

M64- The Black Eye/Sleeping Beauty Galaxy



M64, the Black Eye Galaxy, is also known as the Sleeping Beauty Galaxy, a more recent moniker. The large dust feature seen obscures stars behind it, and this feature is thought to look like the thorns around the castle in the Grimm Brothers telling of Sleeping Beauty. Another apparent feature of this galaxy is its broad disk, which is composed of counter rotating gas components, now theorized to be the remnants of a companion absorbed into M64. It is a type Sb spiral galaxy, which means that it has a moderate bulge compared to other spiral galaxies. Discovered in 1779, M64 is 19,000 kilolightyears away; however, this is a disputed estimation. M64 can be seen if one employs a good set of binoculars or a decent telescope. It has also been identified as a source of radio waves and x-rays.

In the Spring Sky, M64 can be found as follows:

Courtesy of :

NED

http://www.seds.org/messier/xtra/supp/m_NED.html#m64

Students for the

Exploration and Development of Space

<http://www.seds.org/messier/m/m064.html>

The Hubble Heritage Project

<http://heritage.stsci.edu/2004/04/supplemental.html>

