

# The Lakeside

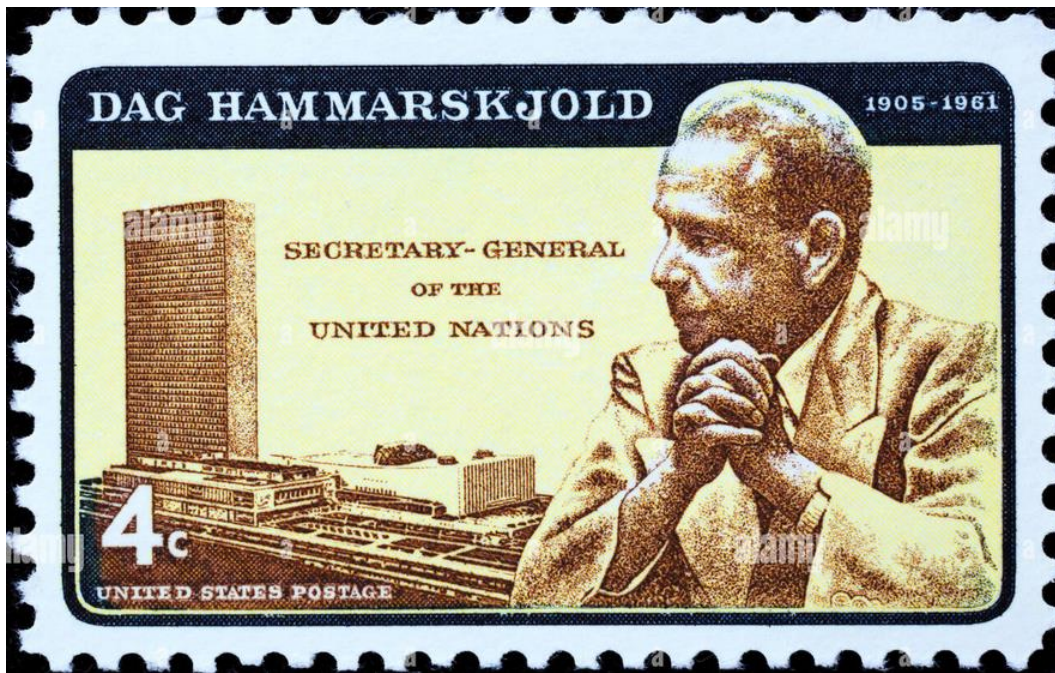


## Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday January 13, 2025 - Isaiah 43: 19

*19 See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*

Read Isaiah 43 for meditation and inspiration.



Dear Lakesiders and friends,

As we approach the second week in 2025, a short poem by Dag Hammarskjöld the Swedish economist who became the second Secretary General of the United Nations is truly a wonderful way to begin a New Year. It both inspires and challenges me as I ponder endings and beginnings, and gratitude and adventure.

***For all that has been – thanks!***

***For all that shall be – yes!***

Dag Hammarskjöld’s lines always seemed like a perfect quote to begin a New Year, this year more than ever before! To thank God for all that has been, even the suffering and pain that we may have endured. To say Yes! to God for all that shall be, without any idea of what that might mean? This is the work of faith, and the work of a lifetime. It does not come easy and can’t be done all at once. Day after day, we take up our cross in faith and in trust, and we follow the One who showed us how-to live-in faith, before dying to forgive us.

I want to share a longer quote from this book, which goes into more depth about what it means to say “Yes!” to God. Here it is:

***“I don’t know Who — or what — put the question, I don’t know when it was put. I don’t even remember answering. But at some moment I***

*did answer Yes to Someone — or Something — and from that hour I was certain that existence is meaningful and that, therefore, my life, in self-surrender, had a goal.*

*From that moment I have known what it means ‘not to look back,’ and ‘to take no thought for the morrow.’*

Saying Yes to God offers us an existence that is meaningful and offers a goal to our lives. And, finally, one more quote of his, on finding the right road:

*Never look down to test the ground before taking your next step; only those who keep their eyes fixed on the far horizon will find the right road.*

And then on into a New Year knowing a God that loves us and calls us to walk by faith and not by sight.

For a Blessed New Year,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roger".

Roger