

A Whimsy of Fate

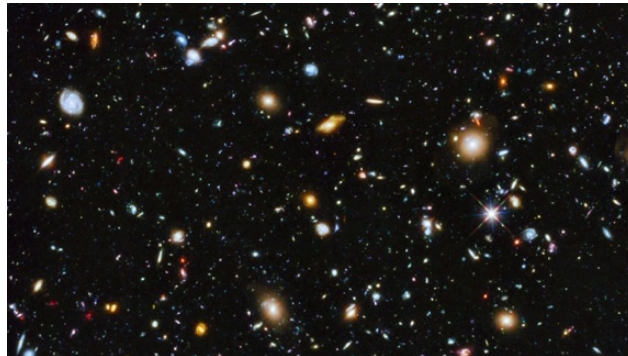
as a kid, I thought
my life would last forever,
death hid behind Now

grown, in the abstract,
I understood I will die
—a distant specter

now nearing eighty,
as my life's been mostly lived,
death's shroud is slipping

my mom, at ninety,
murmured "It went by so fast!"
she died the next day

on cosmic scale, I
accept my existence as
a whimsy of fate



The observable Universe contains two trillion galaxies, each with millions of stars, each with its family of planets. Our eon began with the Big Bang 13.8 billion years ago. Per Physics Nobelist Roger Penrose, there may have been, and will be, an infinite number of eons. Life is an emergent natural phenomenon. We are not alone.

Photo: Ultra Deep Field by NASA's Webb Space Telescope. Most dots are galaxies, up to 13.2 billion lightyears away in space and time.

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