

BIG BANG LITTLE BANG

Words and body percussion by John Hinton

Big Bang, little bang,
Somewhere-in-the-middle bang
Big Bang, little bang,
Somewhere-in-the-middle bang
Big Bang, little bang...

I'm going to look at three bangs of differing sizes,
And then I'm going to look at how each one arises.

Bang one was one hell of a bang.
It was the biggest ever bang that was caused by man.
It was the detonation in 1961
Of the 57 megaton Tsar bomb.
Dang! What a bang! Bones shook! Ears rang!
The island of Severny was a bad place to hang
On October 30th when that thermonuclear warhead blew.
Man it was big, but not as big as bang two.

Bang two was back in twenty-thirteen.
It was the biggest bang of any sort that man had ever seen.
It was a gamma ray burst - the explosion of a star -
Three point seven billion light years away - well far.
Dang! What a bang! And of such colossal size
That a similar one much closer would lead to our demise.
It was spotted by the Fermi Space Observatory.
Man it was big, but not as big as bang three.

Bang three was a mother of a bang.
It was the bang in which time and space themselves began.
A little under fourteen billion years BC,
The bang occurred that kickstarted reality.
Dang! What a bang! And what's more, it's still going,
And the radiation from its early stages is still glowing.
And though it started out infinitesimally small,
Man it turned out big. It was the biggest bang of all.

Big Bang, little bang,
Somewhere-in-the-middle bang
Big Bang, little bang...

And so we've looked at three bangs of differing sizes,
And now we're going to look at why each one arises.

Bang one, the Tsar bomb, was a test run for
An even bigger bomb developed in the Cold War.
Luckily that war ended before it was deployed
And before a major city could be destroyed.
Bang two, the gamma ray burst,
Occurred when lots of high-energy photons were dispersed
From the site of a gigantic supernova
Which meant the life of a very big star was over.
Bang three, the Big Bang, how did that one come about?
The fact is, we just don't know, and I doubt
That there'll ever be an answer on which we all agree.
That's A and B dealt with, now on we go with C.