



## *Once in a Blue Moon . . .*

Last evening (New Year's Eve), I went to the front of the house and looked east. What an amazing sight -- a huge full moon shining over the plains. And then, this morning, I went to get the paper and there was that same magnificent full moon over the mountains to the west. Of course, the full moon itself is beautiful. This year, however, as we know, marks a rare time, when we experience two full

moons within the same month -- the fabled "Blue Moon." Even more rare is for that moon to wax blue in December . . . and then to have it on New Year's Eve. A Year-End-Blue-Moon -- once REALLY in a Blue Moon.

Musing on the phrase "once in a blue moon" . . . hmmm. "Even if she'd clean her room once in a blue moon . . ." "He only writes home once in a blue moon . . ." "We only see them at weddings and funerals -- you know, once in blue moon." Rarity marks the occasion. And, usually, the thing that happens "once in a blue moon" is a GOOD thing.

So, will 2010 be a year that only comes along "once in a blue moon"? Or will we look back with thanksgiving that years like 2009 only come along once in a blue moon (I can attest that I hope that I only break my hip once every blue moon -- or less frequently!)?

The moon's periodicity is set. The "blue moon" phenomenon is related to OUR setting of time into 30/31 day months (February, of course, being the exception). So there's inevitability to the waxing and waning of the moon. There is NO inevitability to the meaning we attach to it.

The days and months of 2010 will happen as they do. We will have "weather" -- cold, snowy, hot, dusty -- as it happens. We will succeed and fail. The rain will fall on the just and unjust. Life will proceed as it does. It is our task, and perhaps joy, to make sense of it.

Looking at life that way presents us with constant blue moon experiences. The challenge is to try to see the hand of the Divine in the experience. To what are we summoned? Is there an injustice to right? Am I to re-evaluate my priorities? What new thing need I learn? Is forgiveness what is called for here?

The time for resolutions is constantly before us -- not annually. Seize every opportunity -- it may not come again 'til the next blue moon.

New Year's blessings!

Gary