

REFLECTIONS OF THE MOON

**APOLLO 14 ASTRONAUT
EDGAR MITCHELL**

**RETROSPECTIONS ON
EARTH, MANKIND, AND WAR**

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EARTH



Reflections of the Moon

“I have the home planet out the hatch window and it’s passing very low. We only have a few moments in each window, but it’s a most inviting and magnificent view. I’m very glad that we have the Earth as a home planet. I hope that we can keep it so inviting.”

Reporting to Mission Control from Apollo 14
February 3, 1971



EARTH

“It is quite apparent in the view from space how tiny, how fragile, how limited the Earth is if required to support a civilization determined to destroy itself by the misuse of its greatest gifts.”

The View from Space



Reflections of the Moon

“We humans must learn to transcend our greed and self service in order to serve the greater good for all living creatures on this planet. It means we learn to realize, at individual and societal levels, that we are all interconnected and thus what we do to one, we do to all – and to ourselves.”

IONS Summary Report
October 23, 2008



EARTH

“The issue is not just about saving nature – it’s about saving *us*.

“It’s not pay now or pay later. Its pay now or there will be no later.”

“Toward a Sustainable Global Future”
IONS 2009



Reflections of the Moon

“An image of the Earth for those of us who have been in space evokes a sense of unity, because when you see Earth from space you don’t see the disharmony, you don’t see the boundaries, you see a unified magnificent beautiful planet that is our home. And only when you’ve been down here and realize how we humans fight and squabble and tear things up and destroy the environment and are insensitive to what we do, does it hit you pretty hard.

“We need to see it and understand it from the point of view of what it looks like when you’re out and away from Earth. It looks harmonious, unified, and consistent, and without boundaries – but we don’t live that way.”

Documentary: “Voices for Sustainability”
Living Dreams Films, 2010



EARTH

“We now possess the power and knowledge to control Earth, but do we yet have the wisdom and sense of destiny necessary to control the technological genie we have set free? Has the lid to Pandora’s Box been opened ever so little? Has the sorcerer’s apprentice opened the great book of magic?”

The View from Space



Reflections of the Moon

“As humans, we all think our thoughts, dream our dreams, of a better and peaceful place to live. But thoughts, dreams, and visions alone do not change the world.”

The View from Space



EARTH

“For Earth to survive as a planet and to provide for the nurturing, the growth, and well-being of its inhabitants, then we, humankind, must rise to the challenge of learning to be stewards to the planet and to each other.”

The View from Space



Reflections of the Moon

“Unrestrained exponential growth in any closed system is not sustainable. It cannot be sustained indefinitely on a finite space.”

“Toward a Sustainable Global Future”
IONS 2009



EARTH

“We are the crew of spaceship Earth and we are in mutiny. And how can you run a spaceship with a crew that is mutinous?”

“A Voyage into Mind and Space”
Chicago Planetary Studies Foundation, March 2004



Reflections of the Moon

“The United States is the largest energy-consuming country on Earth – and with no comprehensive energy strategy.”

“Toward a Sustainable Global Future”
IONS 2009



EARTH

“It is time we concentrate on leaving this planet in a little better shape than it was when we arrived.”

Albuquerque Journal
March 30, 1971



Reflections of the Moon

“The journey to the moon was a very powerful experience; it was life changing. We have been saying since the early days of the Apollo program that if we could ever get our political leaders to have a summit meeting in space, we’d have a totally different world.”

San Francisco Chronicle
September 16, 2007



EARTH

“Civilization needs to give a great deal of thought
to exactly what it’s doing to itself.”

Response to a visitor
Spacefest Conference, Phoenix, AZ
August 2007



Reflections of the Moon

“We have within us the seeds to create ourselves as a harmonious, kind, and loving crew of spaceship Earth. But we have missed the message.”

“A Voyage into Mind and Space”
Chicago Planetary Studies Foundation
March 2004



EARTH

Excerpt from exchange between Edgar Mitchell and India's revered Sadhguru, founder of the Isha Foundation, a profound mystic, a visionary humanitarian, and a prominent spiritual leader.

Sadhguru: Food is the raw material. What you call a body is a heap of cauliflower. Before we came to this planet, a boundless number of people walked this planet. Where are they? They're topsoil! We will also be topsoil one day.

Mitchell: Okay, we're getting closer together.

Sadhguru: We've never been far apart.

Mitchell: But there has got to be more meaning to life than just topsoil!

Sadhguru: So there is something in you that is capable of making a cauliflower into a human being. This is not a small thing. It is a phenomenon!

IONS Conference, Tucson, AZ
June 2009



EARTH

“If the sky is the limit, why are there footprints on the moon?”

Sign on Mitchell’s wall, December, 2015,
by Sabryna Bach



EARTH

“You develop an instant global consciousness, a people orientation, an intense dissatisfaction with the state of the world, and a compulsion to do something about it. From out there on the moon, international politics look so petty. You want to grab a politician by the scruff of the neck and drag him a quarter of a million miles out and say, ‘Look at that, you son of a b**ch.’”

Edgar Mitchell, when asked what the experience in space did for him

