



2012

Tonite i'm gonna party like its 1995.

OK. Late December, 2012, the Mayan calendar resets a 5,000 year gear to 13.0.0.0.0. Numerous North American writers-noticeably Jose Arguelles and the late Terrence McKenna - have applied apocalyptic ultimatums towards this date. Certain psychedelic, new age and trance techno communities have eagerly embraced these concepts over the past decade, with visions and promises of galactic transformation, global healing, spiritual enlightenment and so on.

In 1995 I answered Jose Arguelles 'Planetary Ultimatum' and travelled to the Yucatan Peninsula to witness the annual Spring Equinox at Kulkulkan's great pyramid at Chichen Itza, Mexico. Every equinox, the afternoon sun casts a shadow from the corner of the pyramid that clearly becomes the image of a large serpent slowly entering the earth along one of the pyramid's stairways, a sign that begins their slash and burn agricultural season, a message from the Gods that the earth is fertile for planting. In Chichen Itza- a town of about 1,500 inhabitants- I managed to meet local Mayans of our generation, who have grown up indoctrinated in their culture. I met the local DJ who plays the dance music at their parties, and the local dance promoter. I asked them about 2012 and they would explain that whenever some new book comes out, groups of people converge on them from the North and tell them what the carvings they've grown up with on the rocks REALLY say. The locals shrug and gladly do business with the tourists.

I managed to pick up some information on the Mayan calendar at the Pyramid Bookstore in Chichen Itza, and realized the information I found there contrasted greatly with the shrill warnings spouted by the likes of McKenna. The Spanish text explained that yes, the Mayan Calendar is indeed amazing and can specify the exact name of a day, hundreds of zeroes in years away, much greater than 5,000 year cycles. To be clear, the 5,000 year reset of the Mayan Calendar in 2012 is NOT the end of Mayan time by any means, the date is as prophetically significant as any old 12 noon Monday. The Mayan Calendar works with a number of interlocking gears; the variously toothed wheels keep spinning, without a beginning or end. Further, the Spanish texts went on to explain that anyone who was around on any given day saw the sun come up and go down just the same, so whatever the day is named is not THAT important.

Digging into Mayan prophecies, I learned that the Mayans are waiting for October 15, 4072, the date Pacal Votan, a Messianic-like ruler, returns. Pacal Votan's time-and-space-travel-ascension image is carved into the burial sarcophagus at the pyramid at Palenque. I'm not sure how many of you are planning on sticking around for 4072, or if you're a follower of Pacal Votan or not. I figure I'll probably be gone without a trace by then.

From what I have learned, I consider Jose Arguelles, Terrence McKenna, or any of the other contemporary North American writers using 2012 and Mayan numerology in association with dogmatic ultimatums to be false prophets. Don't drink the kool-aid.