

All Over Again (2011)

Houston Hodges, for Writer's Corner, WLRH Radio Huntsville, AL USA

Creation itself encourages us to take stock of our lives, to take a look at how things are going, to draw a line under life at least for a semitotal. The New Year hinge between two years is the ideal time for that, but the first of any month works just as well.

I wonder how long it took our ancestors to realize that there are seasons that come around every so often, that there is summer, fall, winter, spring, and that this rhythm repeats itself over and over again: how long before they named it: "year!" How did they explain it, before it came to some imaginative genius that the sun was farther from the earth now than then ... or — imagine! — that the earth was farther from the sun!

Not only that: there's that moon, and it changes its shape regularly, on schedule — full, and half, and a sliver — over and over and over. What a wonder, especially when you realize there's a connection with how high the ocean lifts your boat-dock.

And then — that's not all, there's more! There's daylight, and dark. It happens, and it happens again. Moreover, when it happens, it affects us, so that it causes a lot of us to say, "Please, mommy, it's not time for bed yet!"

So human beings experience repetition, regularity, and return. So another year or another week approaches, coming down the track on schedule, with its attractive new paint job. We have no idea what it will bring, individually, or as a family, as a nation: but the chances are exceedingly good that it will arrive on time.

As you think about flipping that page of your calendar, realize as well that that represents a Fresh Start. This may be the biggest blessing of our calendars, and to our minds: a chance to change, and a time to do it. The fact that New Year resolutions have a short expiration date doesn't destroy their usefulness; it just makes them more special when they work. Maybe it's time to deal with that vexing problem, that unresolved estrangement, that troublesome habit that weighs you down. Maybe it's time to make a new commitment about your community life, the use of your leisure time, your attitude to others, your frame of mind, your deal with Eternity. Maybe you need to change how you see the transaction between you and the universe: Fresh start!

Pick a starting date, and go for it: Ready, set...

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