

## I Heard The Old Year Talking

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*Author Unknown*

I heard the Old Year talking, and he seemed to say to me,  
"I am what men have made me — not what I hoped to be.  
I did not bring the failures; my days were bright and new.  
I was the time allotted — the work was man's to do.

"I am what others made me; I had no will or choice;  
Through all the days of trial I was given not a voice.  
If victory came, man earned it; his was the faith and power.  
If sorrow came, God sent it; I furnished but the hour.

"I came here empty-handed — a year that was to be,  
And what I am in passing, mankind has made of me;  
I am their petty failures, their glory, their success;  
I am their souls' advancement, their shame, and happiness.

"I was not born in evil or governed by the stars,  
I brought to some high honors, to others ugly scars;  
Only my days were numbered; I was the time for toil,  
And each has reaped the harvest, as he has tilled the soil.

"I am what men have made me — not what I hoped to be,  
And so shall be the New Year which soon shall follow me;  
Our days are good or evil, as each man serves and strives,  
For years are but the records on which men write their lives."

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