 --> 00:01:37,864

BUT EVEN AFTER SEVEN MONTHS

64

00:01:37,864 --> 00:01:38,898

IT JUST FELT THAT WAY,

65

00:01:38,898 --> 00:01:40,066

LOOKING DOWN AT THE EARTH.

66

00:01:40,066 --> 00:01:41,935

"WOW, THIS IS-- THIS IS REAL.

67

00:01:41,935 --> 00:01:43,470

I'M-- I'M UP HERE FLOATING

68

00:01:43,470 --> 00:01:44,904

ABOVE THE EARTH."

69

00:01:44,904 --> 00:01:46,272

WHEN YOU'RE IN THE SPACE STATION

70

00:01:46,272 --> 00:01:47,340

IN THE CUPOLA,

71

00:01:47,340 --> 00:01:48,842

THERE ARE STARS ALL AROUND YOU

72

00:01:48,842 --> 00:01:50,210

AND YOU COULD REALLY

73

00:01:50,210 --> 00:01:51,211

FEEL IT THAT WAY.

74

00:01:51,211 --> 00:01:51,878

I THINK THAT WAS--

75

00:01:51,878 --> 00:01:52,412

THAT'S A GOOD WAY

76

00:01:52,412 --> 00:01:52,979

TO DESCRIBE IT.

77

00:01:52,979 --> 00:01:54,714

YOU FEEL LIKE IT'S MORE

78

00:01:54,714 --> 00:01:57,083

THREE DIMENSIONAL AND DIFFUSE.

79

00:01:57,083 --> 00:01:58,017

AND YOU KNOW,

80

00:01:58,017 --> 00:01:59,452

YOU GAZE OFF INTO IT

81

00:01:59,452 --> 00:02:00,753

AND IT IS REALLY

82

00:02:00,753 --> 00:02:01,754

JUST EXTRAORDINARY

83

00:02:01,754 --> 00:02:02,622

TO THINK ABOUT THAT.

84

00:02:02,622 --> 00:02:03,289

TO THINK ABOUT THAT SCALE

85

00:02:03,289 --> 00:02:04,390

AND THEN LOOK BACK AT THE EARTH

86

00:02:04,390 --> 00:02:06,626

AND REALIZE THAT WE'RE JUST SUCH

87

00:02:06,626 --> 00:02:08,094

A SMALL COMPONENT OF THAT.

88

00:02:08,094 --> 00:02:08,962

THIS WAS REALLY WHAT

89

00:02:08,962 --> 00:02:10,597

HAD DRIVEN ME,

90

00:02:10,597 --> 00:02:12,165

SINCE I WAS FIVE YEARS OLD WAS

91

00:02:12,165 --> 00:02:13,733

WHAT IT REALLY GONNA BE LIKE

92

00:02:13,733 --> 00:02:15,001

TO HAVE THAT FEELING,

93

00:02:15,001 --> 00:02:16,369

TO LOOK BACK ON THE PLANET.

94

00:02:16,369 --> 00:02:20,039

AND YOU'RE NOT THERE.

95

00:02:20,039 --> 00:02:21,107

THAT'S THE PLACE--

96

00:02:21,107 --> 00:02:22,208

THE ONE PLACE WHERE EVERYTHING

97

00:02:22,208 --> 00:02:23,476

HAS HAPPENED IN YOUR LIFE,

98

00:02:23,476 --> 00:02:24,344

EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED

99

00:02:24,344 --> 00:02:25,311

THROUGH THE ENTIRE HISTORY

100

00:02:25,311 --> 00:02:26,779

OF THE HUMAN SPECIES.

101
00:02:26,779 --> 00:02:27,680
EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE,

102
00:02:27,680 --> 00:02:30,550
ALL THE PLACES YOU'VE BEEN,

103
00:02:30,550 --> 00:02:31,851
EVERYTHING IS DOWN THERE

104
00:02:31,851 --> 00:02:32,785
IN ITS ENTIRETY

105
00:02:32,785 --> 00:02:34,287
AND YOU'RE SEPARATE FROM THAT.

106
00:02:43,530 --> 00:02:44,831
IT ACTUALLY DOES FEEL DIFFERENT

107
00:02:44,831 --> 00:02:46,733
LOOKING AT EARTH

108
00:02:46,733 --> 00:02:47,867
THROUGH YOUR VISOR--

109
00:02:47,867 --> 00:02:49,636
JUST THROUGH YOUR HELMET VISOR,

110
00:02:49,636 --> 00:02:50,136
VERSUS LOOKING OUT

111
00:02:50,136 --> 00:02:50,770
OF THE WINDOW.

112
00:02:50,770 --> 00:02:51,838
I THINK THE COLORS

113
00:02:51,838 --> 00:02:53,540

ARE EVEN MORE VIBRANT

114

00:02:53,540 --> 00:02:55,842

AND I THINK ALSO JUST MENTALLY,

115

00:02:55,842 --> 00:02:57,610

PSYCHOLOGICALLY REALIZING

116

00:02:57,610 --> 00:02:58,278

THAT, YOU KNOW,

117

00:02:58,278 --> 00:02:59,979

THERE IS NOTHING BETWEEN THE--

118

00:02:59,979 --> 00:03:01,614

THE VACUUM OF SPACE

119

00:03:01,614 --> 00:03:03,149

EXCEPT FOR THIS SPACE SUIT

120

00:03:03,149 --> 00:03:04,284

AND YOUR VISOR.

121

00:03:04,284 --> 00:03:05,318

THERE'S NOTHING, YOU KNOW,

122

00:03:05,318 --> 00:03:06,352

BETWEEN YOU AND IT.

123

00:03:06,352 --> 00:03:07,720

AND YOU'RE REALLY OUT THERE

124

00:03:07,720 --> 00:03:08,821

IN YOUR OWN LITTLE

125

00:03:08,821 --> 00:03:10,089

MINI SPACECRAFT.

126
00:03:10,089 --> 00:03:11,524
IT HAS THE LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM,

127
00:03:11,524 --> 00:03:12,725
EVERYTHING THAT YOU NEED

128
00:03:12,725 --> 00:03:14,060
TO BE KEPT ALIVE

129
00:03:14,060 --> 00:03:16,729
AND IT'S JUST YOU!

130
00:03:16,729 --> 00:03:18,565
AND YOU HAVE THIS SENSE OF

131
00:03:18,565 --> 00:03:20,233
JUST BEING BY YOURSELF

132
00:03:20,233 --> 00:03:21,401
IN THIS ENVIRONMENT WITH--

133
00:03:21,401 --> 00:03:22,569
WITH YOUR OWN LITTLE

134
00:03:22,569 --> 00:03:23,736
LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM.

135
00:03:23,736 --> 00:03:25,204
AND I LOVE THAT FEELING,

136
00:03:25,204 --> 00:03:25,939
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS

137
00:03:25,939 --> 00:03:26,973
EXACTLY ABOUT THAT

138
00:03:26,973 --> 00:03:28,174

BUT I FEEL REALLY KIND OF

139

00:03:28,174 --> 00:03:30,009

PEACEFUL IN RELAXED IN THAT.

140

00:03:30,009 --> 00:03:31,311

AND IN THE SPACESUIT,

141

00:03:31,311 --> 00:03:32,612

YOU'RE-- YOU'RE LOOKING DOWN

142

00:03:32,612 --> 00:03:34,914

AND SEEING THE EARTH FROM ABOVE

143

00:03:34,914 --> 00:03:36,149

FROM THE OUTSIDE

144

00:03:36,149 --> 00:03:37,383

WITH YOUR OWN HUMAN EYES.

145

00:03:37,383 --> 00:03:39,452

IT CHANGES YOU AS A PERSON.

146

00:03:47,193 --> 00:03:48,194

WHEN YOU LOOK BACK

147

00:03:48,194 --> 00:03:49,862

AND YOU'RE IN THIS BLACKNESS

148

00:03:49,862 --> 00:03:50,897

DEVOID OF ANY COLOR,

149

00:03:50,897 --> 00:03:52,565

THE BLACKNESS OF-OF SPACE.

150

00:03:52,565 --> 00:03:53,600

AND SUDDENLY THERE'S

151
00:03:53,600 --> 00:03:54,767
THIS BRILLIANT BLUE,

152
00:03:54,767 --> 00:03:56,469
GLOWING MARBLE DOWN THERE.

153
00:03:56,469 --> 00:03:57,904
IT'S SO EASY TO SEE UP THERE

154
00:03:57,904 --> 00:03:59,606
THAT WE'RE ALL IN IT TOGETHER.

155
00:03:59,606 --> 00:04:00,773
YOU KNOW, YOU DON'T SEE ALL

156
00:04:00,773 --> 00:04:01,975
THOSE GEOPOLITICAL BOUNDARIES,

157
00:04:01,975 --> 00:04:03,843
ALL OF THE MANMADE BOUNDARIES

158
00:04:03,843 --> 00:04:04,777
THAT WE'VE IMPOSED

159
00:04:04,777 --> 00:04:06,312
UPON OURSELVES AS HUMANS.

160
00:04:06,312 --> 00:04:07,380
YOU DON'T SEE ANY OF THAT

161
00:04:07,380 --> 00:04:08,214
FROM SPACE.

162
00:04:08,214 --> 00:04:09,515
AND YOU JUST FEEL THIS

163
00:04:09,515 --> 00:04:10,583

SENSE OF COMMONALITY MORE

164

00:04:10,583 --> 00:04:12,185

IN SOMETHING THAT-THAT