

MASON

Page 25-26

MASON. So I've done what was suggested. I continued to watch and I have come (with no little excitement) to understand that baseball is a perfect metaphor for hope in a Democratic society.

It has to do with the rules of play.

It has to do with the mode of enforcement of these rules.

It has to do with certain nuances and grace notes of the game. First, it's the remarkable symmetry of everything.

All those threes and multiples of three - calling attention to - virtually making a *fetish* of the game's noble equality..

Equality, that is, of opportunity.

Everyone is given exactly the same chance.

And the opportunity to exercise that chance at his own pace. There's none of that scurry, none of that relentlessness that marks other games - basketball, football, hockey.

I've never watched basketball, football, or hockey, but I'm sure I wouldn't like them. Or maybe I would, but it wouldn't be the same. What I mean is, in baseball there's no clock.

What could be more generous than to give everyone all these opportunities and the time to seize them in, as well? And with each turn at the plate, there's the possibility of turning the situation to your favor. Down to the very last try.

And then, to insure that everything remains fair, justices are ranged around the park to witness and assess the play.

And if the justice errs, an appeal can be made.

It's invariably turned down, but that's part of what makes the metaphor so right.

Because even in the most well-meant of systems, error is inevitable. Even within the fairest of paradigms, unfairness will creep in.

And baseball is better than Democracy - or at least than Democracy as it's practiced in this country - because unlike Democracy, baseball acknowledges loss.