

21st November 2023

Reset

Mr. Furious

Okay, you know what, can we just start again?
Is there like a reset button on this thing or something?

Captain Amazing

No, you little freak, there's no button for resetting!

Mystery Men, Movie screenplay by Neil Cuthbert (1999)

In the process of tidying corners of my study I haven't been near for ages, I unearthed two old laptops and a redundant tablet. I wondered if they could be put to some use, and I was delighted to discover charities that recycle out-of-date electronic equipment for those in need, in the UK and abroad. Great news! And I'm working on that as we speak. But first, in order to wipe my personal stuff from the laptops and tablet, I had to initiate a "factory reset". At the click of a few keys, the devices were back to their original condition, uncluttered with anything I've done with them.

In the movie *Mystery Men*, Mr Furious is trying to do the same. He has a weapon that's acting strangely. So he looks for a "reset". But Captain Amazing puts him right. "No, you little freak, there's no button for resetting!" The damaged item *can't* be restored to its original condition.

There have been times in my life when I've been Mr Furious and looked for a "factory reset": a decision that's gone pear-shaped; a damaged relationship I could have handled differently; a harsh word that would have been better unspoken; an opportunity missed, when it's too late to have another go; a direction of travel that I would now do differently. A "factory reset" button would have been wonderful. But for this "little freak", it wasn't possible. Nor is it for any of us. We can't go back and start again. We can't be restored to a pristine state of being. The scars and regrets, hurts and sorrows of our years, make us what we are.

So is *any* reset possible? Oh yes! Not to "factory" standard. But a reset, a forgiven, fresh start, new day reset – is *always* possible. Under God – and if the "God" part doesn't work for you, in your own self-belief – an occasional (or regular) reset is available to us all. What's in the dark corners of your study can be rediscovered and find a useful purpose again.

A prayer for today

*Lord, reset me today. And, if you don't mind,
I may come back for another reset tomorrow. Amen*