

# Winners are losers who got up and gave it one more try.

Dennis DeYoung



**M101: The Pinwheel Galaxy**

**Credit & Copyright:** [Adam Block](#), [Mt. Lemmon SkyCenter](#), [U. Arizona](#)

**Explanation:** Why do many galaxies appear as [spirals](#)? A striking example is [M101](#), [shown above](#), whose relatively close distance of about 27 million [light years](#) allows it to be studied in some detail. [Recent evidence](#) indicates that a close gravitational interaction with a neighboring galaxy created [waves of high mass](#) and condensed gas which continue to orbit the galaxy center. [These waves](#) compress existing gas and cause star formation. One result is that [M101](#), also called the [Pinwheel](#) Galaxy, has several extremely [bright star-forming regions](#) (called [HII regions](#)) spread across its spiral arms. [M101](#) is so large that its immense gravity [distorts](#) smaller nearby galaxies.

## slake

\SLAYK\

verb



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## Meaning

\*1 : satisfy, quench

2 : to cause (as lime) to heat and crumble by treatment with water : hydrate

### Example Sentence

"What an unspeakable luxury it was to slake that thirst with the pure and limpid ice-water of the glacier!" (Mark Twain, *A Tramp Abroad*)

▣

### Did you know?

"Slake" is no slacker when it comes to obsolete and archaic meanings. Shakespearean scholars may know that in the Bard's day "slake" meant "to subside or abate" ("No flood by raining slaketh. . . ." — *The Rape of Lucrece*) or "to lessen the force of " ("It could not slake mine ire, nor ease my heart." — *Henry VI, Part 3*). The most erudite word enthusiasts may also be aware of earlier meanings of "slake," such as "to slacken one's efforts" or "to cause to be relaxed or loose." These early meanings recall the word's Old English ancestor "sleac," which not only meant "slack" but is also the source of that modern term.

\*Indicates the sense illustrated in the example sentence.

Best Regards,

**Ron Van Alstyne**

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