

§ When we really begin a new year it is decided, and when we actually repent it is determined:

who shall be truly alive and who shall merely exist; who shall be happy and who shall be miserable;

who shall attain fulfillment in their day and who shall not attain fulfillment in their day;

who shall be tormented by the fire of ambition and who shall be overcome by the waters of failure;

who shall be pierced by the sharp sword of envy and who shall be torn by the wild beast of resentment;

who shall hunger for companionship and who shall thirst for approval;

who shall be shattered by the earthquake of social change and who shall be plagued by the pressures of conformity;

who shall be strangled by insecurity and who shall be stoned into submission;

who shall be content and who shall wander in search of satisfaction;

who shall be serene and who shall be distraught;

who shall be at ease and who shall be afflicted with anxiety;

who shall be poor in their own eyes and who shall be rich in tranquility;

who shall be brought low with futility and who shall be exalted through achievement.

*But repentance, prayer, and good deeds have the power to change the character of our lives.*

Let us resolve to repent, to pray, and to do good deeds so that we may begin a truly new year.