

Is 2012 really the end of the world as we know it?

By Joseph Parish

Ask anyone about the year 2012 and you are sure to solicit a response with some extraordinarily disturbing and troubled gazes. It just seems like everyone is actively engrossed in the impending end of the world that allegedly according to the Mayan calendar will take effect on December 21, 2012.

All this speculation is naturally based upon the perception that the Mayan calendar will be running out of days after that projected date. Already, I can envision many alarmed people committing some serious crimes as that date begins to approach. It is highly likely that from acts of compassion, some people may slaughter their families in an effort to spare them the pain and expected suffering that they may expect as the end approaches. Some of the more violent individuals may possibly consider it the perfect opportunity to complete all those paybacks to their enemies that they have waited for so many long years to accomplish.

There is no doubt that people all around the globe are terrified at this prospect and for no reason what-so-ever. School children are becoming alarmed at an increased rate as they feel they are much too young to die. Parents are becoming apprehensive for the safety of their family in the upcoming days. Human nature as it may be will justify people doing things which they would normally not even consider. It is unfortunate that in times such as this people often fabricate excuses not to continue their lives in a responsible fashion.

The truth of the matter is rather simple in all reality since the world is not in any way, shape or form going to end. It is unlikely that we will play witness to a fiery display of meteorites flaming towards earth intent upon burning it and its inhabitants completely out of existence. In fact, in all likelihood, December 21 of 2012 will actually be just like any other day in our lives.

It seems like a gross lack of Mayan knowledge is the culprit in generating this unfounded fear of 2012. The Mayan civilization has never in any way predicted the end of the world in the year 2012. The fact is that it is merely a strange coincidence that some of the astrological alignments happen to fall on that specific timeframe. The predicted apocalypse which is supposed to occur on that date is nothing more than a figment of western, Christian beliefs that had been projected into the Mayan culture.

Some of these misunderstandings for the 2012 phenomena may perhaps originate upon the discovery of some clay tablets in southern Mexico in the early 60's. These tablets happened to casually mention the year 2012 as a time for something special to occur. As luck would have it erosion created a crack in the stone tablet making the end of the passage unreadable. Imaginations quickly got carried away creating the 2012 doomsday scenario.

Completely disregarded were the inscriptions often found at many Mayan digs that describe dates long past the memorable 2012 deadline. One such comment even concerns the year 4772.

The Mayan had a knack for astronomy and its calendar was developed to begin at 3,114 BC. These doomsday rumors failed to take into account that this calendar used by the Mayans began on the date listed and used a basis of 394 year periods. These periods were known as Baktuns in the Mayan language. Since the number thirteen held a particular significance to the Mayan philosophers, it just so happens that the 13th Baktun ends on none other than December 21, 2012. At this time it does not indicate the end of the world but merely the final time for that Mayan Baktun and their current calendar.

This date is actually representative of a special occasion for the Mayan people. It is a celebration for the creation of their world and not a death notice for all humanity. Mankind has continually tried to manipulate astrological occurrences to comfortably fit into the scheme of their 2012 projections.

So if you have been worrying about the end of life occurring in 2012 you can put that fiction to rest. On December 22, 2012 you will wake up and go about your business as you did on December 20, 2012.

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