

GAIA Transcription

The final speech by David Attenborough is available in BSL. The following is the text for the audio of Gaia.

[Voices in red below are through a radio]

Through this section, there is a faint sound of radio interference along with a beeping noise which can be heard every few seconds.

Houston: *(echoey)* Apollo 8 this is Houston. It's a good picture- the horizon- we can't see many terrain features as yet. *(pause)* Apollo 8, Houston. We're beginning to pick up a few craters very dimly; the whole thing is pretty bright.

Piano music begins to play as Anders speaks.

Anders: *(quieter)* Roger. There is not much definition up here either out on the horizon. We are now approaching the craters See and Bassett.

Houston: Roger.

Anders: I'll shift to the rendezvous window.

Houston: Roger, Bill. *(Pause)* Apollo 8, Houston. We want to take the DSE *(voice fades)*

Voice 1: It was the fourth orbit when we finally came to a position where we saw the earth.

Music changes and builds slightly.

Radio chatter

Anders: This is Earth coming up. Wow, that's pretty.
(Pause) You got a colour film, Jim?

Voice 1: And then Anders asked me for colour film.

Talking quickly over one another.

Anders: Hand me a roll of colour, quick, would you?

Lovell: Oh man, that's great.

Anders: Hurry.

Lovell: Where is it?

Anders: Quick

Lovell: Hey, I got it right here

Anders: Let me get it out this one, it's a lot clearer.

Lovell: Bill, I got it framed, it's very clear right here!

Voice 1: And he, and Anders, does take, I guess, several pictures and I say 'Two-fifty at f/11'.

Shutter on camera clicks.

Lovell: Well, I got it right - aw, that's a beautiful shot.

Voice 1: And as Anders takes the pictures, one of them, as we learn after we get back home, became the very famous one.

Voice 2: When we launched, after about twenty-five hours of climbing up away from the earth towards the moon, I started taking pictures, I mean we separated from the saturn and we were able to turn around and get a view of the earth. You could

almost see it retreating. It's like a kid watching this clock in the school, you know, the hand, and then you look away and it's moved a little bit. So I took a picture of the full earth, the first full earth man colour shot, which is my favourite picture, and it showed immediately, you know, that the earth was very pretty, very delicate. It was nothing but blackness around it, but it sure showed that the earth was a very beautiful but quite fragile place.

Music builds slightly.

And particularly as we got further out where the earth is about the size of your fist at arm's length, well you don't have to be a real mathematician to realise that if its one lunar distance the size of your fist at arm's length, if you're two lunar distance it's half the size of your fist. Ten lunar distances looks like that, *(voice gets quieter)* a hundred lunar distances it's a pellet that you can't even see. In a hundred lunar distances *(fades out and overlaps the following)*

Anders: *(through radio)* Oh my God, look at that picture over there! There's the earth comin' up. Wow, is that pretty!

Borman: Hey don't take that, it's not scheduled.

Anders: You got a colour film, Jim? Hand me a roll of colour, quick, would you?

Lovell: Oh man, that's great.

Anders: Hurry. Quick.

Noise of shutter on camera clicking.

Sombre string music begins to play.

The music brightens slightly and plays throughout the following.

[voices below sound tinny and echo over one another]

Voice 3: All of us are wired to appreciate natural beauty, if you will, and...

Pause.

Voice 4: First saw planet Earth from space...

Pause.

Voice 3: Anybody, in any time in history, any culture...

Voice 4: (?) in the launch, outside the atmosphere of Earth...

Voice 5: (*very tinny*) Even though you've seen the earth through movies. pictures...

Voice 4: And we're over the Pacific Ocean... (*Pause*) and just looking at that gorgeous blue....

Voice 3: If you look at an ocean or mountain or a beautiful forest...

Voice 4: Dotted with white clouds in the black of space...

Voice 5: Movies, pictures. When you look at the earth...

Voice 3: This impossibly blue planet...

Voice 5: Movies, pictures...

Voice 4: Dotted with white clouds in the black of space...

Voice 3: I mean everybody appreciates, its hits us fairly deep. We're wired that way...

Voice 4: And just looking at that gorgeous blue...

Voice 3: This impossibly blue planet, in this impossibly black sky, just kind of hanging out there, you know. It is really, really breath taking. And when you see your planet that way, in its sum total from space...

Voice 5: The sort of person, you can't avoid becoming a child again...

Voice 3: We're wired that way...

Pause. Echoes

You know all those senses kind of get overwhelmed...

Pause. Music builds and changes.

In this impossibly black sky, just kind of hanging out there. It is really, really breath taking...

Voice 4: Dotted with white clouds in the black of space...

Echoes. Pause.

Voice 3: I mean everybody appreciates, its hits us fairly deep. We're wired that way...

Voice 5: What you see is beautiful. You have tears in your eyes...

Echoes. Pause.

You can't avoid becoming a child again...

Voice 4: And just looking at that gorgeous blue...

Voice 3: We're wired that way...

Voice 5: What you see is beautiful...

Echoes and then fades and stops.

String music fades and is replaced by long, sustained notes and a quiet beeping sound along with other computer sounds. A whirring sound heard in the background gets louder and louder and computer sounds and beeps fade out. The music gets louder and louder with long, sustained notes and then slowly fades and is replaced by twinkly sounds.

Voice 6: *(Speaking in another language)*

Voice 7: *(Overlapping. Speaking in another language)*

Voice 8: *(Overlapping. Speaking in another language)*

Many voices, all speaking different languages, join one by one and overlap each other. The voices get faster and faster until they slowly merge into a whooshing sound like wind or the sea in a storm. A rumbling noise is heard underneath and the whooshing noise gradually fades. Seagulls and the sound of waves and sea spray are then heard. The rumbling quiets. Slow piano music is heard with long, sustained sounds underneath. The sea noises fade away. Piano music continues and the sounds heard underneath get louder and quieter, louder and quieter. A beeping noise is added. Piano music continues.

[Voices below echo over one another]

Voice 5: You believe that Earth...

Echoes. Pause.

Voice 9: Certainly you know that there's conflict down there and certainly you know that there is pain and suffering and...

Echoes. Beeping gets louder.

Voice 5: You believe that Earth is a spaceship. You can't avoid the comparison between Earth...

Voice 9: Injustice, all these things that, you know, you certainly feel strongly when you're on the earth and you know that those are still there but that's replaced for a moment by how beautiful it is...

Voice 5: Looking as a finite object in front of your eyes...

Echoes. Pause.

And your own spaceship, which is closed, with limited resources. All of mankind being part of the same, unique crew...

Rumbling sound in background. String music begins.

Is a spaceship. You can't avoid the comparison between Earth, looking as a finite object in front of your eyes...

Echoes. Pause.

Voice 9: I remember thinking I wish everybody could experience this view of their home planet so that maybe it would (*pause*) reprioritise what's important to them and make them less angry at their neighbours and more concerned about

doing what they can so that we preserve the beautiful planet that we live on...

String music plays and slowly builds. After a while, beeping can be heard which gets louder and then quieter again. The whooshing noise is heard once more as the string music fades. This is followed by the sound of chimes and bird song and calls. Long, sustained sounds are heard in the background. The sound of birds intensifies and slowly fades away. Background sounds intensify. Then there is a sound of wings quickly flapping and the tweets of other birds. Long, sustained notes change and get louder. The chimes return along with underwater sounds. These sounds build and are then replaced by wooden chimes. The long, sustained background sounds continue, with occasional chimes, and slowly builds. The waves return and gradually get louder. The long, sustained background sounds continue and change. The waves fade away. Computer-like, whirring sounds are heard over the top of the background sounds. A whale's call is heard for a moment. The chimes and birdsong very faintly return and then fade, along with the background sounds, replaced by a loud beeping over the top of the whirring noises.

An electronic tune begins over the top of the previous sound. The tune starts to build with an additional ticking noise.

David Attenborough: *(Over the top of the music. Ticking gradually fades)* Right now, we're facing a manmade disaster of global scale. Our greatest threat in thousands of years.

Climate change.

Pause. Music continues.

If we don't take action, the collapse of our civilisations and the extinction of much of the natural world is on the horizon.

Together we can make real change happen.

Pause. Music continues. Ticking can be heard in the background intermittently.

The world's people have spoken. Their message is clear. Time is running out. They want you, the decision makers, to act now.

Supporting in making tough decisions, but also willing to make sacrifices in their daily lives.

The people have spoken.

Music builds.

Leaders of the world, you must lead. The continuation of our civilisations, and the natural world upon which we depend, is in your hands, along with civil society, represented here today, supporting in making tough decisions but also willing to make sacrifices in their daily lives.

Music continues to build.

Because they recognise that they too must play their part. The people have spoken. Leaders of the world, you must lead. The continuation of our civilisations, and the natural world upon which we depend, is in your hands.

Music continues to build. Voices can be heard in the background and they gradually build and build along with the music. Suddenly the voices and other parts of the music drop out, leaving only the electronic music and the ticking noise. Music fades out leaving only the ticking noise which builds and suddenly stops.