

March 27, 2010

WEATHER REPORT \* A warm front moved through this month, and what had been only days before seemed insurmountable mountains of snow that could not

<sup>possibly</sup> melt before June (for which there are precedents) ~~vanished over-~~ <sup>well washed away</sup>  
<sup>in a miracle</sup> night. \*\* I find it interesting every year, how the weather in its slow, predictable patterns and gyrations seems always to catch us off guard -- We think that the \*same\* rain that washes away the dirty snow ought also in the same stroke to milk the leaf-buds right out onto the tips of the trees, which of course it has \*not\* done, and thus always show nature to her best advantage: from snowy wonderland to budding branches in two easy steps minus one. Yet she - Nature - always . skips the beat. The rain comes early in the year, for example: the snow is melted - but there is always another storm too late in the year. Then that snow melts, and just when the streets are swept and the leaves are cued to descent on the stage from above is exactly when they will not appear for another ~~two~~ weeks. Except in that one year right when you normally expect ~~&&~~ them to. Except you weren't expecting them to#.

Nature's rhythms are \*slow\* - they are supposed to be unsurprising at that speed, like the orbit of a planet. Her rhythms are so slow that we mistake their slowness for gracefulness. -- we imagine she is waltzing when it could very well be that she is some kind of of f-beat hip-hop artist writ large and magnificent, fooling our aesthetic sense by sheer scale. I read some time ago that Earth itself actually makes a sound -- <sup>it does</sup> it vibrates at a gorgeously low contra contra bass tone of one cycle per year, and that all the planets and stars do likewise. Which raises the obvious question, what does it, <sup>or could it,</sup> sound like? Hasn't anyone tried taking these tones, swapping them up a few dozen octaves and giving us an approximation of what the whole thing would sound like if once it had some air to flutter against instead of only the vacuum of deep space? Because the scale of the song is cosmically large beyond the scope of our thinking we imagine it is probably baroque, ~~perhaps even~~ or if you are of a more modern stripe, impassively cacophonous. Whatever it might be supposed to sound like, there is probably more rhythm in it than we imagine. There I admit I have strayed onto

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thin ice of theory. But we can safely say, that in the observed dance of the skies and of space, even in the familiar things whose governing laws are slow, reliable, and known to us, we are always being surprised by outliers - by the snowstorm that comes in April, or for once doesn't come; by a black swan; by a cataclysmic comet, <sup>by</sup> ~~for~~ a supernova. And so I wonder - I think of Jones the sonar man on Hunt For the Red October - if he could pop the tape of Nature's Anomalies in the deck and play it all at ten times speed, what kind of smile would dawn on that clever man's face? ~~####~~

The end.