

University Interview

by

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INT. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

Here is a cozy small room with a brown carpet and various certificates on the walls. An old-fashioned clock also on the wall says it's 10 o'clock. In the centre is a table and two chairs. The suit wearing INTERVIEWER (40s) faces the similarly dressed STUDENT, PAUL (30s).

INTERVIEWER
(with a warm tone)
Hello, Paul and good morning. How are you, today?

PAUL
(nervous)
Not bad. You?

INTERVIEWER
I'm great, thanks. I understand you have studied for a masters in physics and are interested in studying for a doctorate?

PAUL
Yep, aced everything.

INTERVIEWER
And may I ask why you chose that area of study?

PAUL
My main area of interest is how the Earth was formed.

INTERVIEWER
Very interesting.

PAUL
Yes, I can't stop thinking about it.

INTERVIEWER
And may I ask what your most interesting fact about the Earth is?
Wow me.

The INTERVIEWER smiles.

PAUL
Did you know the Earth's core is made almost completely out of metal. Mostly iron and nickel? Not mud!

INTERVIEWER
That's a good'n!

PAUL
And the Earth didn't always have
several continents?

INTERVIEWER
A great fact!

PAUL
And days are getting longer and
longer?

INTERVIEWER
You know your stuff!

PAUL'S face darkens.

PAUL
Also, it's flat, isn't it? We both
know it.

INTERVIEWER
I'm sorry? What is?

PAUL
The Earth.

The INTERVIEWER scratches his head.

INTERVIEWER
(still warmly)
What do you mean?

PAUL
Of course it is. Have you seen the
videos on Youtube? I have and I know
you have, too. Globies are spreading
some messed up lies.

The INTERVIEWER'S eyes light up.

INTERVIEWER
Ha!

He slaps his own leg.

PAUL
It's funny isn't it? The way we've
all been tricked. But not you. I can
see it in your face, you're a smart
guy.

INTERVIEWER
(in hysterics)
Stop!

PAUL

I have some very interesting notes in my pocket explaining some of my own theories, look...

PAUL retrieves a screwed up note from his pocket, unravels it, and puts it on the table.

PAUL

Go on. Look.

INTERVIEWER

I don't understand...

PAUL

Go on...

The INTERVIEWER reads the note with a highly concentrating face.

INTERVIEWER

'If the Earth is really a sphere, how come dum-de-dum-de-diddly-dum? How come bum-bum-bubble-tum? How come...'
Ok, that's enough.

PAUL

Impressed?

INTERVIEWER

They were the ramblings of a crazy person...

PAUL nods.

PAUL

I have to come clean. I didn't do well in physics. In fact I failed and bluffed my way into this interview. And by bluffing I mean I threatened a few people. They were really scared. But I have some great ideas I'd like to share!

INTERVIEWER

I think I've heard enough.

PAUL

I have to come clean again...

INTERVIEWER

Oh dear God.

PAUL

My name is really James.

INTERVIEWER
The podcast guy?

JAMES winks.

JAMES
Right!

The INTERVIEWER crosses his arms.

INTERVIEWER
Why don't you go back to hosting your show, then? Instead of weirding me out?

JAMES steeples his hands.

JAMES
If the Earth is a sphere, how come we don't fall off it? That's an obvious one.

INTERVIEWER
Because of gravity.

JAMES
Ahhhh, but why aren't people in Australia upside down?

INTERVIEWER
You've got me there.

JAMES wipes his forehead with relief.

JAMES
Really?? I knew it!!

INTERVIEWER
And of course if it was spinning, we'd fall off.

JAMES
This is all extremely interesting to me...

INTERVIEWER
Between you and me, would you like to know what happens when you fall off of the edge of the world in Antarctica?

JAMES
(fascinated)
Go on...

INTERVIEWER
As you know the military guards the
continent...

JAMES
Obviously.

INTERVIEWER
BUT if you tricked them and sneaked
past them, then jumped off the edge..

JAMES
Easy.

The INTERVIEWER smiles.

INTERVIEWER
If you did that...

JAMES
Yes?

INTERVIEWER
You'd arrive at the other side of the
world!

JAMES shakes his head in disbelief.

JAMES
Like Pacman?

INTERVIEWER
Yes! Exactly!

JAMES
Woah.

INTERVIEWER
I know, right?

JAMES
Sometimes I wish I was Pacman.

INTERVIEWER
Why?

JAMES looks down.

JAMES
Sometimes I fantasise about being
anyone but me...

INTERVIEWER
Ohhhh no. No, no, no.

JAMES
It's true.

INTERVIEWER
Why?

JAMES
It's just...

INTERVIEWER
Yes?

JAMES
Whatever I do seems to get me into trouble. I tried to be a teacher once, and whilst I wasn't really expecting people to listen to me, I certainly wasn't expecting to get arrested.

The INTERVIEWER twiddles his thumbs.

INTERVIEWER
Wow. Look at the time. Lots of interviews to get done, so...

JAMES
If I give people proof the the world is flat, I'll be a really big man. I'll say you came up with the proof with me, because I like you.

The INTERVIEWER stares coldly.

INTERVIEWER
Do that and I'll kill you.

JAMES
See, this is what I mean! Everyone keeps threatening to kill me all the time! I'm sick of it!

INTERVIEWER
I'll call the police if you're not careful.

JAMES
Then I'll buy you.

The INTERVIEWER jolts.

INTERVIEWER
What's that mean?

JAMES
Never mind.

JAMES takes out a bar of chocolate from his other pocket and puts it on the table. He then nods his head at it.

INTERVIEWER
What's that?

JAMES
It's a gift.

INTERVIEWER
Could you explain yourself, please?

JAMES
Take it.

The INTERVIEWER opens the wrapper and eats it.

JAMES
Mm-hm. Tastes good.

INTERVIEWER
Hm. Not bad.

JAMES'S face darkens like never before.

JAMES
Now you have to do something for me.
It's a little trick I learned in
prison.

INTERVIEWER
You're a real loser, you know that?

JAMES
ALL MY CONVERSATIONS TURN OUT LIKE
THIS AND I WANT TO KNOW WHY!!!!

INTERVIEWER
You don't know?

JAMES
NO!

INTERVIEWER
James, you're not normal. That's at
last one reason.

JAMES
Oh, I'M abnormal? Hard to take from a
globey!

INTERVIEWER
I've never heard an interviewee call
me a globey before...

JAMES
Well that's what you are. Ball
believer.

The INTERVIEWER widens his eyes.

INTERVIEWER
Excuse me?

JAMES
Sphere fool. Orb lover.

INTERVIEWER
Well, time's up I'm afraid.

JAMES snarls.

JAMES
Tell me, what sport do you like most?
Basketball, football, or volleyball?

The INTERVIEWER is cool.

INTERVIEWER
If you're asking, I'm a big fan of
snooker.

JAMES
Huh. Lot's of balls in snooker. Wow.
Amazing. Best game ever.

INTERVIEWER
What's your favourite sport, then?

JAMES
Discus throwing.

INTERVIEWER
Ok. Well, lots of people to see...

JAMES
And my favourite food is pancakes.

INTERVIEWER
GET OUT!

JAMES
Ok! But only if you give me a crisp.
A flat crisp.

INTERVIEWER
LEAVE!

JAMES
Fine.

JAMES leaves the room. Well done.