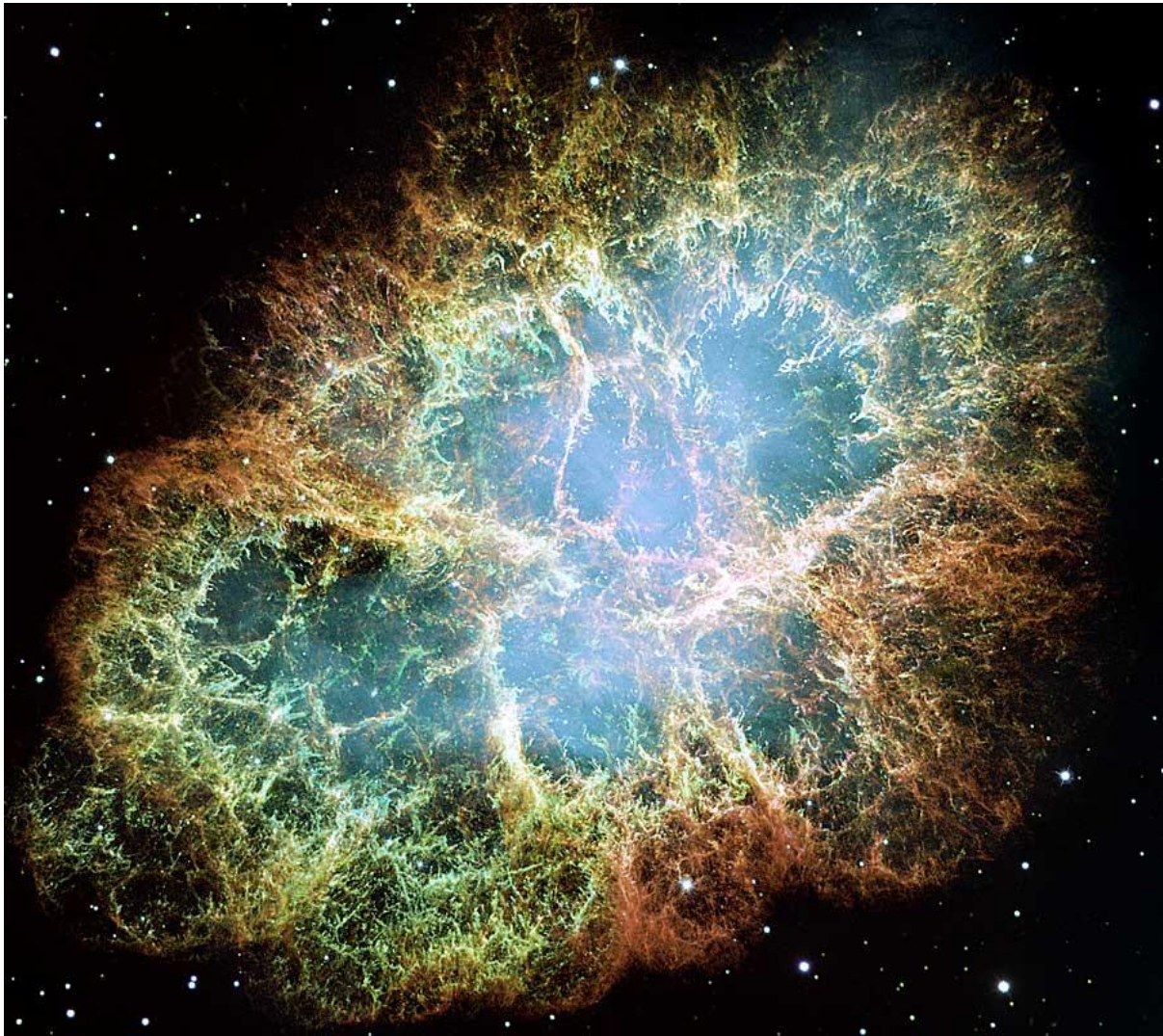


"THE HEAVENS DECLARE THE GLORY OF GOD." - Psalm 19.1



The Crab Nebula from Hubble

Image Credit: [NASA](#), [ESA](#), J. Hester, A. Loll ([ASU](#)); Acknowledgement: Davide De Martin ([Skyfactory](#))

It's the remnants of a star that exploded nearly 1000 years ago (very recent in the astronomic scale of things).

Obscured from view by the debris that you can see, there is a pulsar. A pulsar is a star that was like our sun, but that has been compressed by a factor of 100,000 so that it now has a diameter of about 10km, and its atmosphere has been compressed to about 5mm. The gravitational forces are therefore inconceivably great, and so is the magnetism. It has magnetic poles just like earth's North and South, but greater strength, and because (like earth) it rotates, we can detect the magnetic poles movement by the magnetic pulse each time a pole points towards earth. Hence the name "pulsar". The pulses show that the star is rotating at 30x per second, cp earth taking 24 hours to rotate.

The explosion of 1054 causes the gases to move out - they are still expanding - at about 6.7 million miles per hour (1/100 of the speed of light).

With thanks to NASA. They issue a new picture every day, along with a brief description, on their website <http://apod.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html>

"What is man that Thou art mindful of him?"

Received via email 'God's Heavenly Glory: CRAB NEBULA' from Jonathan Rose (Peter's son)