

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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By Michael Erlewine ([Michael@Erlewine.net](mailto:Michael@Erlewine.net))

I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

I did not watch the new year come in. True to my long-standing tradition, I went to bed early, and was up and working shortly after Midnight in the new year. However, most of my family was out celebrating, with just me left at home with the two dogs. I am imagining that at the stroke of midnight there were no planetary alignments, no solunar lineups, but just the tick of the clock and then a new calendar year. You can color me a party pooper, but I don't care. This is one event I would rather just sleep through, thank you very much.

My daughter May and her husband Seth were doing their annual New Year's Eve concert at the Wealthy Theater in Grand Rapids, about fifty miles from here. Margaret joined them for that celebration and made it back home sometime around 3 AM. She has been all over the state the last couple of days visiting kids and grandkids.

Of course, Margaret was born with Uranus conjunct the Sun and loves travel and change, while I was born with Uranus conjunct Saturn and the Moon, so I am not the great traveler, never too far from home. My first dharma teacher used to say travel is like the French word "travail," too much work and suffering. I second that emotion. I choose home and a quiet life, something Achilles failed to do. I have too much going on inside to take my show on the road very often. Too distracting.

Meanwhile, that large aspect pattern in the solar system, the one that has transfixed us for the last week or so, is gradually fading. You remember that configuration, the one with an emphasis on change, ready or not. Anyway, that aspect continues to lessen its hold on us with each passing day, and life starts to straighten out and resemble the linear once again. We can almost look down the train track of time to where it vanishes in the distance, but not quite. Give it a few more days to allow us to reassemble ourselves and get used to the new normal.

And we are not the same. It seems that we agree to forget what we find so hard to remember, like who and how we were before these changes came upon us. Change is a constant, so we just let it pass, and go with what we have. That's what I mean by the "new normal." We rewrite our own history with every change that whistles through our life. We could discuss that sometime.

As for me, I continue to struggle with Adobe Premiere Pro and After Effects, building these little videos. It is very slow going, but it gives me plenty of opportunity to practice patience and to recognize when discouragement rears its numbing head, relax, let the frustration subside, and gently continue on. This is what I call meditation in action -- perfect practice. And, as the saying goes, practice makes perfect.

Happy End of the Holidays.