

## The Melody Surrounding Us

If you stare into a clear night sky long enough, eventually your vision adjusts to the surrounding darkness, and you see new pinpricks of light appear like magic above you with every passing minute.

To be human is to be curious, to wander, to be drawn upward. We ache to hear the subtle music in the silence of night. We venture to seek beauty and poetry where some may only see darkness. Venturing deeper, as humans, as adventurers, we are always in pursuit of a greater understanding of *us*.

Our identity.

Where we came from.

Where we belong.

At its very core, to be human is to be desperate to know the unknown. Knowledge is a melody that binds us to everything surrounding us, yet there is nothing more unknown than the very universe we've learned to call ours. It is our destiny to know what lies beyond this Earth, beyond this galaxy, hidden in the depths of the cosmos - *to hear the music*.

If you stare into a clear night sky long enough, eventually the stars held within your gaze begin blurring their edges in and out of the surrounding shadow.

*Twinkling*, as if they're bobbing up and down in the infinite black sea, or maybe even dancing to that secret melody strummed into the surrounding space. Sure, you know sound

cannot travel in a vacuum, but that knowledge cannot not keep you from believing that maybe, if you strained your ears enough, you could almost hear the sweet music.

Almost.

Of course, this celestial shapeshifting is not the result of some cosmic celebration, but rather, the result of starlight having to travel billions of miles and filtering through the blockade of Earth's atmosphere to reach our eyes. *Astronomical scintillation*. Saying it out loud, you may even notice that the technical name has a sort of resonance to it.

Our enduring pursuit of knowledge will drive us further than we've ever been before. Space exploration holds the promise of true knowledge, of *understanding*.

Understanding our identity as adventurers.

Understanding our own beginnings within this universe.

Understanding that we belong among the stars, in the quest for a vaster home.

If you stare into a clear night sky long enough, eventually you understand. The secrets of the stars live within you. *You are the music*. The space separating the stars and us pulses an ethereal lullaby, beckoning humanity back into the depths of the universe, back home.

It craves to be discovered again.