

Daily Meditation 01-01-24

Can Grace Mark this New Year, 2024?

Good morning, and a blessed and Happy New Year to you all, to us all.

I was talking in today's daily meditation about the influx of grace in our lives, and how is it possible that humanity can render the year 2024 more graceful, and grace filled?

The new perspective on creation and existence that science is gifting us with, in our time. We need a new perspective to shake up our species which is still running on very, I think, outdated modalities of war, and more war, and ignoring of the plight of Mother Earth, and therefore the future of living things on the planet, including our own species, all these realities.

And there's an article that just came out today, that really caught my excitement. It's called "Oversized Ancient Galaxy Isn't What Astronomers First Thought," written by Michelle Starr. And it begins this way:

The early universe was a wild time. In the first 2 billion years following the Big Bang, 13.8 billion years ago, star formation positively roiled. The galaxies flared to life in the clear darkness. They collided, and they grew.

And it goes on and says,

It can be very difficult to interpret what was going on so long ago. And we don't always get our interpretations right. So the new Webb Telescope has introduced questions that confirm that our previous thinking about the origins of the universe is flawed. A fascinating case of mistaken identity, as the author of this article puts it.

So originally, we thought there was an original Galaxy 880 million years ago, less than a billion years ago — (No, 880 million years after the Big Bang) — But we now know it wasn't a galaxy at all. According to the latest study of the Webb telescope, there are actually six galaxies going on, 880 million years ago, not one. And there was an epic giant collision at the dawn of time. And what is so exciting is that these galaxies were

pumping out stars at an astounding rate: 3000 solar masses per year. In contrast, the Milky Way our galaxy, produces eight solar masses of stars per year, even though our galaxy, and these original, early galaxies together, are thought to have around the same mass.

So this is really new information. We didn't know the galaxies were able to grow and become so big early in the universe.

Now, what really strikes me about this is that for for years, I've been fascinated by the teachings of cosmologists Brian Swimme and Thomas Berry, that if the original fireball had travelled at 1,000,000,000th of a second slower or faster than it did over 700,000 years, our Earth would not be here today, we would not be here today. And if it had expanded at just a tiny fraction of how it expanded, we wouldn't be here today.

Now to me, this new information makes this all the more wondrous that all this stuff was going on. So many stars being born, so many galaxies colliding with each other.

What are the odds? All this collision and all this chaos, and all this birthing: What are the odds that things were going to be so fine-tuned, that 13.8 billion years later, our galaxy and our star, the Sun and our Earth, would be possible?

So I think that this perspective is a marvelous way to begin a New Year with a "bang!" With a new look at the Big Bang. And I think it all adds up to what mystic Julian of Norwich said: "We've been loved from before the beginning."

Thank you. Happy New Year to us all.