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AST 110 – 002

**Reflection Paper #2**

Unit 2 was full of new things for me, starting with the black spots in the Sun, which I had never seen or read about, and how Sun spot variations can affect the temperature on Earth; the metallic Earth’s core causing the Earth’s magnetic field and thus its poles; the Earth’s Moon, its composition and differences with the Earth; impacts (or lack thereof) in the surface of the Moon, the Earth and many other planets, and how important Earth’s atmosphere is to protect us from outer space objects. Personally, February-March 2021 has been a terrible month for my family, having both of my parents and my father-in-law in the hospital due to COVID-19, and my father-in-law’s passing away made me realize how insignificant we are in the Universe, but yet our actions have meaningful impact in humanity.

After reading and watching the videos about the Moon, what caught my attention the most was the footprint by astronauts would remain on the surface for many years due to the lack of erosion as a consequence of the wind and the lack of liquid water. But, I can’t help but feel intrigued by how the US flag on the surface of the Moon could wave if there is no wind? My theory is it wasn’t waving but rather floating.

In lieu of our recent family loss, I feel every living being needs to live a meaningful life. Reading about Venus being hotter than Mercury, even when Mercury is closer to the Sun; Mars having traces of frozen water, with extreme temperatures and absence of oxygen and the fact that we are alive, makes me realize life as we know it has to be a miracle. The Earth is in the right place, with the right presence of chemical elements in the right proportion, the right interaction with other planets and objects in the Solar System. These facts cannot be pure luck, there has got to be a reason for that, and every living being have a purpose to exist...Or at least that is what I choose to believe.