

## New Year's Eve Wrap

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Tis the night before new year,  
And in awe we stand,  
At the somber conclusion,  
Of what fate had planned

For twenty-twenty did quake  
The ground neath our feet,  
Where from fault lines erupted,  
Such brimstone and heat

Although the market today  
Sees through rosy glass,  
The lens at one point,  
Was opaque morass

Life before COVID-19,  
Is memory pale,  
But that sliver of new year,  
Too told a dark tale

Wildfires down under,  
Impeachment of Trump,  
Were some harbingers early,  
Of impending bump

And then a virus emerged  
Shaped like a crown  
And with almighty force,  
It demanded renown

The market held on to calm,  
Without panic's dawn,  
Until news left the nest,  
Of locked down Wuhan

When the Alps followed suit,  
And borders flung close,  
Pandemonium struck  
As economies froze

Supply chains quickly ran dry,  
Soup shelves were laid bare,  
The masks and tests we needed,  
Were both all too rare

The first U.S. death occurred  
In Washington state,  
And hit stocks the hardest  
Since two thousand eight

A society transformed,  
By this strange health rout,  
We wee humans were banished,  
Into a timeout

A pause on the Olympics,  
Was fate at the loom,  
That signaled passing of torch  
To remote life boom

Heels were swapped for athleisure  
Zoom became a verb,  
And a mass movement began  
From city to burb

With old diversions on pause  
We found new ground to tread,  
And most tried their hand at  
A sourdough bread

Amidst a swift belt cinching,  
Layoffs reached new heights,  
And those working the front line,  
Were our shining knights

The market sunk with a speed  
Of no parallel,  
And with VIX above eighty,  
The floor had no tell

The ten year plunged below one,  
And equities swooned,  
Crude submerged below zero,  
And bond spreads ballooned

Circuit breakers were triggered  
Then rates got a slash,  
The Fed's full tools were engaged,  
To stop further crash

The Fed's message spoke power  
Of what it could shield,  
It would not stop at IG,  
It would buy high yield

When stimulus met the sails,  
A rally took root,  
Retail investors stepped in  
For low-hanging fruit

In a distanced existence,  
Dot com lifeboats float,  
And tech companies secure,  
Wide digital moats

Thus the Nasdaq found glory  
And outshone the rest  
Tech giants traded mighty  
And software did best

The bulls were united,  
Unicorns were back,  
And from this cheery risk tone,  
Came dawn of the SPAC

Phased reopenings began,  
With some fits and starts  
But a fresh trauma unearthed,  
That wounded our hearts

It was the death of George Floyd  
That caused this shatter  
And raised groundswell of voices  
That Black Lives Matter

In this raw phase of healing  
Campaigning began  
Joe Biden led for the Dems,  
Twas third time he ran

And then we got wildfires,  
That lit western sky  
The same week we in sorrow  
Bade Ginsberg goodbye

Election debates ensued,  
Abnormal on high,  
They saw Trump get the virus,  
And brought fame to a fly

Some called for blue tsunami,  
Some called for term two,  
But we split down the middle,  
Between red and blue

Biden will take the top role,  
With a lady veep,  
But record turnout was proof,  
Divides still run deep

In the face of much chaos,  
The market elates,  
With one helping hand FOMO,  
The other low rates

Hand in hand with vaccine,  
Comes anticipation,  
Of a cyclical boost,  
And some reflation

High uncertainty remains,  
Round what lies ahead,  
Will this year's trends prove sticky,  
Or give way instead

But at the end of the tunnel  
The light flickers through  
On the recovery's shape  
Be it V, K or U

After near two million lost,  
And such profound harm,  
At long last we've witnessed,  
The first shot in the arm

Perhaps this piece has run long,  
But so has this year  
There's too much to reflect on,  
In the rearview mirror

As we at last turn the page  
With a ready hand  
Although we're six feet apart  
Together we stand!

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