

**"There are two primary choices in life: to accept conditions as they exist, or accept the responsibility for changing them."**

—[Denis Waitley](#): Author and productivity



**The Seahorse of the Large Magellanic Cloud**

Credit: [NASA](#), [ESA](#), and [M. Livio \(STScI\)](#)

**Explanation:** It may look like a grazing [seahorse](#), but the dark object toward the image right is actually a [pillar](#) of smoky [dust](#) about 20 [light years](#) long. The curiously-shaped [dust structure](#) occurs in our neighboring [Large Magellanic Cloud](#), in a star forming region [very near](#) the expansive [Tarantula Nebula](#). The energetic nebula is creating a [star cluster](#), NGC 2074, whose center is visible just off the top of the image in the [direction](#) of the neck of the seahorse. The [representative color image](#) was taken last year by the [Hubble Space Telescope's Wide Field Planetary Camera 2](#) in honor of [Hubble's 100,000th](#) trip around the Earth. As young stars in the cluster form, their light and [winds](#) will slowly erode the [dust pillars](#) away over the [next million years](#).

# purlieu

\PERL-yoo\



noun

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## Meaning

1 a : an outlying or adjacent district \*b *plural* : environs, neighborhood

2 a : a frequently visited place : haunt b *plural* : confines, bounds

## Example Sentence

"The boy, desperately nervous, continued to descend the zig-zag paths that would take him into the very purlieus of his father's house." (Ford Madox Ford, *The Last Post*)

▣

## Did you know?

In medieval England, if you were fortunate enough to acquire a new piece of land, you would want to have as many ceremonies as possible to make it clear that the land belonged to you. To assert the extent of your land, you might hold a ceremony called a "perambulation," in which you would walk around and record the boundaries of your property in the presence of witnesses. If your land bordered a royal forest, you might find that there was some confusion about where your land started and the royal forest ended. Luckily, the law said that if you performed a perambulation, you could gain at least some degree of ownership over disputed forest tracts, although your use of them would be restricted by forest laws and royals would probably still have the right to hunt on them. Such regained forest property was called a "purlewe" (or as it was later spelled, "purlieu"), which derives from the Anglo-French word for "perambulation."

\*Indicates the sense illustrated in the example sentence.

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Best Regards,

**Ron Van Alstyne**

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