The Stars

I stood near the harbor, looking out over the dark gray water. The night clouds had parted and in the distance, where the blackness of the ocean merged with the blackness of the sky, I could see a solitary star.

I reached out to touch it. I knew I could never hold it in my hand, but still felt disappointed that I could not. As I withdrew my arm, the star drew closer. I could feel a slight strain in my muscles, as if it were my own power which had pulled the star towards me.

A second star appeared above the horizon, and then another and another. I tugged at each of them with my outstretched hands. I had become a center of gravity. The stars followed my every movement.

As the night deepened, the sky was filled with a thousand points of light. The blacker the sky became, the brighter the stars also became. My arms were waving. I conducted the night like an orchestra.

There were more of them now, more than I had ever seen before. They were all moving, slowly but surely across the dome of the sky, forming themselves into new constellations.

My eyes became telescopes. I could see the farthest reaches of the universe. I could see every star and every galaxy, every nova and supernova. I could see things which had never been seen before, things which could *not* be seen with the ordinary eye. I became aware that there are vast realities lying beyond what our feeble human senses permit us to perceive.

I myself am but one star among the billions, a grain of sand in an endless desert, one drop of water in a shoreless ocean.

The stars are drawing closer. They move across the night sky in giant swirls, rotating slowly, in harmony with a music I cannot hear.

A new universe is being born. I feel the awe of witnessing a new creation, and also the fear. What will happen to the world I had known? There is comfort in a familiar night sky, but no comfort in the totally new, the totally unpredictable. The laws of science are no longer true. New laws are being written which no one can understand.

The stars grow larger and brighter as they speed ever faster towards earth. They continue to swirl, but more rapidly, like a whirlpool, their swelling edges melting together into one bright fluorescence spread across the sky.

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