

DOWN TO EARTH

EPISODE 11



Shining Oasis



1
00:00:03,669 --> 00:00:01,670
launching to space of course was a

2
00:00:05,670 --> 00:00:03,679
momentous experience but odd enough it

3
00:00:07,349 --> 00:00:05,680
was quite familiar because of all the

4
00:00:09,750 --> 00:00:07,359
training we had

5
00:00:11,509 --> 00:00:09,760
so those 10 minutes and the capsule

6
00:00:13,030 --> 00:00:11,519
riding the soyuz rocket there was the

7
00:00:15,990 --> 00:00:13,040
vibration the pressure and the

8
00:00:18,390 --> 00:00:16,000
acceleration the pressure in your seat

9
00:00:20,710 --> 00:00:18,400
but after those eight minutes of busy

10
00:00:21,750 --> 00:00:20,720
time and

11
00:00:24,470 --> 00:00:21,760
hyper

12
00:00:26,950 --> 00:00:24,480
awareness if you want of our environment

13
00:00:39,510 --> 00:00:26,960

is when i had my first view of the earth

14

00:00:43,590 --> 00:00:41,350

the launch was at dusk

15

00:00:45,590 --> 00:00:43,600

so quickly we entered penumbra and into

16

00:00:47,910 --> 00:00:45,600

unite and by the time we reached orbit

17

00:00:50,069 --> 00:00:47,920

it was pitch black outside

18

00:00:52,389 --> 00:00:50,079

and shortly thereafter came our first

19

00:00:53,590 --> 00:00:52,399

orbital sunrise during the rendezvous to

20

00:00:55,910 --> 00:00:53,600

iss

21

00:00:58,389 --> 00:00:55,920

and i will never forget that site the

22

00:01:00,229 --> 00:00:58,399

thin blue line of the atmosphere the

23

00:01:02,630 --> 00:01:00,239

curve of the horizon

24

00:01:04,070 --> 00:01:02,640

that's when it became real really at a

25

00:01:06,710 --> 00:01:04,080

gut level

26

00:01:08,310 --> 00:01:06,720

i'm actually in space we are on orbit

27

00:01:10,469 --> 00:01:08,320

this is not a sin

28

00:01:12,469 --> 00:01:10,479

because your mind tends to

29

00:01:13,990 --> 00:01:12,479

go the reassuring route of pretending

30

00:01:17,030 --> 00:01:14,000

it's just a game i don't know that this

31

00:01:19,350 --> 00:01:17,040

is reality we are in space and orbit and

32

00:01:21,510 --> 00:01:19,360

that view that sunrise i'll never forget

33

00:01:24,149 --> 00:01:21,520

that through the crummy little side

34

00:01:36,469 --> 00:01:24,159

window of the soyuz still it's amazing

35

00:01:40,950 --> 00:01:38,069

i of course spent a lot of time at the

36

00:01:43,510 --> 00:01:40,960

cupola looking at the earth

37

00:01:44,950 --> 00:01:43,520

and what has always struck me every time

38

00:01:46,630 --> 00:01:44,960

i went there

39

00:01:51,910 --> 00:01:46,640

is

40

00:01:54,550 --> 00:01:51,920

how fragile it looks

41

00:01:56,870 --> 00:01:54,560

how alive it obviously is

42

00:01:58,230 --> 00:01:56,880

with the clouds the water it's like it's

43

00:02:01,109 --> 00:01:58,240

breathing

44

00:02:03,350 --> 00:02:01,119

auroras the presence of humans at night

45

00:02:06,149 --> 00:02:03,360

it's obvious with the lights

46

00:02:07,510 --> 00:02:06,159

but is the death around the earth that's

47

00:02:09,910 --> 00:02:07,520

startling

48

00:02:13,750 --> 00:02:09,920

how this beautiful

49

00:02:15,830 --> 00:02:13,760

shining oasis of life is there naked

50

00:02:17,589 --> 00:02:15,840

in the middle of

51
00:02:18,470 --> 00:02:17,599
black

52
00:02:24,309 --> 00:02:18,480
death

53
00:02:28,229 --> 00:02:26,150
and then there's the dance of the

54
00:02:30,390 --> 00:02:28,239
special bodies around the moon is there

55
00:02:32,710 --> 00:02:30,400
but the moon is just a rock

56
00:02:34,630 --> 00:02:32,720
the sun is just a ball of fire

57
00:02:37,350 --> 00:02:34,640
and here's the earth

58
00:02:40,070 --> 00:02:37,360
this perfect oasis so

59
00:02:42,070 --> 00:02:40,080
even though i knew this abstractly like

60
00:02:44,309 --> 00:02:42,080
everybody does now we have all seen

61
00:02:47,589 --> 00:02:44,319
those images to to sit with your own

62
00:02:50,790 --> 00:02:47,599
eyes you develop that sense of

63
00:02:52,630 --> 00:02:50,800

awe and also you cannot go to space and

64

00:02:54,470 --> 00:02:52,640

continue

65

00:02:56,390 --> 00:02:54,480

if you were

66

00:02:58,949 --> 00:02:56,400

thinking that resources are infinite

67

00:03:01,509 --> 00:02:58,959

they're obviously not it's in your face

68

00:03:02,550 --> 00:03:01,519

it's a finite system a closed loop

69

00:03:05,190 --> 00:03:02,560

system

70

00:03:07,750 --> 00:03:05,200

there's no new air no new water against

71

00:03:10,470 --> 00:03:07,760

the earth ever it's all recycled and has

72

00:03:12,309 --> 00:03:10,480

been for billions of years

73

00:03:14,149 --> 00:03:12,319

and it is perfectly balanced and

74

00:03:16,149 --> 00:03:14,159

perfectly matched to our knees we are

75

00:03:18,550 --> 00:03:16,159

matched to her that

76

00:03:19,509 --> 00:03:18,560

concrete realization

77

00:03:22,390 --> 00:03:19,519

that

78

00:03:24,390 --> 00:03:22,400

we belong to earth and not vice versa

79

00:03:26,309 --> 00:03:24,400

it's it's kind of a mental shift

80

00:03:28,390 --> 00:03:26,319

to see that we just know where else we

81

00:03:30,710 --> 00:03:28,400

could go we can talk about colonizing

82

00:03:32,630 --> 00:03:30,720

other planets but you know

83

00:03:35,110 --> 00:03:32,640

kind of smarter and cheaper to just take

84

00:03:37,430 --> 00:03:35,120

care of earth as she is so that was very

85

00:03:38,390 --> 00:03:37,440

endearing that vision and i can close my

86

00:03:40,869 --> 00:03:38,400

eyes and

87

00:03:44,630 --> 00:03:40,879

and always go back to the cupola looking

88

00:03:46,309 --> 00:03:44,640

at the planet and that blue line it's

89

00:03:48,630 --> 00:03:46,319

unbelievable

90

00:03:54,390 --> 00:03:48,640

it makes the earth look alive she's

91

00:03:58,869 --> 00:03:57,030

the little bubble we live in is tiny and

92

00:04:01,350 --> 00:03:58,879

that was very

93

00:04:03,589 --> 00:04:01,360

in a way sobering

94

00:04:05,509 --> 00:04:03,599

perspective to get

95

00:04:06,949 --> 00:04:05,519

how fragile

96

00:04:07,910 --> 00:04:06,959

unique

97

00:04:15,670 --> 00:04:07,920

and

98

00:04:18,150 --> 00:04:15,680

to be good shepherds of her

99

00:04:19,909 --> 00:04:18,160

it is the home of billions

100

00:04:21,509 --> 00:04:19,919

of humans and billions and billions of

101
00:04:23,110 --> 00:04:21,519
other species

102
00:04:24,710 --> 00:04:23,120
completely autonomous

103
00:04:27,430 --> 00:04:24,720
in the vacuum of space

104
00:04:30,870 --> 00:04:27,440
it's just a miracle you want to protect

105
00:04:32,870 --> 00:04:30,880
her because it is our only

106
00:04:35,670 --> 00:04:32,880
spacecraft the whole of us we're all

107
00:04:36,550 --> 00:04:35,680
astronauts living in a deadly vacuum

108
00:04:39,110 --> 00:04:36,560
space