

that distant red star, probably running lines for fun with one of those engineers.

You know, it's funny, but when I think of him up there, I think of him doing that Bible quote from *Pulp Fiction*. Yeah, I memorized it after we got home, not right away but after a few years. I watched a bunch of his movies in a row, and this one speech kind of stuck with me enough that I put it to memory.

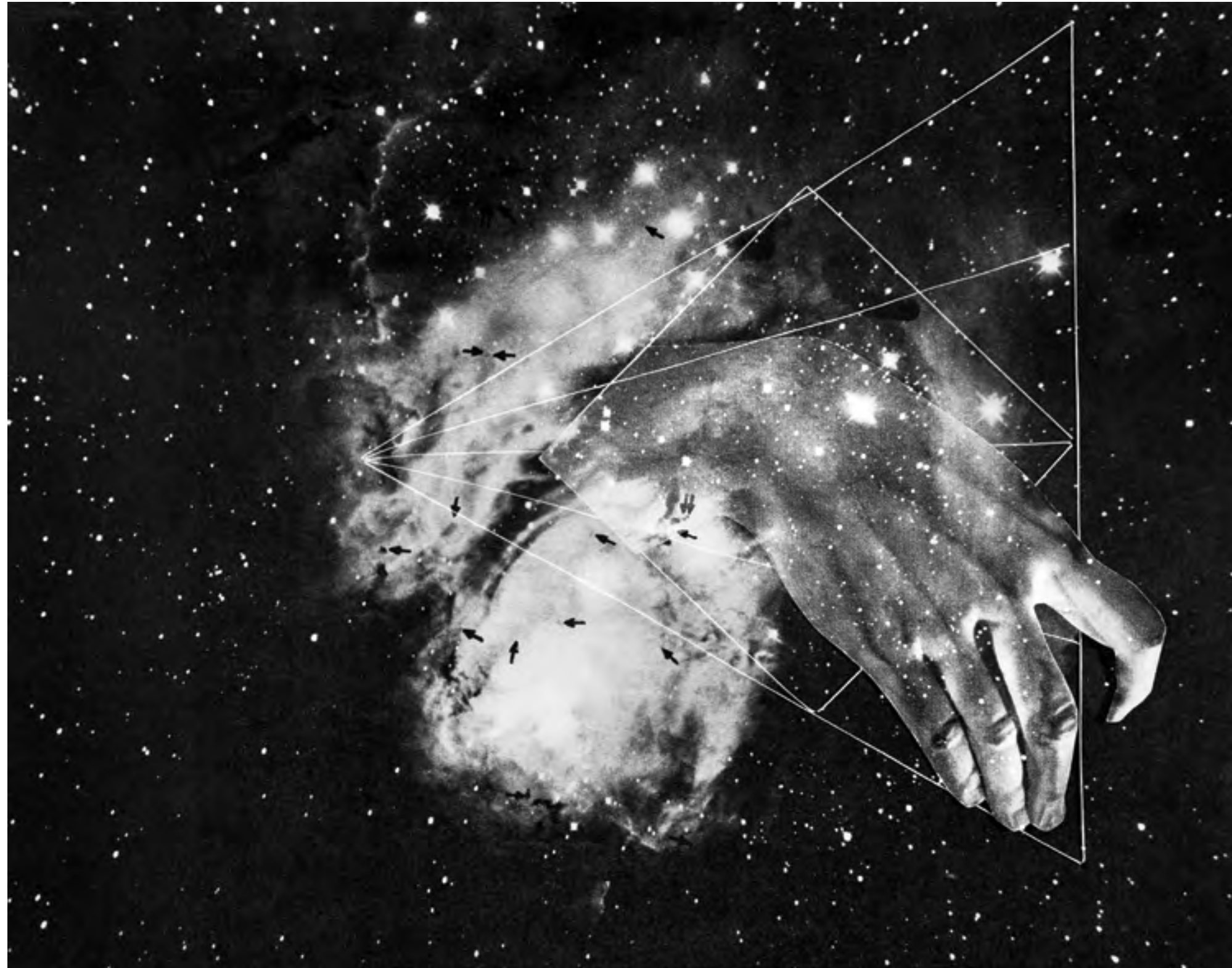
You remember that scene? It's right before he and John Travolta shoot that guy in the chair. Anyway, he says, in his big Samuel L. Jackson voice: *The path of the righteous man is beset on all sides by the inequities of the selfish and the tyranny of evil men. Blessed is he who, in the name of charity and good will, shepherds the weak through the valley of darkness, for he is truly his brother's keeper and the finder of lost children.*

The quote goes on from there, but it's that first part that really sticks with me. I know it's gonna sound weird to say this but I'm just gonna say it anyway: I think it's safer now that Samuel L. Jackson is up there, looking down on us, shepherding the weak through the valley of darkness. That's why, when I look at the *Time* magazine cover, where it says the Great Black Hope, I feel like it's really talking about him, and we're just the crew that got him where he needed to go. Me and Evans and Malcolm and Frenchy and Ed Yu. The five guys that took Samuel L. Jackson to Mars. That's no small thing, in itself.

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VANESSA WOODS

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