

# POEM ON GENERAL RELATIVITY

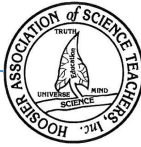
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## ***GENERAL RELATIVITY***

A hundred years  
the theory has passed hard tests and still we find  
new applications. Mass,  
energy, and curved spacetime  
collectively validate  
gravitational radiation, black holes, and cos-  
mology; neutrinos and photons,  
spewing from a supernova  
in the Large Magellanic Cloud, arrive  
here at Earth, our little home,  
within hours of each other, showing  
they move at different rates, in line  
with differences in mass, and light

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and neutrinos take the curved path  
of space-time, making  
the speed of light seem slow  
as it flows  
curvaceously across the galaxy from stars  
differing in age. My head  
spins now under the whirl of planets and  
neutron stars; my pulse  
picks up. What a delight  
to know these things have worked  
like this  
for hundreds of thousands of years:  
we stared  
back then up at night from  
sparkling fire at cave-lip, astounded  
by pinprick bits of starry light that fell.

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