

EPISODE #233

"BLINK OF AN EYE"

Voyager becomes the unwitting focus of a planet's entire civilization.

As Voyager approaches a planet with extremely high revolutions, the ship enters a gravometric gradient pulling it into orbit. A tachyon core has created a space-time differential, meaning that a second on Voyager equals a day on the planet. If Voyager can't break free, the crew will begin aging 100 times faster than normal. On the planet, much time has already passed since the initial sighting of the "star," which was believed to be a deity.

When Seven receives a transmission from the planet, the message, now centuries old, tells the crew they have insinuated themselves into the planet's mythology. For centuries, this pre-warp society has endured ground tremors brought about by the "sky ship." Unwilling to throw their civilization's belief system into chaos by making first contact, Janeway sends the Doctor on an undercover mission to gather clues that may help Voyager break orbit. His holomatrix will be unaffected by the differential—two days on the planet will only be three seconds on Voyager. As Janeway prepares to beam him back, she suddenly loses his signal.

Once they recover the Doctor, three years have passed on the planet. He alerts Janeway that Voyager has encouraged much invention through the centuries. In fact, the inhabitants are in a space race to make contact. Using the Doctor's data to realign thrusters, the crew attempts to break orbit but stops when it increases seismic activity. A shuttle from the planet docks on Voyager, and the visitors find the crew in what appears to be metabolic stasis. Because of the time differential, they are witnessing less than a second onboard the ship, causing them to think the crew isn't moving. When Janeway resumes motion, the visitors have collapsed on the bridge.

The surviving pilot explains that he has grown up in awe of the "sky ship," even praying to it as a child. Although any time he spends on Voyager means losing years of his life at home, he agrees to help them interpret the Doctor's data and find a way to break orbit. As Seven scans the planet's surface, she detects that they are now experimenting with warp technology. Soon, Voyager is under attack from antimatter torpedoes.

Janeway sends the pilot back to his planet with Voyager's specifications, hoping that he can convince his people to find a way to help them break orbit. After several more attacks but more than a year since their friend returned to his planet, two ships materialize next to Voyager and use a tractor beam to pull it out of orbit. Using a temporal compensator his planet has since devised, the pilot returns to Voyager one more time to say goodbye before the "sky ship" is gone forever.





Episode #233 - Page 2

CAST

CAPTAIN KATHRYN JANEWAY
CHAKOTAY
B'ELANNA TORRES
TOM PARIS
NEELIX
THE DOCTOR
TUVOK
SEVEN OF NINE
HARRY KIM

KATE MULGREW
ROBERT BELTRAN
ROXANN DAWSON
ROBERT DUNCAN MCNEILL
ETHAN PHILLIPS
ROBERT PICARDO
TIM RUSS
JERI RYAN
GARRETT WANG

GUEST STARRING

PILOT DANIEL DAE KIM

Teleplay by: JOE MENOSKY

Story by: MICHAEL TAYLOR

Directed by: GABRIELLE BEAUMONT

HIGHLIGHT LISTING

STAR TREK: VOYAGER: "Blink of An Eye"—Voyager becomes the unwitting focus of a planet's entire civilization.

ADVERTISING HEADLINE

SKY SHIP

When two worlds collide... time is of the essence.

