

Making Our Way to 2012

by Val Ryan

Many of us are aware that the Mayan calendar ends Dec. 21, 2012. Theories abound that this spells doomsday. Whether you envision the Armageddon and Judgment Day of the Book of Revelation or the natural disasters as portrayed by Hollywood, the result is the same: the end of civilization. However, the Mayans saw things differently.

New Epoch, Not End of Time

In a nutshell, a Mayan year consists of 260 days, with the new year beginning on July 26. Eras are measured in 26,000-year cycles, and 2012 happens to be the end of one of these cycles. This is where the misunderstanding has occurred. Contrary to 2012 signaling an end of time, it's actually the beginning of a new 26,000-year epoch; one that the Mayans believed would include continued spiritual advancement, mutual love and respect, restructuring of our DNA, and greater understanding of our role in the Universe.

26,000 Years of History

It's hard to imagine where humanity will be 26,000 years from now. To help put it in context, let's look back at Western Civilization and see how far we've come: 26,000 years ago, Neanderthals die out leaving only Homo sapiens, our earliest ancestors, who invent textiles, shoes and decorate pottery with images of life. Then 10,000 years ago, humans

develop agriculture and domesticate animals. Organized religions are established 3,500 years ago. The Enlightenment, also known as the Age of Reason, starts in the 17th century and spans 150 years during which we achieve monumental advances in science, art and literature. And in just the last 100 years, we have gone from steam power to nuclear power, horses to space shuttles, and added 20 years to the average human life.

Evolution of Consciousness

Twenty-six thousand years of history and scientific advances didn't happen overnight, and as we approach the magic date of Dec. 21, 2012, our transformation will continue to be gradual. Einstein quipped, "The only reason for

time is so that everything doesn't happen at once." This turning of the cosmic wheel is just the next step in our progress. Knowing that a new beginning fast approaches, gives us an opportunity to reflect and decide where we want to be in two years. The Mayans believed that the next stage in our development would be an evolution of consciousness.

We're fortunate to live in a time and place where contemplating our spiritual growth and seeking higher dimensions is possible. It's important that we appreciate

this gift. Our task in the coming era will be to live as one multifaceted world culture and teach our children the words of Chief Seattle: "Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself."

Can you envision where our descendants will be 26,000 years from now? Maybe there will be no war, poverty or despair. No one will be homeless, go to bed hungry or feel alone. Will we have telepathy, teleportation and intergalactic space/time travel as we explore into the next eon? Maybe. Beam me up Scottie.

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