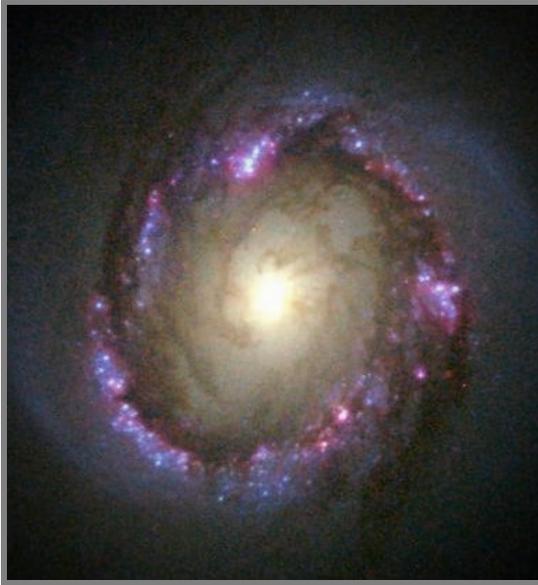


EPILOGUE:

A PRAYER OF SAINT FRANCIS OF THE ALLEGORIAN GALAXY



New Stars Being Formed

*Infinitely beautiful Mother Universe
make each of our hearts a fractal instance
of your endless awareness, love, understanding and vitality
woven together, inside of us, between us and among all life forms
into the braid of eternal life.*

*Where there is injury, across the countless stars,
may we embody such radiant mercy
as to awaken the forgiveness that sleeps in all.*

*Where there is absent-hearted-ness
and absent-minded-ness
among the 2-leggeds and 7-leggeds
may we embody a fully present compassion
that awakens the compassion sleeping in all.*

*Where there is deadness masquerading as life
may we embrace life with such gratitude
as to awaken the love of life
sleeping in all creatures.*

*Where there is sorrow
among the myriad universes
may each of our hearts be a spacetime window
through which your Loving Presence may become
ever more manifest in the visible transmission spectrum.*

*Wheresoever we shall strive to mend
may we find in the indwelling presence of your Infinite Heart
a kindness deeper and stronger than all conflict.*

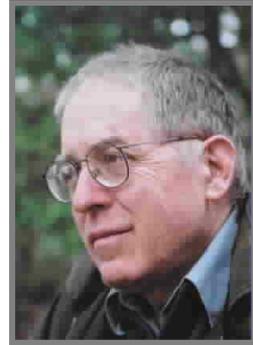
*Wheresoever we shall strive to heal
may we find in the indwelling presence of your Infinite Heart
a beauty deeper and stronger than all wounds.*

*May we be true to the creative life you Breathe into us every
moment
and may we live in the spiral radiance of your love forever.*

Translated into the Allegorian Hypertext by M345 RuneReader
March 328, 70921 -- www.beamdown.org

ABOUT THE AUTHOR, DENNIS RIVERS (2008)

I live, teach and write in Eugene, Oregon. My life experiences include having lucid dreams as a young child, a family at war with itself, living through two years of the Cuban Revolution as a teenager in Havana, working in hospitals as a nursing aide, living in a meditation community for several years, building a house by hand on a mountaintop, attempting to practice continuous prayer for nine years, studying psychology, theology, sociology and human development at various universities, learning the art of mental discipline through the craft of computer programming, working as an administrator in social service agencies, and five years writing a workbook on interpersonal communication skills (that is available for free on the web and is now in use around the world).



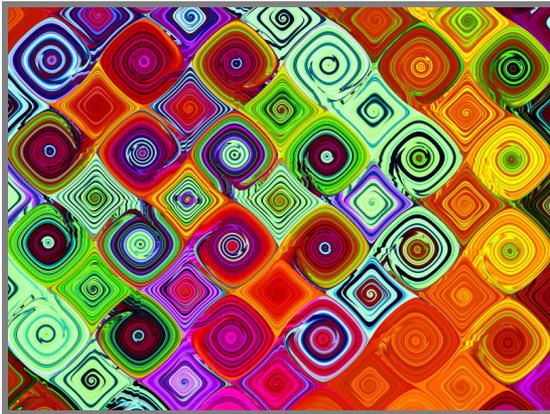
Having a Jewish mother and a Catholic father who had become a student of Tibetan Buddhism in the years before I was born, provided me with enough questions to keep me journeying for a lifetime. Other significant influences in my life have been Hindu, Sikh, Muslim and Christian mysticism, trees, evolutionary visionaries such as Teilhard de Chardin and Julian Huxley, and the peace and ecology movements of the past forty years.

At this point in many brief author biographies, there is a sentence saying that “X, the author, lives in Y with his wife Z and their three children.” I must say, I feel a quiet envy for people who have had long nurturing partnerships with one partner. In my case, my understanding of life has been deeply influenced by the four women with whom I have been partners over the course of my life; for my part of the partnering, not as nurturingly, or wisely or engagingly or gracefully or compassionately as I would have liked. Any summary of my life would be plain false without acknowledging how we labored

together to be born as persons. They have been my teachers, and from them I have come to understand that the bond between men and women is a fractal of life. The virtues we struggle toward in close relationships, patience, kindness, honesty, gratitude, forgiveness, attentiveness, are the very same virtues that life is trying to teach us all the time, in every circumstance. Some of us, I have to confess, learn these intimate virtues much more slowly than others.

I invite you to share in how I have explored these themes in several different contexts. You can find more of my writing at www.karunabooks.net and also at the other sites I design and write for: www.turntowardlife.org, www.liberationtheology.org and www.nonukes.org. I welcome correspondence about the themes explored in all the above websites. Please feel free to write to me at rivers@newconversations.net.

This painting by Vicky Brago-Mitchell represents to me the amazing variety of experiences I have had in the course of my life, the experiences that prompted me to write this book.



Fractal painting by Vicky Brago-Mitchell