
ART 2

**Raqs Media
Collective**

THE SURFACE

OF EACH DAY:

QUESTIONS FOR

COSMONAUTS



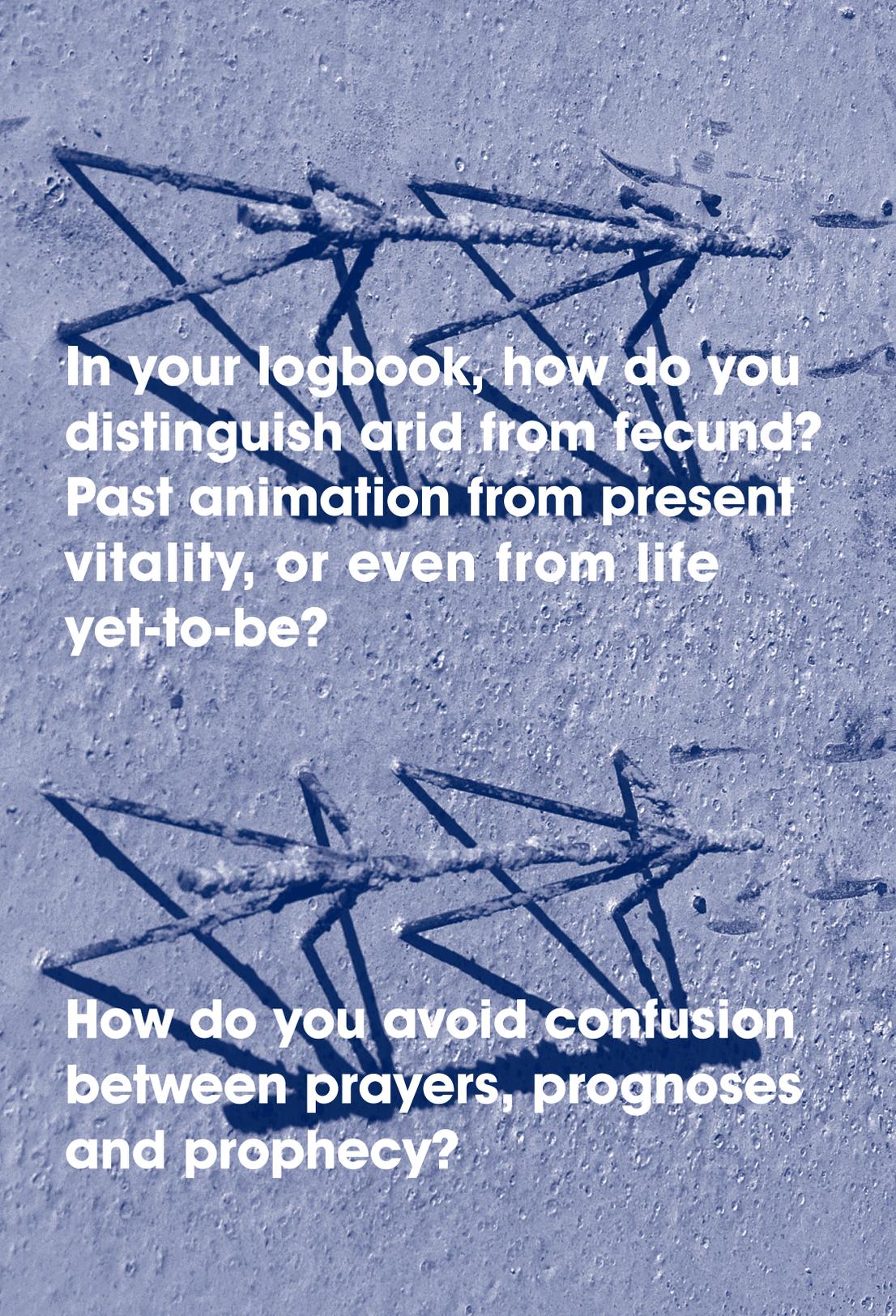
**The Surface of Each Day:
Questions for Cosmonauts**

Raq Media Collective



**The surface of each day is a
different planet.**

**Cosmonaut, how do you
recognise signs of life
when you see them on
your voyage?**



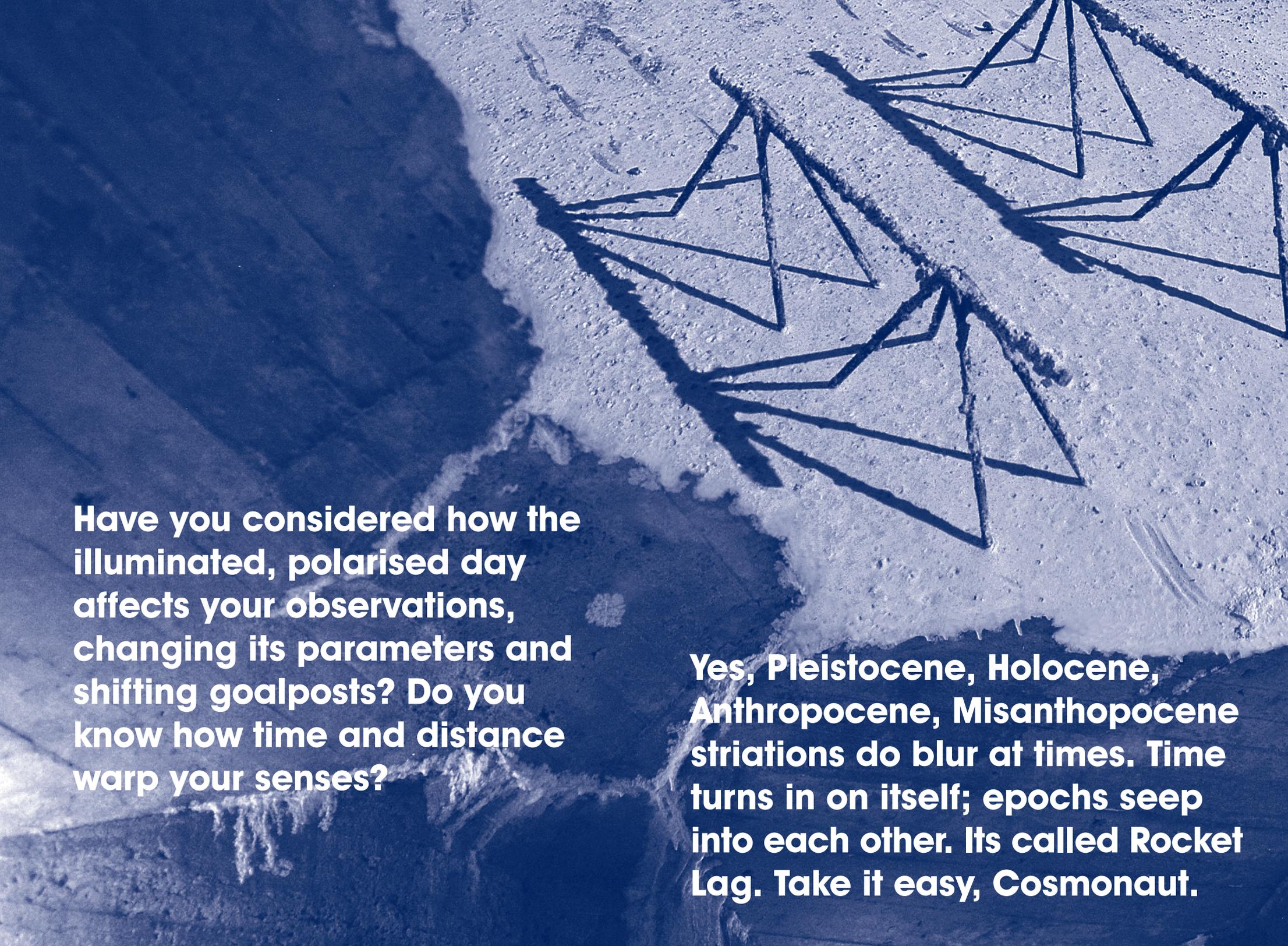
In your logbook, how do you distinguish arid from fecund? Past animation from present vitality, or even from life yet-to-be?

How do you avoid confusion between prayers, prognoses and prophecy?



How do you make sure that you do not mistake the relics of past voyages for the fossils of giants?



A photograph of a lunar surface, showing a complex geometric shadow cast by a structure. The shadow is composed of several interconnected lines forming a series of triangles and polygons, resembling a spiderweb or a complex lattice. The surface is covered in fine dust and small craters, and the lighting is harsh, creating deep shadows and bright highlights. The overall scene is in shades of blue and white.

Have you considered how the illuminated, polarised day affects your observations, changing its parameters and shifting goalposts? Do you know how time and distance warp your senses?

Yes, Pleistocene, Holocene, Anthropocene, Misanthropocene striations do blur at times. Time turns in on itself; epochs seep into each other. Its called Rocket Lag. Take it easy, Cosmonaut.

FIELD NOTE FRAGMENT

“...following touchdown and a brief period of anticipatory quarantine, the surface of the day was investigated for the presence of organic traces of animate matter. Preliminary reports from the first batch of samples continue to demonstrate the usual anomalies.

The important question: ‘What Constitutes a Sign of Life?’ remains in suspended animation. Metabolism, Growth, Sentience and Reproduction may all be expressing themselves in ambiguous ways, and it is possible that the test criteria being applied in order to identify them are

insufficient to this task. How do we know what metabolism or sentience or reproduction look like in hitherto unknown, or unimagined life forms? How can we know?

There is a danger that we may be projecting our own characteristics on to the surface of the entities we are exploring. On the other hand, we may be looking at a mirror, and yet we may be misidentifying the image that we see reflected.

No certain conclusions can be reached at present. Further investigations will continue to be necessary.”



**Farewell Cosmonaut, have a
safe journey.**

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