

# Thoughts Out of Season

Occasional Reviews and Notes  
Of Mutual Interest  
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Infrared image from the James Webb Space Telescope of the heart of M74<sup>1</sup>, known as the Phantom Galaxy.  
(ESA/Webb, NASA & CSA, J. Lee and the PHANGS-JWST Team)

## Stella's videmus. Quid videmus?<sup>2</sup>

Early on we held in high regard the rugged individual; one among many advantageous creeds. The conviction of the *principium individuationis* has since become alloyed with an unenlightened egoism. To see through the principle of the individual - to divine its illusory, truth shrouding character; to begin to perceive that the I and the you are indistinguishable from one or the other; to have the emotional intuition that the will of the one is in all that we see: such is the beginning and the essence of a proper ethic.

Should there come a time - Post Webb Telescope - experience will be less instructive.

Instinct will be our teacher, as the Indian novice learned, before whose eyes a great spirit brought all the creations in the world, living and lifeless, and at each one said: *tat tam as* – this is you.<sup>3</sup>

In this insight is all that is humble and good.

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<sup>1</sup> Messier 74 is a large spiral galaxy in the constellation Pisces - about 32 million light-years away from Earth. The galaxy hosts an estimated 100 billion stars. In 1780 it was recognized by Pierre Méchain. Charles Messier (1730 – 1817) listed the galaxy in his catalog as M74.

<sup>2</sup> Latin for: *We see stars. What do we see?*

<sup>3</sup> Lowe-Porter (Trans.) *Thomas Mann Essays of Three Decades*. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1948) 390. Paraphrased from Mann's essay first published in 1939 entitled *Schopenhauer*.