

Walking Other Worlds, 24-04-2010: The Shallow Deep

By John Steiner

This morning's excursion gave me an initial view of this fully water covered world from above is fairly green and light blue, so obviously there's a rich abundance of life. No moons and one yellow sun a bit smaller than Sol.

On my feet I am standing at the bottom of a huge ocean covering the entire world. The planet's waters were only a few hundred feet deep, but the high gravity meant the water pressure was extremely high as with its atmosphere. Because of that sunlight only penetrated the ocean floor when nearly directly above.

Yet there were seaweeds of a sort growing there, albeit slowly. Also, the oxygen content of the ocean was high enough for people to breath water. However, if you were about to walk into shadow you first had to assess how many steps it should take and then count those steps off into and through the dark. Given the water density at the high gravity this is more work that it seems. People are recommended to form a line with hands on the shoulders of the person in front of them.

Even at the floor of the oceans you could at or around local noon, see the sky above and even know the weather from the clouds. Of course looking through water up to the air distorts your view. And I can't say for sure how intense the gravity is because the water supports your bodyweight, though swimming even a few yards can be exhausting.

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