

*[The Fabric of Spacetime]*

*(MILKY WAY exhaustively drifts in.)*

**MILKY WAY**

My tummy hurts... Need Crunch Time with family. Milky Way for...

*(The SOLAR SYSTEM lives in MILKY WAY's head.)*

**EARTH**

Forgotten?

**MILKY WAY**

Imaginary friends?

**MERCURY**

No, we're your planetary friends.

**EARTH**

I'm not.

**PLANETs not EARTH**

No one is asking you, Earth.

**MERCURY**

Don't give up. Being forgotten isn't all so bad. Personally, no matter how I traverse the space, I am always blamed for everything. Everyone hates retro and is always grading me. I'm Mercury by the way. Milky Way... You may be barred, but barred spiral Galaxies are larger than many.

**JUPITER**

You most certainly are a massive spiral Galaxy.



**SATURN**

Says the gas giant with dozens of Jovian moons.

**JUPITER**

Go play with your ring.

**SATURN**

Jupiter is just jealous of mine. Got a ring to spare, Uranus?

**URANUS**

Two. In fact.

**JUPITER**

**SATURN**

You are a two.

*(Laughing.)*

**SUN**

Planets. What is with the radio outbursts?

**URANUS**

Sun. My gas giant siblings are making me the butt of the joke!

**MILKY WAY**

You have a son?

**URANUS**

No... Sun is our nomy/mother/father. We are basically sons of Sun.

**MILKY WAY**

Sons can have sons...?

**EARTH**

Yes, child. It's the natural order of things. When you get older, you'll have clusters of stars of your own. You should know better. What are you? Twelve eternities old?

**SUN**

Earth, you know we don't discuss galactic formation in our Solar System household. It is theoretical heresy.

**MERCURY**

I'm so close to Sun that it gets pretty heated all the time. Earth and you have a lot in common. You are rather dense, if not diffused with clouds. However, you're so distant from your siblings that you're not such a drag.

**MILKY WAY**

Don't de- Um... Grade yourself. I like retro. Life, better, a million years ago.

**EARTH**

Oh yeah, the frame of time is dilated for you Galaxies. Let this rocky planet convert it... The last you were in your family's orbit was... 13.81 billion years ago. Gal, do you hate being an oval?

**SUN**

Earth, I didn't raise you to be mean to other shapes.

**EARTH**

Sun. Just like you as a star, I'm proud to be a sphere. Milky Way... Ew, waves... Pff, wrinkles.

*(MILKY WAY feels their body and face.)*

**MERCURY**

Don't take any more of Earth's bullying. That rocky planet may be the well-rounded person that you always wanted to be. But you are already a person, Milky Way. What with your waves. And wrinkles, imperfect as they are. Like Oort Cloud, who doesn't blame my retrograde for their imperfections.



## OORT CLOUD

I'm out of this Solar System and yet I have a stronghold on it, just like you. I have an influence that is about a hundred thousand astronomical units wide, but you, you are 6.685 billion. I've heard a lot about you, Milky Way. Personally, I know enough about comets' tails. Do you have a tidal tale to share with us, Milky Way? Gather around, Solar System!

*(The SOLAR SYSTEM pops out as puppets.)*

## EARTH

*Gravity well...* Theorize somethin'!

*(MILKY WAY gracelessly and half-melodically bellows with cracks. They suddenly hiccup.)*

## EARTH

Milky Way warped themselves!

*(The SOLAR SYSTEM bursts into laughter.)*

*(MILKY WAY bursts into tears.)*

## MILKY WAY

I hate myself!

## OORT CLOUD

All the use crying, Milky Way. Let it out. Melk of celestial kindness. There is a pattern here. You show a huge quality.

*(Noticing MILKY WAY examining their own galactic body.)*

Not your mass. Oh, the Ellipses... You are a special Galaxy. You hold something dear that no one else has. Well, *your siblings probably do, but they won't show it.*

## MILKY WAY

*Tell me.*

**OORT CLOUD**

You hold personhood. Persons with warping voices, growing waves of hairs, and whose skin are covered in wrinkles. There is a person in you, Milky Way.

**EARTH**

There are people in me.

**PLANETs not EARTH**

Cut your hubris, Earth!

**OORT CLOUD**

We like all things, *unearthly*, about you. You carry our weight, our history, our culture, our pride, our secrets, our voices.

**MILKY WAY**

Sing it.

*(MILKY WAY nears the SOLAR SYSTEM puppets.)*

**OORT CLOUD**

You must first, own it.

**13. WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES****SOLAR SYSTEM**

MILKY WAY'S  
ON THEIR OWN.  
ALL ALONE.  
KNOW THAT FOR  
US AT HOME.  
YOU'RE THE ONLY WAY FORWARD,  
THROUGH WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES.  
  
THROUGH IT ALL.  
THICK AND THIN.  
THROUGH THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE.



## **OORT CLOUD**

YOUR PLANETARY FRIENDS FEEL LIKE THEY'RE IN YOUR HEAD.

## **SOLAR SYSTEM**

IMAGINARY!

## **OORT CLOUD**

BUT REALLY...

## **MERCURY**

THE SOLAR SYSTEM IS LOCATED ON YOUR ARM.

## **SOLAR SYSTEM**

ONE OF SEVERAL...

*(Extra arms extend out behind MILKY WAY, who is unaware.)*

## **MERCURY**

ARMS, IN FACT.

## **URANUS**

Look in a mirror!

## **MILKY WAY**

What's mirror?

## **URANUS**

It's the thing to check what you look like.

## **MILKY WAY**

I never know what I look like...

*(MILKY WAY's hands get shaken by their extra arms.)*

## PLANETs not EARTH

Neither do we. But take it from us, we know you're beautiful on the inside!

*(The SOLAR SYSTEM puppets shake each hand.)*

## SOLAR SYSTEM

SCUTUM-CRUX ARM.  
 PERSEUS ARM.  
 NORMA, CYGNUS.  
 SAGITTARIUS,  
 ARM AND HEART.  
 WE'RE HOME ON THE ORION.  
 ARM SO SMALL AND SO MINOR.

*[A tiny arm pops out.]*

## OORT CLOUD

You are Magellanic.  
 They're not planets and you don't need to imagine. We hid a present in your waves.

*(MILKY WAY pulls out two magnolia flowers from their dress.)*

## OORT CLOUD

Like you, they have existed from the beginning of time. They signify perseverance and longevity—

*(MILKY WAY devours the flowers.)*

## OORT CLOUD

Kid. Don't eat your natural satellites!

## MILKY WAY

*(Mouthful of Magellanic Clouds.)*

I gravitate my feelings...



## OORT CLOUD

You ellipsoid... Go ahead and have a taste of the Local Group while you're at it. Cook Sagittarius at 3 megaparsecs.

## MILKY WAY

Parsecs no work like that. Parsecs distance, not time.

## OORT CLOUD

I'm parsecs away from losing it.

## JUPITER

It's the nature of Galaxies... They'll eat everything.

## SATURN

Like us gas giants. We're persons too after all!

## MERCURY

Like you said, Oort Cloud: Milky Way has always been a person. They are not just a kid. In fact, they have reached a new stage in personhood.

*(MILKY WAY sings with cracks and flaws.)*

## MILKY WAY

I NOW HAVE  
WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES.  
I LIVE WITH IT.

WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES.

*(Deepening voice.)*

I LOVE MYSELF.

*(The extra arms<sup>6</sup> may hug MILKY WAY.)*

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<sup>6</sup> Avalokiteshvara, the multi-armed Buddhist deity who embodies compassion. Religious imageries make this song.



*(Many SOLAR SYSTEMs spiral in. These dancers resemble known and unknown stars and planets, while EARTH drags their feet. They orbit MILKY WAY like the spiral arms around the center of any Galaxy. One dancer places a halo on MILKY WAY's head.)*

## **SOLAR SYSTEMs**

HALO FRIEND  
AND OUR HOME.  
PROTECTOR  
AND OUR RIDE.  
HITCHHIKER  
AND THE ONLY WAY OUT OF OUR...  
  
WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES!  
WE LOVE IT ALL!

## **SUN**

Any more radio outbursts and I'll supernova your asteroids!

*(MILKY WAY and the SOLAR SYSTEMs lower a bit in distress.  
They confidently resume.)*

## **MILKY WAY**

## **SOLAR SYSTEMs**

OUR WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES!

*[End of "Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles".]*

*[The stage goes red as though the Sun has become a red giant and is swallowing the Solar System in their wake.]*

*(The SOLAR SYSTEMs run away and steal MILKY WAY's halo. EARTH screams in the searing heat. JUPITER and SATURN maniacally laugh.)*

*(MILKY WAY suddenly feels a headache. They touch their forehead. They take their hand off to reveal a zit on their forehead.)*

## **MILKY WAY**

W— W— N— Wr—

*(MILKY WAY passes out on the ground.)*



## OORT CLOUD

Warp, waves, and wrinkles, we got a sense for... But not red giants. Welcome to adolescence.

*(TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA stroll in.)*

## 14. GLOBULAR

### ANDROMEDA

EVERYTHING IS A BIG CLUSTER FLUX.  
THAT IS THE SPIRIT, ISN'T IT?  
THAT'S HOW YE BE SPENDING OUR SPACETIME?  
  
MATTERS COME AND GO.  
CRUXES OF FORCES THAT HOLD  
  
ALL US TOGETHER.  
IT'S WHY YE CLUSTER OUR STARS.  
  
AS FOR MELKY WAY,  
LET THEM JOIN THE GLOB. GLOBULAR.

*[End of "Globular".]*

### TRIANGULUM

### ANDROMEDA

Milky Way! Declinations! We have found you!

### ANDROMEDA

Did we lose you? Are they in the temple of the cosmic beyond?

### TRIANGULUM

Oh. No. They're going through puber— There's a zit on their temple. A pimple. They certainly found themselves before we did...

### MILKY WAY

Zi— Zi— It?