

The Rathnam Family
Wishes You
Health and Happiness in 2003

Deborah F. Rathnam
*"Life, believe, is not a dream
So dark as sages say,
Oft a little morning rain
Foretells a pleasant day."*
Charlotte Bronte, Life (1846)



Lincoln E. F. Rathnam
*"The broad-backed hippopotamus
Rests on his belly in the mud;
Although he seems so firm to us
He is merely flesh and blood."*
T.S. Elliot, The Hippopotamus

Sarah V. Rathnam
"Twelve highlanders and a bagpipe make a rebellion."
Scottish Proverb



Hope A. Rathnam
"There is no duty we so much underrate as the duty of being happy."
Robert Louis Stevenson.

Freckles

"And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing."

The Bible, 1 Corinthians 13:2



Lincoln Y. Rathnam
"I am not yet so lost in lexicography, as to forget that words are the daughters of earth, and that things are the sons of heaven. Language is only the instrument of science, and words are but the signs of ideas: I wish, however, that the instrument might be less apt to decay, and that signs might be permanent, like the things which they denote."
Dr. Samuel Johnson, Dictionary of the English Language (1775), Preface

The 2003 Forecast



At the end of each year, Lincoln telephones his cousin the Indian mystic Tarmac, who is currently traveling with a circus in the Delhi area as “Tarmac the Magnificent - Seer, Soothsayer, Sage and Savant,” to learn what is in store in the New Year. When Lincoln called him earlier this week, Tarmac was, as always, definite in his responses and clear in his vision.

The format was as follows: Lincoln wrote his questions on separate pieces of paper and placed each in a numbered envelope, which he FedExed to Tarmac’s factotum, who only provided the sealed envelopes to Tarmac at the time of the call. Tarmac then touched each envelope to his temple and revealed the answer to the sealed question; such are his uncanny and weird powers.

LYR: Greetings, Magnificent One, and Happy New Year.

Tarmac: May the Bird of Paradise fly far from the hood of your car! I have the answers to all your questions, but my time is short, for my aromatherapy session is at hand.

LYR: Splendid! Accept my obeisance and let us continue.

Tarmac: The first answer is “Ariel Sharon, Gerald Levin, and Yasser Arafat.”

LYR: The question is, “Who will team up to make a new version of ‘The Three Stooges’ in 2003?” A remarkable insight, Your Opacity.

Tarmac: That was too easy. Answer number two: “If the phone doesn’t ring, it’s me.”

LYR: The question is “What Jimmy Buffet song will stock market investors be singing this year?” . . . Your answer, Sagacious One, isn’t very informative, I’m afraid.

Tarmac: May a thousand crazed marsh rabbits (*sylvialagus palustris*) storm out of the swamps and uproot your geraniums! Besides, if you were my stockbroker, you would understand the answer completely. Here’s the next answer: ‘Auguries, omens, and tarot cards.’”

LYR: The question is “How can the Federal Reserve Board improve its economic planning?”

Tarmac: The final answer is “Shaman, funeral director, and repo man.”

LYR: The question is “What will be the three best career choices for the college class of 2003?” Thank you for your guidance, Justifiably Pompous One.

Tarmac: May you, your family and all your friends have health and happiness in 2003!