

That's the Mystery

above sea level
Bronx to DC, space station
circling overhead

weekend jaunt to moon
eight-light-minute sunbeam dawns
photons warm my skin

next-door neighbor's fate
Andromeda's stars join ours
two galaxies merge

fourteen billion years
Hubble probes spacetime's frontier
scale defies my grasp

mind's eye's overwhelmed
why am I compelled to try?
that's the mystery!

Image: Most distant object ever seen (as of 2020). The light we see today left this galaxy 13.4 billion years ago. Due to continuing expansion of the universe, it is now 32.1 billion light-years from Earth, and may now be a spiral galaxy like ours. Light travels 186,000 miles per second, i.e., one light-second.

Image source: Hubble Space Telescope (spacetelescope.org)

