



called "natural laws" or "natural forces" originate in scientific mystery.

The scientific method has a great deal to teach us about what happened after the initial cosmic explosion, which will be explained in the following chapter. However, it is important to grasp the magnificence of the creation *event*. All energy, elements, materials, stars, and planets can be theoretically traced back to their origin in the initial cosmic event which, for want of a better term, is called the Big Bang -- the moment of creation.

The materials and natural forces required by all evolutionary theories originated in the creation of a unique Universe, one that appears to be beyond the realm of statistical probability. Moreover, all the physical laws and constants which scientists have discovered and which we now take for granted were also determined during the initial creation event. If these critical physical laws had been created with slightly different values, it is a virtual certainty that the

FIGURE 2.5.

The Whirlpool Galaxy in the constellation *Canes Venatici*. Galaxies of this order contain approximately 100 billion stars and additional unorganized gas and dust. (Courtesy Palomar Observatory, California Institute of Technology.)
