



DOWN TO EARTH

EPISODE 18 A Perfect Planet

1
00:00:04,400 --> 00:00:06,639
I REMEMBER LOOKING AT THE EARTH FOR THE

2
00:00:06,639 --> 00:00:09,710
FIRST TIME JUST SHORTLY AFTER WE HAD LAUNCHED.

3
00:00:10,240 --> 00:00:12,346
WE HAD A NIGHTTIME LAUNCH, AND WITHIN NINE

4
00:00:12,346 --> 00:00:14,315
MINUTES OR SO, WERE IN ORBIT.

5
00:00:14,701 --> 00:00:16,684
AND I REMEMBER SEEING "THE TERMINATOR,"

6
00:00:16,684 --> 00:00:18,519
WHERE THE LIGHT
MEETS THE DARK ON THE

7
00:00:18,519 --> 00:00:19,987
SURFACE OF THE EARTH.

8
00:00:20,718 --> 00:00:22,718
[MUSIC]

9
00:00:24,560 --> 00:00:27,361
THERE'S AN OVERWHELMING SENSE OF GRATITUDE FOR

10
00:00:27,361 --> 00:00:30,297
THE EXPERIENCE THAT SO FEW HUMANS HAVE HAD TO

11
00:00:30,320 --> 00:00:33,067
BE OFF THE PLANET AND LOOK DOWN AT IT AND,

12
00:00:33,067 --> 00:00:35,760
LOOK DOWN AND APPRECIATE HOW BEAUTIFUL IT IS,

13

00:00:35,760 --> 00:00:38,806

AND HOW PERFECT IT IS. WE'RE SO FORTUNATE TO LIVE\h

14

00:00:38,806 --> 00:00:42,343

ON SUCH A PERFECT PLANET POSITIONED WHERE IT IS\h\h

15

00:00:42,400 --> 00:00:44,545

IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM AND THAT WE\h

16

00:00:44,545 --> 00:00:46,545

KNOW OF NOTHING QUITE LIKE IT.

17

00:00:55,360 --> 00:00:57,758

WHEN YOU'RE OUT ON A SPACEWALK, WHEN YOU'RE\h

18

00:00:57,758 --> 00:01:00,795

OUTSIDE, YOUR HELMET GIVES YOU ESSENTIALLY A\h

19

00:01:00,880 --> 00:01:03,330

180-DEGREE VIEW OF EVERYTHING AROUND YOU.

20

00:01:05,466 --> 00:01:08,969

IN MY LAST SPACEWALK, IN JANUARY OF 2020\h\h

21

00:01:08,969 --> 00:01:12,806

I WAS RIDING ON THE ROBOTIC ARM OUT TO THE AMS

22

00:01:12,806 --> 00:01:15,976

WORKSITE. AND, WE WERE WAITING FOR ONE OF\h\h

23

00:01:15,976 --> 00:01:17,945

THOSE LEAK CHECKS IN BETWEEN AND THERE WAS A\h

24

00:01:17,945 --> 00:01:19,747

PERIOD OF TIME WHEN THERE WAS THERE WAS LITERALLY\h\h

25

00:01:19,760 --> 00:01:22,049

NOTHING THAT WE COULD DO AND SO THEY PARKED ME ON\h

26

00:01:22,049 --> 00:01:25,920

THE ARM ABOVE, YOU KNOW, ABOUT 50 YARDS ABOVE THE\h

27

00:01:25,920 --> 00:01:28,355

ISS DURING A NIGHT PASS AND THEY WERE LIKE "OKAY,

28

00:01:28,355 --> 00:01:31,058

YOU'RE GONNA JUST HAVE TO SIT HERE FOR 20 MINUTES."

29

00:01:32,800 --> 00:01:35,262

WITHOUT THE OBSTRUCTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE, WITHOUT\h

30

00:01:35,262 --> 00:01:39,266

LIGHT BEING REFRACTED, STARS ARE MUCH MORE DISTINCT,

31

00:01:39,280 --> 00:01:41,836

THEY DON'T HAVE THAT TWINKLE ANYMORE, EVERYTHING IS\h

32

00:01:41,836 --> 00:01:46,373

VERY CRISP, AND NATURALLY YOU SEE INFINITELY MORE\h\h

33

00:01:46,400 --> 00:01:48,742

STARS, AND PLANETS MIXED IN THERE, THAT ARE\h

34

00:01:48,742 --> 00:01:51,178

SOMETIMES HARD TO DISTINGUISH, BUT INFINITELY\h\h

35

00:01:51,200 --> 00:01:54,215

MORE. NO ATMOSPHERE BETWEEN YOU AND IT. AND I\h

36

00:01:54,215 --> 00:01:57,251

WAS OUT THERE ABOVE THE ISS, NOTHING BETWEEN ME\h\h

37

00:01:57,280 --> 00:01:58,419

AND ETERNITY.

38

00:02:08,395 --> 00:02:10,231
YOU CAN'T HAVE THIS EXPERIENCE AND\h

39
00:02:10,231 --> 00:02:12,231
NOT BE CHANGED.

40
00:02:12,231 --> 00:02:14,301
IT DOES AFFECT YOU, BUT I THINK,

41
00:02:14,320 --> 00:02:17,638
BY AND LARGE IS WHAT YOU FIND THAT IT REINFORCES\h

42
00:02:17,638 --> 00:02:19,506
BELIEFS THAT YOU ALREADY HAD, BECAUSE THAT IS OUR\h\h

43
00:02:19,520 --> 00:02:23,077
FUNDAMENTAL TENDENCY TO LOOK FOR EVIDENCE THAT\h

44
00:02:23,077 --> 00:02:26,146
SUPPORTS WHAT WE ALREADY BELIEVE. IT REINFORCED\h

45
00:02:26,160 --> 00:02:28,749
THE IMPORTANCE OF STEWARDSHIP OF OUR PLANET AND\h

46
00:02:28,749 --> 00:02:31,819
CARRYING THOSE RESPONSIBLE PRACTICES WITH US, AS\h

47
00:02:31,840 --> 00:02:35,489
WE GO OUT AND EXPLORE, RETURN TO THE MOON,

48
00:02:35,489 --> 00:02:39,994
GO ON TO\h
MARS, TO UNDERSTAND THE ORIGINS OF OUR OWN PLANET.

49
00:02:46,480 --> 00:02:48,135
IT WAS AN INTERESTING TIME, IN THOSE\h

50
00:02:48,135 --> 00:02:50,537

FINAL WEEKS BEFORE WE LANDED IN APRIL.\h

51

00:02:50,560 --> 00:02:53,641

WE WERE WATCHING THIS GLOBAL PANDEMIC OCCUR, THE\h

52

00:02:53,641 --> 00:02:56,477

MAGNITUDE OF WHAT WAS OCCURRING ON THE GROUND WAS\h\h

53

00:02:56,480 --> 00:02:58,779

STARTING TO BECOME MORE AND MORE APPARENT AS\h

54

00:02:58,779 --> 00:03:00,948

THE WEEKS WORE ON, AND WE KNEW IT WAS GOING TO\h\h

55

00:03:00,960 --> 00:03:05,019

AFFECT HOW WE ARRIVED ON THE EARTH THAT THEY\h

56

00:03:05,019 --> 00:03:07,988

WERE GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE DIFFERENT MEASURES TO

57

00:03:08,000 --> 00:03:11,425

BRING US HOME. WE WERE ASKED TO MAKE A VIDEO THAT\h

58

00:03:11,425 --> 00:03:14,128

ASKED, "WHAT ARE YOUR IMPRESSIONS OF RETURNING TO\h\h

59

00:03:14,160 --> 00:03:16,664

THE EARTH DURING A GLOBAL PANDEMIC?"

60

00:03:16,664 --> 00:03:17,831

AND ONE OF\h

THE THINGS THAT

61

00:03:17,831 --> 00:03:19,600

JESSICA, AND CHRIS AND I DID\h\h

62

00:03:19,600 --> 00:03:22,703

WAS WE TOOK SOME IMAGES OUT THE WINDOW OF THE CUPOLA\h

63

00:03:22,703 --> 00:03:25,839

AND I JUST SPONTANEOUSLY, WHILE PANNING THE CAMERA\h\h

64

00:03:25,840 --> 00:03:28,108

AROUND AND TAKING SOME SHOTS OF MY CREWMATES\h

65

00:03:28,108 --> 00:03:32,079

LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW I PANNED ALONG THE EARTH\h\h

66

00:03:32,080 --> 00:03:35,416

AND I SAID, "AN EARTH IN CRISIS IS STILL AN EARTH\h

67

00:03:35,416 --> 00:03:38,552

WORTH RETURNING TO." JUST SPONTANEOUSLY I DON'T\h\h

68

00:03:38,560 --> 00:03:40,621

KNOW WHAT MADE ME SAY IT I THINK IT WAS A-A

69

00:03:40,621 --> 00:03:44,858

GOOD REFLECTION OF HOW WE WERE FEELING ABOUT\h\h

70

00:03:44,880 --> 00:03:48,295

YOU KNOW, OUR TIME UP THERE, WE APPRECIATED IT\h

71

00:03:48,295 --> 00:03:53,200

AND WE HAD A NEW SENSE OF THE EARTH BELOW US,

72

00:03:53,200 --> 00:03:56,804

AND SAW THAT THE ENTIRE PLANET WAS EXPERIENCING\h

73

00:03:56,804 --> 00:04:00,874

THIS EVENT THAT, IN MANY WAYS, UNIFIED US ALL.

74

00:04:00,880 --> 00:04:03,043

IN MUCH THE SAME WAY THAT THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE\h

75

00:04:03,043 --> 00:04:06,947

STATION UNIFIES US ALL. AND THAT WE STILL DESIRE TO\h\h

76

00:04:06,960 --> 00:04:11,452

RETURN TO OUR EARTH. IN ALL OF ITS GREATNESS\h