

There's a table in my mind.  
I don't know how or when it got there, but it's growing every day.

Imagine it. A table, it's long and rectangular in shape. It doesn't have to be a particular shape - it can be circular, for all I care.

What's significant about this table are the people sitting at it.

They're people I've met throughout my life - ones I know very well or people I've met in passing, virtually strangers. They're people I admire, I'm intimidated by, some I even slightly dislike, but they share an important feature in common.

They're people I look at and think, "wow, the world is a better place because of you, and I'm glad you're here."

The table is my "team" - perhaps not one that meets regularly or directly works together, but it's still a team nevertheless, working in their respective realms across the world, with their respective interest and skills to create something good through art, advocacy, community work, science or just simply kind acts.

The people at the table are passionate, empathetic, driven, kind and dedicated to an honest and sincere cause.

I can't tell you how or when the table got there, but I can tell you why.

For the longest time, I thought I was alone - that I had to bear the burdens of the world by myself. A little self-indulgent, I know.

I would look around and see all of these problems, incredibly large, complex problems. It's not hard to think of some of those issues, compounded by additional obstacles, which block potential solutions.

There is so much to care about, to worry about, to mull over, to act on - there's an undeniable amount at stake as well. And there's so much apathy, opposition, hate, inaction, denial.

If you think about it all too much, it's not hard to get lost - to feel alone and hopeless, as I often have.

So under all of this despair - a table appeared. A mental, physical space that reminds me:

- 1) I'm not alone, and
- 2) It's not about me

There's a whole group of hundreds of thousands of individuals, maybe even millions, working FOR something, and I'm honored to have met just a fraction of the total.

These people don't just make the world better through their work though - their *existence* adds to the substance, value and magnificence of the world. Their presence alone reminds me what we're striving for and shows me the worth and potential of humanity.

The table exists in my mind, but it's not limited to it.

It's constantly growing, and there are always open spaces, so I invite you - everyone here and everyone listening - to take a seat.

Welcome to the table.