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4th Hour Language

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**“That’s one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for lying to all of America?”**

 You sit gathered around a small television with all of your family, watching the Apollo 11 put the first people on the moon. Imagine being unbelievably proud and astounded with your country. Several years after this incredible moment, you’re informed it was all faked. Maybe you don’t have to imagine it because it really did happen to you. History tells us an amazing story of the first moon landing, but what if we didn’t actually go there at all?

 The first mention of the surreal goal to get to the moon that circles our planet was by John F. Kennedy. He wanted to achieve a lunar landing before the 60’s ended. Other stated goals while there were to successfully deploy a television camera, transmits signals to earth, establish a solar wind composition, and achieve scientific exploration by lunar module (“Apollo 11 Mission Overview”). Once the Soviet Union launched a satellite into the moon’s orbit, the space race was on. NASA was determined for America to be the first to achieve a lunar landing (SciBRIGHT). The assembly of a mission began and the crew was chosen:  Neil Armstrong as commander, “Buzz” E. Aldrin as Lunar Module Pilot, and Michael Collins as Command Module Pilot. A 363-foot rocket was constructed with various powers (“Apollo 11 Mission Overview”). The whole project cost about $170 billion; however, $29 billion of that was just spent on the trip getting to the moon (SciBRIGHT). The take off was 09:32 of July 16th, and within twelve minutes they reached the limit of Earth’s atmosphere. After traveling for three days, they entered lunar orbit. This is where Armstrong and Aldrin separated with Collins and continued in the Eagle for landing . When approaching the surface of the moon, it was clear that they were in a area with many boulders, which could have been very hazardous. Armstrong had to manually pilot the ship from there, and as it was about to conclude, the computer started sounding off numerous warning alarms. Fortunately, he still managed to touch down at 16:18, with only thirty seconds of fuel left. At 22:56 Armstrong got off the Eagle to take the first steps on the moon and say his famous words that will never be forgotten:  “That’s one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind”(“July 20,1969…”). Half a billion people watched on TV as this enduring moment unfolded, but how do we know this was all real (“Apollo 11 Mission Overview”)?

 What if NASA faked the moon landing? This has become a popular conspiracy among the public and a great deal of research has been put into it (Dawson). In the 60’s there was known to be a “space race”, as mentioned before, between the Soviet Union and America. It commenced with the Soviets successfully sending a satellite into orbit with the moon. This encouraged the US even more to be first; although, it is believed that we didn’t have the technology at that time. NASA was determined to show up other countries, so why wouldn't they just fake it? Another reason for this argument that seems to be forgotten by most of society is the Van Allen Radiation Belt. Apollo 11 would have had to traveled right through on their path, which would be nearly impossibly at that point in history. The ship would have had to have some serious armor plating, which NASA claimed they did. However, some of the public find that very hard to believe (Mind Chop). Micrometeoroids could of have sandblasted the spacecraft at any point while it was traveling; this adds even more danger to the already hazardous mission (Villard).

Now for one of the biggest leaps of logic behind this, the shadows. When looking at the footage of the lunar landing, it is evident that shadows of the people and objects are going different ways. All the light should be coming from the sun when standing on the surface of moon; therefore, all of the shadows should be going one way. This shows that other lights must have been used. Society believes that they were stage lights on a set (Dawson). Furthermore, when the flag was first stuck into the new ground of the moon, it started waving, but that raised questions for a great deal of people because there is no wind in space (Mind Chop).

If you have seen the video of the landing you might have noticed the fact that there are zero stars anywhere to be seen (Dawson). The channel Mind Chop on *Youtube* describes, “There is no atmosphere to stars, so theoretically, it should be very easy to spot the bright lights.” That brings the question of how is it possible that the background is completely black? In addition to this, there were also multiple images compared of two different places on the moon, but seem to have the same backdrop. They are almost identical, having the same rock structure, which gives even more belief to theory. In one of the pictures of the astronauts, with the earlier explained framework, there seems to be something in the reflection of the helmet. Many believe the unknown object is a stage light that they would use on a movie set. It gives further support to the stage light theory, and would make complete sense (Mind Chop). Continuing on with the artificial scenery theory, there would have to be props, which brings us to the “c-rock.” Going through the photographs, you will come across a rock with a perfectly carved C in it. It is supposed that a prop was planned to go over the spot labelled C. The most popular possibility is someone just forgot to flip it down the right way, where the letter is not visible. There have been scientists who have made statements that if you were to land a very large spaceship on the moon, it would affect the landscape immensely. Yet when Apollo 11 landed, nothing happened; it looked as if it the whole thing was just was sat there (Dawson).

Now when all these assumptions started becoming more public, NASA had to start coming up with ways to make it all seem reasonable. They made statements announcing that the reasoning for the missing stars was simply due to the low quality pictures. However if you were to see these pictures, one of the first things you might realize is how incredible the quality is. Also, the several similar backgrounds were caused from the difference in circumference of the earth and moon. In the flag case, it was only moving because it was rolled up. “Nasa has gone to disprove this claim by responding that the flag was stored in a tube, which rippled from the force of being put down into the floor…” It still doesn’t exactly explain the movement of the flag, for it was clearly waving. Moreover, NASA declared that they had more than enough aluminum plating on the interior and exterior of the ship, but other scientists disagree. Statements were made about how they weren’t in the Van Allen Radiation Belt long enough to be affected by anything serious (Mind Chop). If you observe the footage and still images from the lunar landing, you might detect how the difference in quality. The video is extremely fuzzy, and in the pictures, even the minor things have outstanding quality. Some of the public detect that any special effects could have been pulled off, like maybe the microgravity look that the moon has (Villard).

As you can see this magnificent story of the first moon landing has some major flaws. Even though NASA has gone through a great deal of work to cover up these facts, it still doesn’t quite add up. In my opinion, I don’t know if I can completely believe the theory, but it has tons of convincing points. As Mind Chop explains, “If Hollywood can fake perfectly believable dinosaurs, space aliens, and fantasy planets, why not a visit to the moon?”