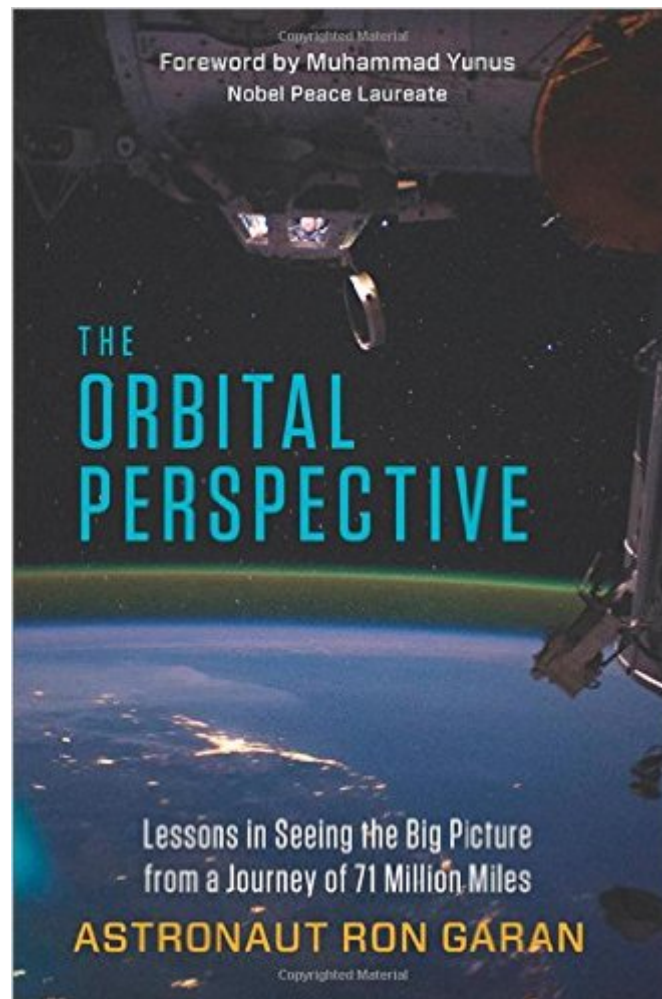


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The Orbital Perspective: Lessons In Seeing The Big Picture From A Journey Of 71 Million Miles



Synopsis

For astronaut Ron Garan, living on the International Space Station was a powerful, transformative experienceâ”one that he believes holds the key to solving our problems here on Earth. On space walks and through windows, Garan was struck by the stunning beauty of the Earth from space but sobered by knowing how much needed to be done to help this troubled planet. And yet on the International Space Station, Garan, a former fighter pilot, was working side by side with Russians, who only a few years before were the enemy. • If fifteen nationalities could collaborate on one of the most ambitious, technologically complicated undertakings in history, surely we can apply that kind of cooperation and innovation toward creating a better world. That spirit is what Garan calls the orbital perspective. • Garan vividly conveys what it was like learning to work with a diverse group of people in an environment only a handful of human beings have ever known. But more importantly, he describes how he and others are working to apply the orbital perspective here at home, embracing new partnerships and processes to promote peace and combat hunger, thirst, poverty, and environmental destruction. This book is a call to action for each of us to care for the most important space station of all: planet Earth. You don't need to be an astronaut to have the orbital perspective. Garan's message of elevated empathy is an inspiration to all who seek a better world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Is it really possible to learn how to make a difference in the world by reading a book by an

Astronaut? That was a question I had before reading a pre-release copy of *Orbital Perspective: Lessons in Seeing the Big Picture from a Journey of 71 Million Miles*. I had met with the author Ron Garan on several occasions over the past few years and heard the story of how his time in space provided an existential transformation about what it means to be human. In Ron's case (like many – but not all astronauts) that was the catalyst that propelled him to a life now which is committed to personally impacting the quality of life for all of humanity. This is evidenced through the many projects he has been directly involved with. I have to admit however to having some pre-conceptions about what the book would actually be about – and what I would get from it. I was expecting the story of an *existential awakening* – from being exposed to views of the earth by being IN SPACE. I was expecting the tales of international collaboration (specifically US/Russian) that made the building of the ISS possible. What I had not quite expected was the bottom line. The bottom line is that Ron is saying the KEY to making a difference is never about governments. In the end it's not even about Institutions (e.g. NASA / Roscosmos). It's never about *This organization* – or *That organization*. In the end it is about ordinary people who through whatever means manage to lift their views of what is possible to an *Orbital Perspective*. Out of that level of *Elevated Empathy* – a new future becomes possible that disregards the short term gains that might otherwise be in the way of a sustainable solution to a critical issue in the world.

If you could journey into orbit and look upon humanity's entire sphere of existence, how would your mindset about life on Earth be altered? When Astronaut Ron Garan embarked on his second mission to ISS in 2011, he succeeded in taking a great many people with him. His desire to share the amazing experiences of his first mission to ISS led to a ground-breaking initiative that succeeded in elevating people from being mere spectators to becoming active participants. To me, the impact of this outreach was several orders of magnitude greater than anything that had gone before and when I heard about this book, it quickly became clear that its content would be hugely important to anyone wanting to make a positive and significant impact on the world. The book is, at its heart, a call to action: It challenges the reader to find ways of using the principles illustrated throughout its pages to take collaborative action toward addressing the most significant challenges facing our global society. Supporting this call to action is a message of hope. The book threads together a rich tapestry of insights gleaned from exposure to some of the most remarkable events of our age. The greatest feats of international cooperation aptly serve as examples of the potential for humanity's new-found ability to solve many of the world's most pressing challenges. In the light of

these endeavours, people's tendency to think that because something has never been done before it must therefore be 'impossible' is shown to be a flawed and very limiting mindset. This book succeeds in liberating us from such restrictive ways of thinking by visiting examples of success in collaborative efforts which had previously been deemed by many to be impossible to accomplish.

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