Cosmic Rivers: Exploring the Milky Way's Mythologies and its Connection to MotherLand™ Architecture Designs

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It is estimated that there are between 100 billion to 400 billion suns along with billions of planets, nebulae and star clusters. Most of these Suns, or "stars" have planetary bodies that orbit them. Each Sun and their orbiting planetary bodies are called a Solar System or "Sun" System. The Milky Way is the name given to this "galaxy". It is a massive, spiral-shaped collection of stars, gas, dust, and dark matter bound together by gravity.

The name "Milky Way" comes from its appearance as a faint, milky band of light stretching across the night sky, which is caused by the dense concentration of stars and other material in the disk of our galaxy. This hazy, glowing band was observed by ancient civilizations, and various cultures had different mythological explanations for it.

The "Milky Way" name itself originates from Greek mythology. The ancient Greeks referred to the galaxy as "Galaxias Kyklos" (Γαλαξίας Κύκλος), meaning "**milky circle**" or "**milky road**." According to one myth, the Milky Way was created from the milk of the goddess Hera, the wife of Zeus. The Roman name for it, "Via Lactea" (Latin for "Milky Road"), was derived from this same concept and is where the modern English term "Milky Way" comes from.

Among the Zulu of South Africa the people call the galaxy "Umkhonto kaNtunjambili," meaning "The Spear of Ntunjambili." It represents a trail of light made by a mythical warrior.

Among the Khoisan in Southern Africa some Khoisan groups refer to the galaxy as "The Backbone of Night," as it was believed to hold up the night sky.

The Cherokee in North America call the Milky Way galaxy "Gili'utsun'stanun'yi" or "Where the Dog Ran." Their legend tells of a dog that stole cornmeal and ran into the sky, spilling some of it along the way, forming the Milky Way.

Among the Blackfoot people of North America, they call it the "Wolf Trail," seeing the galaxy as the path made by a wolf spirit.

The Inuit of the Arctic see the Milky Way galaxy as a guide, calling it "The Pathway of the Spirits."

In Chinese mythology, the Milky Way galaxy is called "**The Silver River**" (银河, Yínhé). It's connected to the famous "Cowherd and Weaver Girl" legend, which explains how the two lovers were separated by the "The Silver River" and could only meet once a year on the seventh day of the seventh lunar month (Qixi Festival).

Similarly, the Milky Way is called "Ama no Gawa" (天の川) in Japanese meaning "**River of Heaven**." The Japanese also associate it with the romantic tale of the star-crossed lovers Orihime and Hikoboshi.

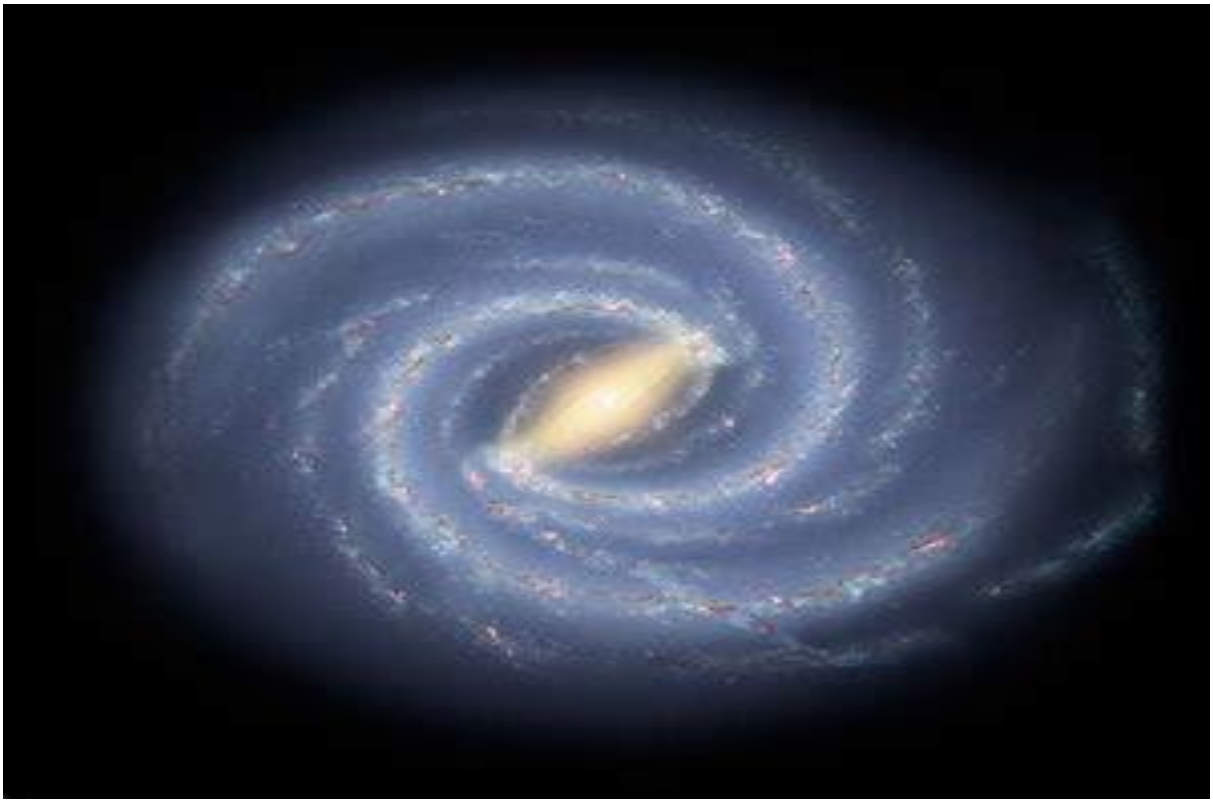
In the Hindu tradition in India, the Milky Way is referred to as "Akash Ganga" (आकाशगंगा), meaning "Ganges of the Sky." It is believed to be a celestial reflection of the sacred **River Ganges**.

In Norse mythology in Scandinavia, the Milky Way was called "Vía Láctea" or "The Path of the Warriors" (also sometimes referred to as "Bifrost"), a bridge linking the realm of the gods, Asgard, to Earth (Midgard).

The Romans referred to it as "Via Lactea," meaning "**The Milk Road**," based on the story of the goddess Juno (Hera in Greek mythology) spilling her milk.

Many indigenous groups across Australia have unique interpretations of the Milky Way. For instance, in some Aboriginal Dreamtime stories, the Milky Way is seen as a "**river in the sky,**" while others see

it as a path taken by spirits. The Yolngu people of northern Australia interpret the Milky Way as a canoe journeying across the sky.



The Inca in Peru referred to the Milky Way as "Mayu," meaning "**Celestial River.**" They believed it mirrored rivers on Earth and played a role in agricultural cycles.

The Hawaiians call the Milky Way "Ke Ala i Kahiki," meaning "The Road to Tahiti," which reflected the path their ancestors took across the **sea** when navigating by the stars.

In 2016, the Baka of Cameroon shared a profound revelation with members of the Mother of Humanity® delegation: the guardians of the forest and the guardians of the ocean were in unanimous agreement in endorsing the Mother of Humanity® project. This extraordinary alignment between these two powerful energies marked a historic first and underscores the project's universal significance. This revelation is beautifully reflected in the design of the 38 buildings at MotherLand™, where the spiral configuration acknowledges the Milky Way galaxy's pattern. The fluid shapes of the buildings symbolize the water elements of the ocean, complementing the forest elements and embodying the harmony between these forces.

Each building's shape, interior design, and landscaping are inspired by the dynamic forms of water—currents, waves, and marine life. The reflective and translucent qualities of the materials evoke the essence of the ocean, while the overall design celebrates the union of cosmic and oceanic energies. This integration creates a deeply symbolic environment where the Mother of Humanity® monument stands at the center, harmonizing the vast forces of the universe and Earth in a timeless, spiritual alignment.