

PART 1 This is a transcript of the exact words spoken by the three Astronauts involved with this incident. CAPITALS reflect the voiced emphasis of the respective speaker. Hesitations and grammatical errors are left in as originally spoken. JC.

(C) = Chris Hadfield

(S) = Scott Parazynski

(J) = Jeff Ashby - STS-100 Shuttle Pilot/Robotic Arm Operator

The boys had been working in orbital darkness and were just coming into sunrise. Mission Control Center in Houston Texas advised them to check all of their suit sensors and readings to be sure that they would not "bake" in the naked Sun above the atmosphere.

At this moment, Chris Hadfield called out to his partner...

C - "Hey Scott! Look this way!"..... (Detectable tension in his voice)

S - "Ok, just a sec Chris...I've got to do a poorman's four leaf, fair weave here."

(3 second pause then...)

"WOW!"

(Obvious awe in his voice, followed by a 9 SECOND PAUSE!)

"GREAT! Thank you!.....OK uh, Jeff... ready to maneuver again."

J - "OK, here ya go."

PART 2. Two minutes later. By this time, the Sun was well risen and far too bright to look at. Remember, at orbital velocity a "day" lasts only 45 minutes, rather than the 8 to 14 hours we experience on the ground. So this means that in the minutes since sunrise for the Astronauts, the Sun has gone way above the horizon...and there is NO atmosphere to filter it's intensity, even AT the horizon, as there is for us on Earth.

About two minutes after the "Hey Scott!" incident, Parazynski seems to have tried to cover the oddity by claiming, out of the blue mind you, that the two had been admiring the sunrise. Yeah right! Sure they were. This is pure balderdash!

Not only had these two guys been seeing 16 sunrises per day since reaching orbit three days earlier, but when this happened, the Sun was obviously in a different direction from where they were looking. See for yourself in the photos above. The sun was toward the top of the "screen", and the two men were looking to the left of the page. What ever caught their attention, we can be very sure it wasn't the sunrise. One can also remind them, and the public, that an Astronaut's time on EVA is very carefully planned, and there is NO time for idle sightseeing. Here is the exact transcript of Astronaut Scott Parazynski's remarks. Doesn't it sound to you like he was trying to cover up for the implications of his exchange, and shock, over what Canadian Astronaut Chris Hadfield called his attention to mere moments before?

S - "WOW! Look at that in the distance! WOW! Beautiful!"

.....(5 second pause)

....."Sunrise!"

J- "Let's do it."

S - "You ready for us to move then?"

One final note on this event, and possible consequences. Very soon after STS-100 landed back on Earth, Canadian Astronaut Chris Hadfield suddenly quit the Astronaut corps, after only two flights, with no explanation. Did something "up there" scare him into leaving NASA? Or did he get his ears burned for drawing attention to something not acknowledged; over an open radio link? We can only wonder about these questions. Also, we can only speculate on just exactly WHAT it was that so captivated two busy Astronauts carrying out a critical mission on a long planned, and trained for, EVA.

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