

# EARTH IS A PALE BLUE DOT

*"Look again at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us. On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives. The aggregate of our joy and suffering, thousands of confident religions, ideologies, and economic doctrines, every hunter and forager, every hero and coward, every creator and destroyer of civilization, every king and peasant, every young couple in love, every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer, every teacher of morals, every corrupt politician, every "superstar", every "supreme leader", every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there--on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam.*

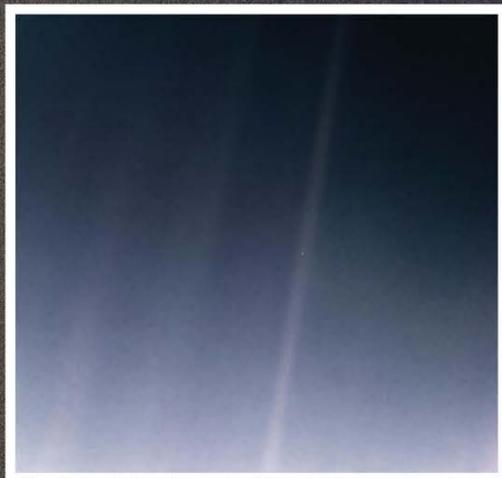
*The Earth is the only world known so far to harbor life. There is nowhere else, at least in the near future, to which our species could migrate. Visit, yes. Settle, not yet. Like it or not, for the moment the Earth is where we make our stand.*

*It has been said that astronomy is a humbling and character-building experience. There is perhaps no better demonstration of the folly of human conceits than this distant image of our tiny world. To me, it underscores our responsibility to deal more kindly with one another, and to preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known."*

– Carl Sagan



The Voyager 1 space probe



The same image of the pale blue dot re-edited by better software

This image is a photograph of Earth (the tiny blue dot), taken in February 1990 by the deep space probe Voyager 1. The space probe was six billion kilometres from Earth when it was programmed by the scientist Carl Sagan to turn around and look back at Earth. The space probe then took one last picture of Earth before leaving our Solar System.

In this image, our Earth, and all that we know, is in that very small, pale-blue dot. The stripes in the image are light beams from the Sun, like Sun glare in photos. All the other tiny dots are caused by the huge magnification of this image.