The overview effect is a cognitive shift in awareness reported by some astronauts during spaceflight, often while viewing the Earth from outer space. It is the experience of seeing firsthand the reality of the Earth in space, which is immediately understood to be a tiny, fragile ball of life, "hanging in the void", shielded and nourished by a paper-thin atmosphere. From space, national boundaries vanish, the conflicts that divide people become less important, and the need to create a planetary society He provides a powerful rationale for space exploration and settlement, describing them as the inevitable next steps in the evolution of human society and human consciousness, as the activities most likely to bring a new perspective to the problems of life on Earth. White goes on to consider the possible consequences of a human presence in space, both for the pioneers who settle there and for those who remain on Earth. He imagines how having a permanent perspective from outer space will affect our politics, our religion, our social relations, our psychology, our economics, and our hard sciences The overview effect can create powerful shifts in the way you think about Earth and life. The words beautiful and fragile are often used by astronauts describing the experience. So today we sit down with Mr. White to talk about this phenomenon, and about his interviews with the dozens of astronauts that helped him understand and communicate this overview effect. Enjoy. [ Music ]. But it’s still very human-centered. We explore outer space to benefit ourselves as humans. Is there some larger purpose we’re fulfilling? And I asked myself, are we doing anything to benefit the universe? Whether they care about space exploration or not, they care about the Earth. And they’re talking about, how do we bring the overview effect down to Earth? Host: Because it is, like you said, an experience.