

THIS WEEK'S GUEST WRITER
New Year, 1951

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Next week will be McDonald of Descanso.

It's New Year 1951—or is it?

Four hundred million Chinese say that it is not New Year; nor is it 1951. For them there is another day that is New Year. Sixteen million Jewish folk have already celebrated New Year, and it was not 1951 either. Two hundred fifty million Moslems in thirteen nations will tell you it was not New Year, nor Monday, nor January, nor 1951.

In a modern business office in Cairo, Egypt, the calendar on the wall will perplex you. That calendar is five calendars in one. First is the official calendar, which is the Moslem calendar. It is not 1900 on that, but 1300. Second, is the Jewish calendar with the Jewish year, month and day.

Also, there is the Coptic Calendar, dating from the traditional dynasties of Egypt. Ah—here we are, here is the New Year, beside it is another, similar but our New Year, 1951, and right not the same. This other is the Gregorian calendar from which ours was devised. All five of these calendars are in use, somewhere, every day.

We could go on until completely confused, but it all had a very simple beginning. One day, somewhere, a man started to count and from that day he, and those like him, simply counted the days and years. Other people, in other lands, started counting at other times. None of them ever saw any real reason to change it because it was too easy to keep it as it was.

So we must conclude that this New Year, this January 1, 1951, is our own New Year. It is our anniversary, of significance to us. With these other New Year's Days, other people associated their own customs and traditions. With us—we resolve something. We determine to turn over a new "leaf," to do something better.

New Year 1951 is vital to us. It is our own New Year. Let us all resolve to make it a Great New Year, filled with great hope and great faith in our own great nation.

Dr. Hamid ul Moulay