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Sir James Jeans (1877–1946) is regarded as one of the founders of British cosmology, and was the first to suggest (in 1928) the steady state theory, which assumes a continuous creation of matter in the universe. He made many major contributions over a wide area of mathematical physics, but was also well known as an accessible writer for the non-specialist. *The Stars in Their Courses* is an introduction to astronomy, published in 1934. The book is illustrated with a large number of photographs, and was especially written for readers with no previous scientific knowledge.

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JAMES JEANS



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National Gallery, London

The Origin of the Milky Way
By Tintoretto.

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THE STARS
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BY
SIR JAMES JEANS



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PREFACE

In giving a course of recent wireless talks, I assumed that my listeners had no previous scientific knowledge of any kind, and tried to introduce them to the fascination of modern astronomy and to the wonder of the universe we see through the giant telescopes of to-day.

The present book contains these talks expanded to double their original length, still in the informal conversational style and simple non-technical language of wireless talks. It is totally unambitious, aiming only at providing an easy, readable and not over-serious introduction to the most poetical of the sciences.

J. H. JEANS

DORKING

Jan. 22, 1931

CONTENTS

Chapters

I	The Vault of Heaven	<i>page</i> 1
II	A Preliminary Journey through Space and Time	24
III	The Sun's Family	49
IV	Weighing and Measuring the Stars	68
V	The Variety of the Stars	86
VI	The Milky Way	100
VII	Out in the Depths of Space	118
VIII	The Great Universe	135

Appendices

I	Guide to the Sky	154
II	The Twenty Apparently Brightest Stars	181
III	The Planets	182
IV	The Motion of the Planets	183
	Index	184

ILLUSTRATIONS

- Frontispiece* The Origin of the Milky Way
- Plate I* The Rotating Dome of the Sky
- II Perseus and Andromeda
 - III Orion and the adjoining Constellations
 - IV The Little Bear and the Pole Star
 - V A Fire-ball and a Nebula
 - VI The Discovery of Pluto
 - VII The Moon
 - VIII The Moon (third quarter)
 - IX The Moon (first quarter)
 - X Lunar Detail. The region round Copernicus
 - XI Lunar Detail. The Mare Imbrium, etc.
 - XII Craters and volcanic formations
(From *The Moon*, by Nasmyth and Carpenter, by permission of Mr John Murray)
 - XIII The Sun photographed in calcium light
 - XIV Solar prominences
 - XV The Ant-eater prominence
 - XVI A small part of the Sun's surface photographed in hydrogen light
 - XVII The Sun photographed in hydrogen light
 - XVIII Tidal Action

- Plate XIX* The Sun and Planets drawn to scale
 XX Venus and Mars
 XXI Saturn
 XXII Jupiter
 XXIII Halley's Comet
 XXIV Brooke's Comet
 XXV Exploding Meteor
 XXVI The Solar Corona
 XXVII The Great Nebula in Orion
XXVIII Part of the Constellation of Orion
 XXIX The Milky Way—I
 XXX Nebulosity in Orion
 XXXI The Lesser Magellanic Cloud
 XXXII The Globular Cluster M 13 in Hercules
XXXIII The Milky Way—II
 XXXIV The Milky Way in Sagittarius
 XXXV Nebulosity in Cygnus
 XXXVI The Great Nebula M 31 in Andromeda
XXXVII The outer edge of the Great Nebula
 M 31 in Andromeda
XXXVIII The Nebula M 33 in Triangulum
 XXXIX The Nebula M 81 in Ursa Major
 XL A Cluster of Nebulae in Coma Berenices

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978-1-108-00570-8 - The Stars in Their Courses
James Jeans
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

ILLUSTRATIONS

xi

- Plate* XLI The Furthest Depths of Space
 XLII The Central Region of the Great
 Nebula M 31 in Andromeda
XLIII The Nebula M 51 in Canes Venatici
XLIV A Sequence of Nebulae—I
 XLV A Sequence of Nebulae—II
 XLVI A Sequence of Nebulae—III
- Maps* The Northern and the Southern Sky