

Seasonal Greetings,

This year I have a new excuse for late cards. I just learned that the traditional twelve days of Christmas extends to January 6, Three Kings Day in some cultures. In the Orthodox Tradition, I could push this out to January 19th. For a non-denominational excuse for late New Year cards, the Romans started their year on March 1 and had a 10 month year, which is why September through December correspond to 7-10 in their names. Some cultures started their year a little later at March 21, the Equinox. Of course, I could also refer to the Lunar New Year, which starts on Feb 7, for the Year of the Rat, but that would give me less time to procrastinate.

Well this year went by more quickly than last year, which is often the case. If you have net access, and you want to see what it looked like to me, you can visit:

<http://ikemi.info/mytravel.html>

For a vacation this year I went to Jordan and Egypt, something I'd been wanting to do for a long time. The specific links to those photos are:

<http://ikemi.info/graphics/Amman/index.html>

<http://ikemi.info/graphics/Jerash/index.html>

<http://ikemi.info/graphics/DeadSea/index.html>

<http://ikemi.info/graphics/Petra/index.html>

<http://ikemi.info/graphics/WadiRum/index.html>

<http://ikemi.info/graphics/Aqaba/index.html>

<http://ikemi.info/graphics/Darhab/index.html>

<http://ikemi.info/graphics/MtSinai/index.html>

<http://ikemi.info/graphics/StKatherine/index.html>

<http://ikemi.info/graphics/Cairo/index.html>

<http://ikemi.info/graphics/Alexandria/index.html>

<http://ikemi.info/graphics/OldCairo/index.html>

Links to a website are much less painful than watching slide shows or looking through photo albums, or so I think. If you don't have access to the web, at least you can see the photo of the sun rise as viewed from Mt. Sinai on the opposite side, if you are viewing the hardcopy version of this greeting.

Otherwise, much the same here. The vegetables in the garden occasionally cooperate, the dogs need to be brushed, the motorcycles still roll, as well as the bicycles, reading glasses are now a necessity and no longer a luxury, and I haven't looked at the scale in a while.

I wish that you have a good New Year for yourself and all of those whom you love.



The sunrise as viewed from Mt. Sinai, Egypt. We woke up at 1:30AM so that we'd have a chance to make it through the crowds and up to the top. The biggest problem was avoiding getting run over by camels, followed by finding a place to stand at the top. There is a beautiful little chapel at the top.