



Enriching Women Enriching Women

Time's Up... For A Change!

My recent visit to the USA culminated in New England where nature was on the cusp of a most spectacular change of colour. The first blotches of red punctuated the various textures of green leaf on display where spots of ochre vied for attention...time's up, for a change! Now, autumn is in full swing and even the leaves are loosening their grip on summer, gracefully bowing to the winds of change.

Birds instinctively recognize the signs. Sensitive to change, migration beckons and they leave their 'summer house'; time's up...for a change. They have not only felt the shift in temperature for their species, but automatically set themselves to move to another clime.

'Even the stork in the sky knows her appointed seasons, and the dove, the swift and the thrush observe the time of their migration...' (Jeremiah 8:7 NIV)

Such an attitude is discernment with the ability to make good judgments; a living exhibition showing an established life cycle of passage. Summer breeder or winter visitor the birds demonstrate 'time's up'.

'Summer' seasons illustrate all that is right with our world and the feel good factor is at it's highest. But 'time's up'...has negatives as it squeezes us into a time frame we are not ready or willing to accept. I used to dread the teacher saying those words – almost with a certain amount of glee, was added – 'pen's down'! Exam papers shuffled and placed neatly on the desk; results would be in soon enough...wished I'd had more time to write my answers.

We have waved our last goodbye to summer; or have we? Soon, we will be faced with another change...trying to make the daylight longer by moving the hands of the clock backwards. Time's up for daylight savings! Take a last wistful glance back at summer!

The alternative to not saying goodbye to our 'summers' is a stubborn refusal to walk into the glowing embrace of autumn. New fruits are appearing, brave blooms are showing off their burnished bouquets... a whole new experience summons us to participate. It will eventually envelop us, with or without our permission or approval!

Affectionately, Judith

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