

1st March 2021

March

“Take the winds of March with beauty.”

Shakespeare, The Winter's Tale

On this first day of March, the old country proverb comes to mind:

If March comes in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb.

Is that true, or a fanciful idea? Is it based on meteorological investigation and centuries of statistics, or is it just weather-related folklore?

We know, of course, that in the northern hemisphere March is a changeable month. It's a fair bet that it will find a balance. If it came in badly, roaring with winter winds like a lion, it could end calmly, like a docile lamb. And, in truth, that's usually borne out in practice. In March we can see both warm spring-like temperatures or late-season snowstorms. I'm not a meteorologist, so you'll have to look up the figures for yourself. We can sound as if we're sure, but we never really are.

So what do we do with the unpredictability of a month like March? We live with it, and we live through it, until we come out the other end. It's a metaphor, I think, of what we've had to deal with in the past year, and what we'll have to cope with for a wee while yet, it seems. We can speculate. We can predict. We can pontificate. We can imagine. But we cannot *know* what lies ahead of us, and how a month, or a week, or a day will turn out. We have to live with it, and through it, till it's done!

Shakespeare's words from *The Winter's Tale* are right: "Take the winds of March with beauty". Whatever winds March throws at us – however loud the lion roars – or whatever calmness we experience – however docile the lamb is – we have to see beauty where we find it. Put your speculation and predictions aside. Live with what you know and what you appreciate. Find beauty, and enhance that beauty, where it is and as it comes to you. And if you can create that beauty for others, go for it!

Some things are more predictable though. Did you know that March begins on the same day of the week as November and ends on the same day of the week as June every year? But then, that's a whole other story ...

A prayer for today

Lord, in stormy winds and peaceful days, help me find the beauty of your love. Amen

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