



DOWN EPISODE 6
TO EARTH



Ever Changing Picture

A close-up view of a space suit, showing the chest area with various straps, buckles, and a blue circular component.

1
00:00:00,506 --> 00:00:18,606
[Music]

2
00:00:19,106 --> 00:00:22,516
>> My first look at the earth
from that vantage point was

3
00:00:22,516 --> 00:00:24,526
on ascent in my [inaudible],

4
00:00:24,526 --> 00:00:28,296
looking at the aft
window behind me,

5
00:00:28,296 --> 00:00:30,566
knowing that I was the
first one that had to get

6
00:00:30,566 --> 00:00:34,526
out of their seat and film our
external tank falling away.

7
00:00:34,526 --> 00:00:35,696
That was my first job,

8
00:00:35,856 --> 00:00:38,826
aside from all the
monitoring that I had to do.

9
00:00:38,826 --> 00:00:41,656
And so, my view of it was very
fleeting and very technical.

10
00:00:41,656 --> 00:00:44,396
It was background to the
task that I had at hand,

11
00:00:44,396 --> 00:00:46,576
and that was pointing a

camera at an external tank,

12

00:00:46,576 --> 00:00:47,536

so that could be analyzed.

13

00:00:48,506 --> 00:00:51,906

Then when we got into orbit, we had a very fast-paced mission,

14

00:00:51,906 --> 00:00:53,586

which all Space Shuttle missions were.

15

00:00:53,586 --> 00:00:56,776

You had 10 to 12 days of fast-paced work.

16

00:00:57,026 --> 00:01:02,216

And it was my commander, Scott Kelly, who carved out 90 minutes

17

00:01:02,216 --> 00:01:06,186

of entire orbit on flight day 10, and he said to the rookies,

18

00:01:06,186 --> 00:01:08,456

the three of us, "I want you guys all on that window,

19

00:01:08,456 --> 00:01:09,556

and I don't want you to move."

20

00:01:09,556 --> 00:01:12,676

And he already pre-coordinated it, got the lights turned off

21

00:01:12,726 --> 00:01:15,016

on the station, so we could see everything in its grandeur.

22

00:01:15,496 --> 00:01:19,186

And that was the first moment
that I had to really soak it in

23

00:01:19,996 --> 00:01:24,926

and discovered a lot of things
about my reaction to that view,

24

00:01:25,256 --> 00:01:26,936

in that relatively
short period of time.

25

00:01:27,516 --> 00:01:36,566

[Music]

26

00:01:37,066 --> 00:01:40,166

And then, of course, there
was my Space Station flight,

27

00:01:40,166 --> 00:01:41,876

where I lived up
there for six months.

28

00:01:42,126 --> 00:01:46,246

And every night that I could,
I was planted in that cupola,

29

00:01:46,516 --> 00:01:49,516

much like the picture
shows, and gazing at it.

30

00:01:49,516 --> 00:01:51,346

And there wasn't a
single regret I had

31

00:01:51,346 --> 00:01:52,506

about the time I spent there.

32

00:01:53,086 --> 00:01:58,066

In fact, it almost, I dare say,
grieved me, to think about how

33

00:01:58,316 --> 00:02:02,096
in the world am I
going to describe this.

34

00:02:03,056 --> 00:02:03,696
There's no words.

35

00:02:04,196 --> 00:02:06,316
There's no picture I could
take, to do it justice.

36

00:02:06,836 --> 00:02:10,876
There's no watercolors
that I could put on paper,

37

00:02:11,196 --> 00:02:19,346
to come close to the vividness,
the ever-changing picture

38

00:02:19,406 --> 00:02:22,216
that I see, staring
at this planet.

39

00:02:22,816 --> 00:02:24,096
Everything from the colors

40

00:02:25,066 --> 00:02:28,186
to what changes the
atmosphere goes through,

41

00:02:28,446 --> 00:02:31,606
depending on where the sun
angle is and whether the moon's

42

00:02:31,606 --> 00:02:35,636
in the view or not to
just how fast we're going

43

00:02:35,636 --> 00:02:38,086

over the surface of it, and
the way shadows are changing.

44

00:02:38,086 --> 00:02:41,766

You could see the same landmass
over a period of two weeks,

45

00:02:41,766 --> 00:02:43,936

and it looks completely
different, because of that.

46

00:02:44,276 --> 00:02:49,166

To then looking at the
stars and the blackness,

47

00:02:49,166 --> 00:02:51,896

a black that nothing here
on earth ever can replicate.

48

00:02:52,516 --> 00:03:00,606

[Music]

49

00:03:01,106 --> 00:03:04,116

And then, you look at the
Space Station around you,

50

00:03:04,116 --> 00:03:05,316

and you're like,
this is amazing.

51

00:03:06,636 --> 00:03:09,826

And all the people who are
a part of this structure,

52

00:03:10,146 --> 00:03:13,906

that are, I know, either
at their desks, you know,

53

00:03:14,046 --> 00:03:16,796

creating the next great
marvel, or they're sitting

54

00:03:16,796 --> 00:03:19,946

in Mission Control,
controlling everything I see,

55

00:03:19,946 --> 00:03:25,876

and that's where it kind
of hits you, and you are

56

00:03:26,296 --> 00:03:30,896

but a small fraction of the
human race that will ever get