

[News](#)



Photo taken by Apollo 13 crew in 1970 | NASA public domain image

by Peter McLoughlin

[View Author Profile](#)

Join the Conversation

Send your thoughts to *Letters to the Editor*. [Learn more](#)

September 16, 2019

[Share on Bluesky](#)[Share on Facebook](#)[Share on Twitter](#)[Email to a friend](#)[Print](#)

Take a moment to reflect on the photo.

You do not have to be good.

You do not have to walk on your knees

for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.

You only have to let the soft animal of your body

love what it loves.

Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.

Meanwhile the world goes on.

Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain

are moving across the landscapes,

over the prairies and the deep trees,

the mountains and the rivers.

Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,

are heading home again.

Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,

the world offers itself to your imagination,

calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting

over and over announcing your place

in the family of things.

— **Mary Oliver (1935-2019), Prized American poet from Wild Geese**

Treat yourself to watching the first episode of "Our Planet" the 2019 BBC documentary on Netflix, narrated by David Attenborough. Breathtaking. Arresting.

Advertisement

This story appears in the **Season of Creation Daily** feature series. [View the full series.](#)