

2012

Nick Thomas

Much speculation centres around 22nd (or 21st) December 2012 as a time when catastrophes may be expected, or more watered down, when some kind of universal enlightenment may occur. Typical prognostications are:

1. A comet ("Nibiru") will collide with the Earth (attributed to Nostradamus);
2. The Earth's magnetic pole may shift or reverse;
3. Increase of calamities, natural disasters, mass destruction, etc.;
4. The end of the Mayan Long Count (5125.26 Julian years) occurs coincident with a so-called Galactic Alignment.

Concerning Nostradamus, who lived from 1503 to 1566, the 4-line quatrain that is supposed to be relevant is Century 2 Quatrain 46:

After great trouble for humanity, a greater one is prepared
The Great Mover renews the ages:
Rain, blood, milk, famine, steel and plague,
In the heavens fire seen, a long spark running.

Neither the date nor the prediction is conclusive or even plausible, and will not be considered further.

The Galactic Alignment is said to be the alignment of the Sun at solstice with the Galactic Centre; actually it is the alignment of the Sun on 21st December 2012 with the Galactic Equator [near noon in 2012]. The date of the alignment with the Galactic Equator changes slowly through the years, and was on 21st January in 4000BC and will be on 6th December in 4000AD. The previous Platonic Year lasted about 25,900 years, and due to the change in the rate of precession of the equinoxes (hence "about"), the next will be about 23,400 years long.

The serious reason to examine 2012 comes from the Mayans in Mexico who reached the peak of their culture in the first millennium AD. They were astronomers of extraordinary ability who accurately plotted the movements of Venus (as well as Mars) to calibrate their complex three-part calendar. Apart from their Short Count (260 day cycle) called the Tzolkin and their "vague" year of 365 days, they calculated a Long Count calendar lasting 1,872,000 days=5125.26 Julian years, the last of which started on 13 Aug 3114BC (Gregorian Calendar) and ends on 22nd December 2012. They associated calamities with the ends of such eras, so while no specific prophecies have been made by them about 2012, it may be inferred that they would expect special events of some kind then. A Mayan Grand Cycle consists of five Long Counts, thus being 25,626 Julian years long.

A Mayan master number discovered in the Dresden Codex is 1,366,560 days (=3,741 Julian years plus 160 days). This is accurately 5,256 Tzolkins; 3,744 vague years; 2,340 geocentric alignments of Venus and the Sun; 1,752 such cycles for Mars, and 72 "Calendar Rounds" (of 18,980 days). Why should such long-range accuracy be so important to the Maya, and what does this number mean?

In the book *The Mayan Prophecies* by Adrian G. Gilbert and Maurice M Cotterell (Ref. 1), Cotterell (a scientist) describes his discovery of a very similar number when studying sunspot cycles. He defined 87.4545 days as "1 bit" which is the time between alignments of the Sun's two magnetic fields (north/south dipole and equatorial quadrupole). Then 48 bits make up one cycle of 11.49299 years, 781 bits equalling 187 years gives one longer sunspot cycle, while 20 of those equal 1,366,040 days for a complete long-term sunspot cycle. This differs from the Mayan master number by only 2 times 260 days i.e. two Tzolkins. Furthermore one Tzolkin is the length of the cycle relating to the overlapping of the Sun's polar & equatorial magnetic fields. Based on the interaction of the solar wind with the magnetic field of the Earth, he infers a strong correlation

between solar sunspot cycles & human fertility. The Sun's radiation affects fertility via the effect of varying magnetic fields on the manufacture of melatonin, oestrogen and progesterone. More recent research shows that varying magnetic fields also affect the brain. Thus he suggests that variations in the Earth's magnetic field due to the solar wind, which correlates with sunspot cycles, affect human fertility, and further that the Mayans themselves suffered from a fall in fertility in their mysterious decline towards the end of the first millennium AD. The near identity of the long term sunspot cycle and the Mayan master number indicates, Cotterell suggests, a similar problem in or around 2012.

How could the Mayans possibly have known of sunspot cycles with such precision when they had no modern scientific instruments, and that the height of their culture lasted only a few centuries? One possibility is via clairvoyance. In the Mayan holy book the Popol Vu it is said of their gods that "they were endowed with intelligence; they saw, and could see instantly far, they succeeded in knowing all there is in the world. When they looked, instantly they saw all around them and they contemplated in turn the arch of heaven and the round face of the Earth. The things hidden (in the distance) they saw all, without first having to move; at once they saw the world, and so too, from where they were they saw it. Great was their wisdom". Sun Lord Pacal their king (born 602AD, died 682AD) was regarded as a god, and furthermore had been subjected as a child to the highly dangerous procedure of "head flattening" practised by the Maya. This must, being so dangerous, have been done for a very good reason. I once heard that a man involved in a car accident, whose skull was badly fractured, became clairvoyant as a result of a metal plate used to replace part of his skull. Perhaps the head-flattening was intended to achieve the same purpose? Then it is possible that the rhythms and cycles of the Sun were visible to clairvoyant perception, and translated into the remarkable astronomical calculations of the Maya. Also visions of past and future catastrophes related to the Calendar Round might have been found by clairvoyance as well as tradition.

We may compare this with the extraordinary fact that the Dogon Tribe in West Africa seemed to have known about the existence of Sirius B, a companion star to Sirius (now A), for hundreds of years (Ref. 2). Yet it was only observed by western astronomers in 1862. Assuming this is true, did the Dogon know this by clairvoyance?

That 2012 may be special has plausible credence only from the fact that the Mayans were astronomers and mathematicians of extraordinary ability, whose Long Count ends then. What may be expected has little basis aside from the work of Maurice Cotterell and his remarkable discovery of a convincing correlation between the Mayan master number and the sunspot cycles and their possible effect on human fertility. Fertility has been declining in recent decades, and we may note that when Rudolf Steiner was asked about the rising world population he apparently replied that the real problem would not be that: rather there would be too few people. As for earthquakes, comets and other such catastrophes, nothing definite can be said. It may be noted, however, that past shifts of the North Pole suggest rotations of the Earth's crust over the mantle have taken place in the past. Einstein was apparently concerned about the build-up of ice at the South Pole as it could lead to dynamic instability and another catastrophic shift of the Earth's crust. Thanks to global warming (!) that is not now likely. Had the Maya foreseen the possible shift but not the warming?

References:

1. *The Mayan Prophecies* by Adrian G. Gilbert and Maurice M Cotterell, Element books, 1995.
2. *The Sirius Mystery* by Robert Temple, Arrow books, 1999.