

# P L A N E T A R Y



## **What is your dream? What do you wish to share with the world?**

**What is your deepest, most personal vision for a brighter tomorrow?**

*Comments, suggestions, ideas and encouragement are warmly welcomed and deeply appreciated.*

The most challenging of the global events I've led over the last fifteen years took place soon after my selection as an astronaut candidate with the [world's first commercial astronaut corps](#). It was my first formal act as an official voice for the organization—and as an emissary to the stars—sharing the wonders of our universe with the wider world. Granted the nature of the circumstances, it turned out as no small undertaking.

The announcement of my selection was published in the [international press](#). Friends and colleagues from around the world sent me their congratulations. In the days following, I was extended an invitation to lead with a seminal keynote to share my visions of the future at one of Europe's preeminent conferences—the Old Continent's answer to the [TED Conference](#). TED's luminary speakers and leading global innovators include Bill Clinton, Stephen Hawking, and Bill Gates. They're empowered with free reign to share their greatest hopes and dreams to transform and revitalize the world. This European conference series followed in that noble tradition.

As the epic grand finale for a wildly successful enterprise, the event turned in with a consummate, smashing finish. Tickets sold out within minutes. More than 550 seats were snapped up in as many seconds, with the conference broadcasting live to 108 sister cities worldwide.

Soon after my acceptance, I was eager to call my father with the good news. I'd been dealt two ace cards in the span of as many weeks—first training as an astronaut, then an invitation to reach out to tens of thousands around the world.

The morning I planned to call, I woke early and set out to work, but was promptly taken aback by a short message from my sister announcing my father's unexpected passing. This shock paralleled my mother's passing a few years prior in the early morning following Fourth of July fireworks. I'd been overseas at that time, and was yet abroad again. The news was devastating. I'd been meaning to reach out for weeks, but anticipating confirmation of my selection, planned to call when I had more news of what would soon follow.

The conference committee naturally informed me there were no further obligations to lead at such an arduous time, encouraging a break to impart the time for last respects. I called for three days of thoughtful deliberation, and took the three full days to meditate deeply and look within, reflecting on my father, his ideals and aspirations—the noblest attributes he embodied and conveyed, from my earliest years growing up. I recalled the most vivid hallmark events and most memorable moments we shared together as father and son. On the close of the third day, my decision was made: I called with confirmation of my acceptance.

My focus turned to heartfelt tribute in honor of my father's memory, to his early influence and inspiration in shaping my dreams to reach for the stars. In the time just following his passing, I channeled his light to give the most fitting possible tribute, to thank him for his gift and build a brighter tomorrow. I recalled my earliest memories looking up and out across the vast expanse of the Milky Way, or sprawled across the floor in front of the television, avidly taking in the latest from Carl Sagan's *Cosmos*, or through his books: *The Pale Blue Dot*, *Communications with Extraterrestrial Intelligence—Other Worlds*, *Cosmic Connection*, and the profoundly influential *Contact*.

I spent many late nights watching educational public broadcast channels and adventures to other worlds, imagination fired by the example of *Dr. Who*, *Star Trek*, and *Quantum Leap*, then on to front row theater seats with the leading lights of Hollywood—the latest visions from Lucas and Spielberg, from *Star Wars*, *Top Gun*, *Firefox* and *The NeverEnding Story* to *Flight of the Navigator* and *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*.

Reflections gained through nighttime sojourns in rolling pastures near my grandparent's family home in the lush, forested countryside—with its rhythmic pulse of crickets and cicadas, watching fireflies flicker by—or on camping trips with friends, surrounded by the crimson majesty of snow-capped mountains, all ensured that vision continued to grow with me every year. Every time I looked out to the sky, my eyes took in the reflection of the heavens, the cosmos, the constellations whirling about—a song of stellar synchrony, a symphony of light.

I shared my vision on the collective promise and potential we share as a species as more of us are able to experience the miracle and wonder of going to space, broadcasting our experiences back in high-definition, streaming real-time with wearable technologies like Google Glass, reaching out to share that profound experience with friends and families at home, first transforming friends and families, out to wider communities—then uplifting nations as a wave sweeps over the world.

We have but a single astronaut channel on YouTube today—we'll have thousands streaming down in the years to come. Each of these star travelers will share their own personal interpretation of that vision. Each will bring back their own reflections on the [Overview Effect](#)—the profound spiritual transformation all astronauts experience as they're filled with overpowering and transcendent wonder, enlightenment, a sense of shared unity on seeing our homeworld from space. With no borders, no boundaries, and no divisions to keep us apart: how we're all one people, and one race, sharing one destiny—wholly intertwined and interconnected.

How delicate the thin blue ribbon of Earth's atmosphere appears from space, how fragile is the nature of life on Earth. How precarious is our position, and how we all share the duty and responsibility to cherish that life, and each other—to steward and protect our only home. That shared awareness will transform societies in an outward-expanding wave, a groundswell mirroring the [Arab Spring](#) revolution on the positive spiritual axis. In the years to come, we'll travel outward from our planet as one—an expanding bubble of life and light, growing to become a mature, enlightened, multiplanetary species—as Earth becomes a destination, rather than just a point of origin.

That hopeful vision reached across the world, daring tens of thousands to collectively imagine a brighter future and a greater tomorrow.

“ Observation of my life to date shows that the larger the number for whom I work, the more positively effective I become. Thus, it is obvious that if I work always and only for all humanity, I will be optimally effective. ”

– R. Buckminster Fuller

Given the conditions of its inception, that was the most challenging speech I'd ever shared. But in making the difficult decision to see it through, I gave my father the honor of the tribute he deserved. That moment has since sparked manifold opportunities—to serve as leading voice in a movement that may spark a transformative shift in human consciousness, even our collective evolution as a species—opportunities just now only in the earliest stages of being made manifest.

I've been deeply fortunate to learn from the example of many accomplished mentors, teachers and advisors, some of whom have founded altogether new fields, transformed or led some of our greatest social, scientific and technological achievements. Their example has instilled in me a shining beacon of hope, a rallying call of unity to bring our best efforts together to reach our fullest capacities. That gift, when shared, has the power to inspire and give birth to a collective response. It holds powerful seeds of potential to spark a collective global transformation of awakened potential.

Belief—like fear, or like love—is a profound and powerful force. It's one of the most powerful motivating forces in our universe. Belief has fundamentally shaped the course of world history all around us. Look no further than the tragedy of *Romeo and Juliet*, to the Japanese pilots of the *kamikaze* attack waves and their belief in the *divine wind*—or to the forces that drove forward those who led the attacks on the Twin Towers in September of 2001. Look to the *Stasi* of Hitler's Third Reich, to the *gestapo*, the secret state police of East Germany—to the dictators of the Cold War, Stalin and Mao in Communist Russia and China—or to the deep roots of belief that drive the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to this day.



Belief can give birth to movements that rise up in a powerful wave to sweep over and wholly transform communities, cultures and societies: the Indian fight for independence under the leadership of its first national revolutionary, Gandhi—the suffrage movement that gave women the right to vote or the equal rights movement unified and carried forth under Martin Luther King. Look to the 1960's sexual revolution, the end of South African Apartheid, or to the Arab Spring movements that erupted like wildfire, sweeping 'cross the world in 2010.

Belief can fuel a singular vision to channel the collective drive of our most talented scientists and engineers, propelling their best efforts forward—pooling them together to harness the powers of the Sun itself, to demonstrate mass-energy equivalence in a single blinding flash that transformed the modern landscape of world history: the Manhattan Project's Trinity Test.

Belief can make a reality of our very first footsteps on the Moon, only a few short years after Kennedy's impassioned call mobilized our collective will to beat the Soviets to that same goal—the Apollo missions.

Belief can call us forwards, to rise up together as one.

Belief can lead nations.

“ Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, 'Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?' Actually, who are we not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small doesn't serve the world. There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you.

We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It is not just in some of us. It's in everyone, and, as we let our light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others. ”

– Marianne Williamson



I was honored to keynote the final chapter of Mobile Monday Amsterdam this past spring. Mobile Monday, the “European TED,” focuses on technology, openness and communication. Mobile Monday Amsterdam is the largest and most successful of the gatherings, with branches in over 100 cities worldwide. The surprise theme for the final event was “Space.” More than 550 seats to the final event sold out in minutes, and the talk was simultaneously broadcast to gathering points in more than 100 sister cities around the world.

My theme for the keynote—to share the promise and potential of widespread access to space—changed overnight with my father’s unexpected passing soon after the invitation. The keynote then became a deeply personal spiritual tribute to his memory, as I shifted focus to give recognition to his formative influence in my childhood dreams to reach for space.

My father’s passing strengthened my resolve to create a brighter tomorrow. Given the timing and the personal nature of the tribute, I didn’t publicize my speech last spring, but the anniversary of his death recently passed, bringing renewed hope and inspiration as we enter a new season. These same sparks of inspiration will no doubt carry over to our next set of serendipitous opportunities.

What exciting advances will we see around the corner and over the horizon? I look forward to sharing manifold ideas, insights and inspiration over the months and years to come.

*Ad astra per aspera,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. M.', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.





# Inner Space, Outer Space: Inspire, Connect, Empower

Keynote for the final  
Mobile Monday: Amsterdam.  
The Future of Space



How many of you have just had a baby?

Imagine what it would be like to see this with your own eyes—to see the Earth from space. You may soon be able to experience this yourself, with your children, and your families.

I was raised from early childhood to believe that our human potential is limitless and unbounded—in our

capacity to learn, to explore, to transcend limitations—and in mankind's ultimate destiny to expand outward, to explore the Cosmos.

As a young boy, my father introduced me to visions of great thinkers and dreamers, like Carl Sagan. He instilled in me a fascination, a deep appreciation—for science, for technology, and for space exploration. Today you'll hear about next-generation internet technologies that will enable us to transcend spaces—to transcend locality.

These new technologies—Twitter, Facebook, Wikileaks—are all expressions of the a singular, fundamental human desire—our desire to share, and to connect with each other. Our desire for unity and belonging, for transparency and connection—our yearning to break down the walls of separation, to transcend our differences and our divisions—to share our personal moments of joy, our everyday experiences—with our loved ones, our families, and our communities—to be a part of something greater than ourselves.

We are collectively participating in the development of a global awareness—in the collaborative creation of a brighter future, and a better world. The next revolution in science and technology will take this transcendence of space literally: In opening access to space to all of us.

The first race to space was driven by national competition: a race for supremacy between the US and the USSR. The achievements of the Apollo space program gave us countless spinoff technologies, and inspired a whole generation.

Our contemporary generation today needs its own inspiration, its own Sputnik moment—its own Moon shot. That inspiration will be a widespread access to space, for the wider public, as more of us are able to go. And as we return, we will share this experience with each other. 50 years after mankind first journeyed to space, we are at the dawn of a new era: the opening of commercial spaceflight.

This will happen during our lifetimes. We are here to witness it, and to personally experience it. Many of you in this room, and many of you hearing these words, will have the opportunity to go to space. We've been fortunate to witness the revolution of personal computers, as they were linked up together, to form a global communications network. That revolution has transformed our society, and given birth to our modern way of life.

We're about witness another revolution, a revolution in space.

This revolution has the potential to transform human society—just as profoundly as the worldwide web has transformed us, and given birth to our information society. The transformations to our society, to our way of life, to our relationships, our identity, and to our future generations—will be just as profound as the computer revolution was to our last generation. Opening doors to low-cost commercial spaceflight means the next generation will take to space, and bring this experience back to us, so that we can share in their experiences.





The next generations will see our return to Moon, our next steps outward—to Mars, to asteroids—for mining, for exploration, and for long-term colonization. In the generations to come, we will not only visit space—we will go there to stay.

Earth will not just be a point of origin, but it will be a destination.



This next wave of commercial spaceflight ventures is just the first step—the doorway towards our future as an interplanetary species, I began my career at a multidisciplinary research institute—Starlab—where our research focus was the Deep Future. We worked together to develop and to explore long-term research initiatives—with the capacity to profoundly and positively impact future generations.

This same kind of long-term thinking is behind a recent partnership between DARPA and NASA—They've recently founded the “100 Year Starship” program, an organization with the vision to take mankind to the stars—and to develop the technologies that will enable us to explore Deep Space.

The human space program is now really aimed at settling other worlds.

In contemporary society, we go through life with blinders on—aware of our place in history, but not considering how our actions will concretely and tangibly impact the lives of our children, and our grandchildren, 50 and 100 years from now. This kind of long-term, global, deep future thinking is exactly what we need right now to inspire the next generation.

As a species, we don't really awaken our true potential unless we're pushing the boundaries of what is possible, of what is known. The act of exploration, of discovery—expands our minds, extends the realm of possibility—and creates wholly new possibilities by the inherent act of stretching outward—to go further than was possible before.

We recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of human spaceflight. 50 years from now, we'll be living and working on the Moon, we'll have permanent outposts on Mars—we'll be mining the asteroids—and we'll be making significant progress towards exploring other worlds—to becoming a truly interplanetary species.



In doing so, we'll learn more about ourselves, and our unique place in this universe. This will give birth to new technologies—technologies that will help mankind sustain itself towards the future.

Not long ago, I was selected as an astronaut candidate, to train for the next generation of suborbital and orbital commercial space programs. My father instilled in me this dream, this passion to work towards mankind's long-term

future. He passed just a few short weeks ago, not long after my selection. I never got to share with him the culmination of my lifelong dream to become an astronaut. So I'm sharing it with those of you here today—for the next generation, and for the generations to come.

I envision a future where spaceflight is open to all. Where we can all experience the profound impact of seeing the Earth from space—without boundaries, without borders, without national divisions.

Seeing the Earth from space is a spiritually profound experience. It's like opening your eyes for the first time. I have faith it will reduce conflict as we transcend our national boundaries, and set aside our differences in pursuit of a higher calling.

This will bring us closer together as a species, and awaken us to the deep and profound connection that we all share with one another. It will grant us a new realization of what it means to exist, and to be human.

We're at the outset of the greatest human adventure of all—the journey to other worlds.



## The Next Generation

If you feel our work provides you with value, has in any way enriched your life—or simply made you stop to reflect on a new perspective—please consider a one-time or recurring donation. We aim to bring about a renewable energy-based, post-scarcity economy, and we welcome your help to realize this mission.

[White Paper](#)

**Help us take our initiatives to the next level for greater world-changing impact.**

All contributions are truly appreciated, and make a tangible difference for the future.



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