

# The Meaning of Spaceship Earth

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*by Cameron Douglas Craig*

As we glide through life, we experience things along our path that influence our individual being and influence other lives we encounter. While we only have a limited time available to us on our planet it is most important to experience everything possible. Contrary to common belief, we actually influence the way the path twists through the forest. Whether it be the state of the environment or the policies that make a nation, we must use our time to keep the path pointed toward the North Star—a guide to humanity's existence.

To answer the deep question, "What is my purpose of my existence," we must look to ourselves and understand how knowledge is acquired. Through this investigation, we can begin to answer the question with an answer that is unique only to individuals. Each person has the answer; however, it is buried deep below the layers of everyday occurrences. Spaceship Earth is not a place of one mind, but a community of many minds that work together to create a path that leads toward the North Star—a future through progress.

What is progress? When we look to the past, we have come so far. Progress is what we have today and the future is built upon progress of today. The minds of millions or the few create progress. One individual does not create progress, but it is the work of many that drives progress. For progress to occur, we look at the experiences within our self or of others, which results in knowledge.

What is knowledge? Knowledge does not necessarily come from books or college courses, but the experiences of everyday life. The daily events within our own lives shape who we are. The films we watch, the reality series we watch, the music we listen to sculpt the way our minds develop. However, our experiences are not simply restricted to our local environment but weave in and out of the community we live, which influences the region, the nation, and even on a global scale. Even before our own existence, our experiences came from a long line of experiences spanning many decades and centuries.

Some experiences come from serious investigations where an individual will weigh the outcomes to determine their own belief. These investigations encompass the trial and error method just as a scientist investigates the outcome of mixing two chemicals to achieve an understanding. Others acquire knowledge simply through experiencing life—essentially, the result of others influence within our current location. In other words, knowledge comes from the experience of others through communication or action. For example, the meeting of our elders at a local coffee shop is the act of acquiring knowledge through discussion of current issues that influences the minds present. Another is the candid discussion of the instructor telling his or her students of the processes of the atmosphere. Dr. Maria Montessori once wrote, "Education is not acquired by listening to words, but by the experiences in the environment." We learn by doing and not by listening. We acquire knowledge through

experiences. Whether it be experiencing how to change oil in our vehicle or how to solve for the time an apple travels from branch to ground, experiences are valuable because they culminate into a major understanding of who we are.

Stated earlier, the locality influences the community, which influences the region, until it reaches the global scale. So what is the locality? Locality is the environment around you—the connection of friends and colleagues within your grasp. The community is made up of a web of localities, which results in a larger scale, the region. Eventually, the region influences how the globe functions. If we look at the political spectrum, a person becomes interested in politics in order to make changes for the locality, which communicates to the nation. Progress occurs when one individual influences the minds of other contributions through collaboration. In other words, progress results through collaborated experiences, investigative or non-investigative.

Spaceship Earth is the collaborative work of millions of minds to achieve something better no matter what it is. Our individual experiences will ultimately influence the direction our planet heads no matter how trivial it may seem. A person we meet for only a brief moment will retain something we, as an individual, stated even if it was minute. In the end, what we say from what we think will change the future no matter how hard we attempt to avoid communicating that thought. Even if we remain silent, our bodies will be a trumpet of thoughts that communicate to be understood by others. However, it is all for the good of the globe. Our existence is written in the heavens with experiences that come from a long unbreakable chain of experiences—the essence of progress for the future.

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