

**"Freedom is actually a bigger game than power. Power is about what you can control. Freedom is about what you can unleash."**

--Harriet Rubin



### **Pleiades and Stardust**

**Credit & Copyright:** [Rogelio Bernal Andreo](#) (Deep Sky Colors)

**Explanation:** Have you ever seen the Pleiades star cluster? Perhaps the most famous star cluster on the sky, the [Pleiades](#) can be seen without binoculars from even the depths of a [light-polluted city](#). Also known as the [Seven Sisters](#) and [M45](#), the [Pleiades](#) is one of the [brightest and closest open clusters](#). Hurling through a cosmic dust cloud a mere 400 light-years away, the [Pleiades](#) or [Seven Sisters](#) star cluster is well-known for its striking blue [reflection nebulae](#). This remarkable wide-field (3 degree) [image of the region](#) shows the famous [star cluster](#) near the center, while highlighting lesser known dusty [reflection nebulas](#) nearby, across an area that would [span](#) over 20 [light-years](#). In this case, the [sister stars](#) and [cosmic dust clouds](#) are not related, they just happen to be passing through the same region of space.

### **ostracize**

\AHS-truh-syze\

verb

**Meaning**

: to exclude from a group by common consent

### Example Sentence

Ostracized by her former friends for spreading false rumors and gossip, Christina now walks to school alone.

### Did you know?

In ancient Greece, prominent citizens whose power or influence threatened the stability of the state could be exiled by a practice called ostracism. Voters would elect to banish another citizen by writing that citizen's name down on a potsherd (a fragment of earthenware or tile). Those receiving enough votes would then be subject to temporary exile from the state (usually for ten years). The English verb "ostracize" can mean "to exile by the ancient method of ostracism," but these days it usually refers to the general exclusion of one person from a group at the agreement of its members. "Ostracism" and "ostracize" derive from the Greek "ostrakizein" ("to banish by voting with potsherds"). Its ancestor, the Greek "ostrakon" ("shell" or "potsherd"), also helped to give English the word "oyster."

\*Indicates the sense illustrated in the example sentence.

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Best Regards,

Ron Van Alstyne

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