

Communion On The Moon

July 20, 1969

By Eric Metaxas

Forty-three years ago two human beings changed history by walking on the surface of the moon. But what happened before Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong exited the Lunar Module is perhaps even more amazing, if only because so few people knew about it. “I’m talking about the fact that Buzz Aldrin took communion on the surface of the moon. Some months after his return, he wrote about it in Guideposts magazine.

And a few years ago I had the privilege of meeting him myself. I asked about it and he confirmed the story to me, and I wrote about in my book, “Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Go (But Were Afraid To Ask)”.

The background of the story is that Aldrin was an elder at his Presbyterian Church in Texas during this period of his life, and knowing that he would soon be doing something unprecedented in human history, he felt he should mark the occasion somehow, and he asked his minister to help him. And so the minister consecrated a communion wafer and a small vial of communion wine. And Buzz Aldrin took them with him out of the Earth’s orbit and on to the surface of the moon.

He and Armstrong had only been on the lunar surface for a few minutes when Aldrin made the following public announcement:

“This is the LM pilot. I’d like to take this opportunity to ask every person listening in, whoever and wherever they may be, to pause for a moment and contemplate the events of the past few hours and to give thanks in his or her own way.”

He then ended radio communication and there, on the silent surface of the moon, 250,000 miles from home, he read a verse from the gospel of John, and he took communion. Here is his own account of what happened:

“In the radio blackout, I opened the little plastic packages which contained the bread and the wine. I poured the wine into the chalice our church had given me. In the one-sixth gravity of the moon, the wine slowly curled and gracefully came up the side of the cup. Then I read the scripture,

‘I am the vine, you are the branches. Whosoever abides in me will bring forth much fruit..Apart from me you can do nothing’.

“I had intended to read my communion passage back to earth, but at the last minute [they] had requested that I not do this. NASA was already embroiled in a legal battle with Madelyn Murray O’Hare, the celebrated opponent of religion, over the Apollo 8 crew reading from Genesis while orbiting the moon at Christmas. I agreed reluctantly. I ate the tiny Host and swallowed the wine. I gave thanks for the intelligence and spirit that had brought two young pilots to the Sea of Tranquility. It was interesting for me to think: the very first liquid ever poured on the moon, and the very first food eaten there, were the communion elements.”

And of course, it’s interesting to think that some of the first words spoken on the moon were the words of Jesus Christ, who made the Earth and the moon—and Who, in the immortal words of Dante, is Himself the “*Love that moves the Son and other stars.*”

Proving God's Existence

Donald E. Wildmon

"The Fool hath said in his heart, 'There is no God.'" Psalm 14:1

Yuri Alexeyevitch Gagarin, the first human ever to enter space, was killed when the plane he was piloting crashed. He died as he lived among his fellow Russians—a hero. The report said he “sacrificed his life to save a peasant village..”

Most of us remember Gagarin by the feat he pulled in the year 1961. The date was April 12. He rode his spaceship Vostok I on a trip around the earth and returned safely. Gagarin, a Major at the time, was only 27 years old. He had made history before he had reached middle age.

When he was buried, he was buried with the hero's funeral. His funeral was on Red Square in Moscow. People turned out in droves, and they wept as they sang his praises. His death was a national tragedy.

Death has a way of making us forget many things about people. How was it that Shakespeare put it? “The evil that men do lives after them; the good is oft interred with their bones.” Guess that is about right in some cases. And in other cases it is exactly the opposite.

Somehow we have forgotten what Yuri Gagarin said during that first trip of mankind around our Mother earth. Oh, to be certain, he said many things. But one of them kinda stands out in my mind. It is, actually, the only thing I can remember him saying. While spinning around up there he sent back this message:

“I Can See No God.”

His intention, of course, was to disprove the belief of millions of people that there is a Creator responsible for this race, and space. His words did little to dispel any of our beliefs in the Almighty. In reality, they probably strengthened most in their belief.

You see, the existence of a Power behind this universe doesn't depend on one man's ability to see Him. And, despite his tremendous educational advances, man can neither “prove” nor “disprove” the existence of God.

Gagarin was raised in a system which taught him there was no Creator. It taught him that this earth was and is purely an accident. That there is no right or wrong but only a state. Taught him that his allegiance was not to anything else other than to a state. “The state,” he was taught, “is your god.”

The state, being his god, took him and buried him and said all that remained of Yuri Gagarin was his influence. Like millions of others who have died he left a wife and children - ages 7 and 9. They will be raised in the same society he was.

Yuri Gagarin could not see a God on that first trip around the earth. Now he is dead. I wonder if Yuri Alexeyevitch Gagarin can see a God now?

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**Two Astronauts: one American, One Russian. Both have a “future-related” goal.
One Astronaut remembers his Savior—One Astronaut doesn't claim a Savior.
Which Astronaut will live eternally?**

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