



Forty years ago, world-renowned University of Iowa space physicist Louis A. Frank found evidence that would lead to a startling discovery:

*Every minute several huge "snowballs" break up as they approach the Earth and deposit a large cloud of water vapor in our upper atmosphere.*

His conclusion, based on data from the Dynamic Explorer 1 spacecraft acquired at the limits of

detection, created a storm of controversy among scientists. This is the story that was told in the first edition of this book, *The Big Splash*, published in 1990. But the story does not end there.

Less than a decade later, Frank's discovery of these previously undetected small comets was confirmed when images were received from cameras aboard a different spacecraft named Polar. The news of this "vindication" of Frank's provocative theory in 1997 made the front pages of several large metropolitan newspapers, including *The New York Times*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, and *The Washington Post*.

*Cosmic Rain*, a large format, full color, greatly expanded edition of *The Big Splash*, tells this never-before-told follow-up, in Frank's own words, of the confirmation of the existence of small comets and the harsh criticism he faced from colleagues for upsetting so many scientific applecarts in the process.

## **COSMIC RAIN**

*The Controversial Discovery of Small Comets*

**by Dr. Louis A. Frank**

Trade Paperback

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**Louis A. Frank** (1938-2014) was one of the most respected space physicists in the world; he was responsible for more scientific instruments aboard spacecraft than any other scientist, having been an experimenter, co-investigator, or principal investigator for instruments aboard 42 spacecraft. He was the recipient of the National Space Act Award.

*What reviewers said about the first edition of this book...*

"A savage tale of how science works." — Dennis Overbye, *The New York Times Book Review*

"A provocative work in a hotly contested area." — Jack W. Weigel, *Library Journal*

"Well worth reading...Offers unique insights into the way a theory is developed and the way the scientific community handles unorthodox ideas." — Richard Morris, *San Francisco Chronicle*

"A fascinating book. An exciting story. May be a classic." — Arthur C. Clarke, author of *2001: A Space Odyssey*

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