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## Evolution

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*Jan Cassady*

I've never been able to figure these things out, these sort of "What's coming up for next year?" type things. I've almost invariably been completely wrong. Everything that I've ever planned for the coming year, all my New Year's resolutions, generally turned out completely different than I wanted. Unexpected things happened instead, evolutionary things. Rather than my predictions, life events took control evolving me in the most unexpected directions.

The trick with New Year's resolutions is to make plans but be willing to discard them should the universe have something else in mind. When I get too committed to my resolutions, when I feel that unless they materialize I have failed or been wrong, I tend to not see the other forces at play in my life. They are forces much wiser than me. They know ultimately what I need and where I should evolve.

I have had New Year's Eves spent with lovers who were not lovers in the coming year despite what I believed they would be. I have spent New Year's Eves alone that did not produce lonely years thereafter. Each New Year's I believed I knew what was coming up and set my sights on achieving those goals. I invested heavily emotionally in the outcome I wanted each New Year's Eve.

I suppose I did this out of fear. If I could predict, I believed, the universe made sense. If my predictions did not materialize, it created uncertainty and uncertainty was equated with fear. But when the universe had something else in mind for my new year, it took quite a bit of effort to let go of my resolutions and let evolution (or God) have its way.

I have to trust that the universe is going to give me what I need to grow. I have to trust that it is safe to let go of the control my resolutions or predictions appear to bring me. I have to trust that the universe provides me opportunities that are far more important to who I am and what my destiny is about than whether or not I lose five pounds. I have to trust that what God has planned for me is far better than anything I could dream up. I have to trust in the evolutionary nature of my life.

So here it is again, time for a New Year's resolution.

I have a rose bush in front of my door that is in full blossom and it is the middle of winter. I have had a rose bush in this location for nearly 10 years and it always flowers in May, June and July, sometimes August. This year it is in bloom in December, right before New Year's Eve. Right before the time for new predictions. Maybe it's just the warm temperatures we've been having. It confuses the plants. Maybe...

In the book of Genesis it says that God first spoke to Moses in the form of a bush that was burning in the desert but was not being consumed. Moses asked God how he would answer when the others wanted to know what God's name was. In other words, they would want to know how to believe that it was God who actually spoke to Moses. And God replied that Moses should tell them that God said: "I AM THAT I AM." I assume this means that God was saying that whatever people want to believe God is, that is what God is. God is what we make God out to be.

So now, in the middle of winter, I have a rose bush that is flowering out of season. I have no idea what it means for the coming year. And I've stopped trying to guess. I've also stopped making resolutions. This New Year's Eve instead, I'm going to step back and let the universe guide me, secure in the knowledge that my life is unfolding and evolving as God wants it to.