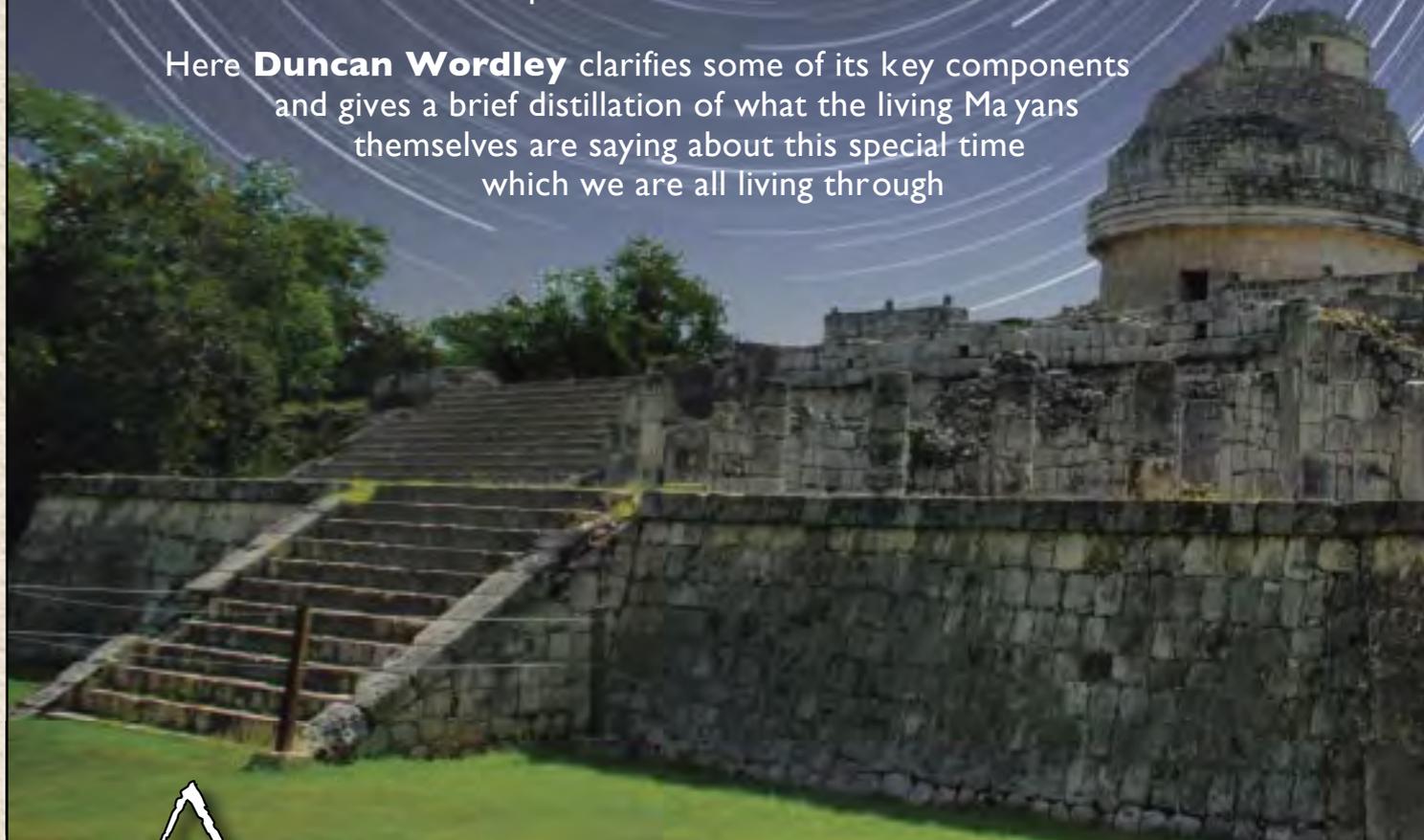


# the Shift of Ages

The Mayan calendar is complex and overlaid with many modern misconceptions which tend to cloud the waters

Here **Duncan Wordley** clarifies some of its key components and gives a brief distillation of what the living Mayans themselves are saying about this special time which we are all living through



A

calendar is a hub, the true centre of any civilisation, because it is the axis point on which everything turns; the pivot point that unifies absolutely everything.

A calendar is one of the main agreements that binds everything in a society together, it structures time, and the way that everything is arranged over the course of a year.

Calendars define how old we are; what the pattern of our schooling, work and social life will be; our income, our debts; when we take our leisure time; and when and what we celebrate during the course of their cycle.

Calendars also effect our ideas of what has happened in the past and what will happen in the future. For instance, in Western culture we have BCE and CE (BC and AD), both of which carry huge cultural meaning. This structuring of time effects our consciousness, our perception and our core beliefs as well as helping to define our personal sense of meaning and purpose.

The word calendar comes from the word *calend*, which were the first days of each month of the Roman calendar. On each *calend* debtors had to pay off any due debts recorded in the *calendaria* - which was a sort of accounts book. A calendar in Western culture is then a device for the tracking of indebtedness.

## THE MAYAN COUNTS OF TIME

Mayan culture was built on a series of at least 20 interwoven and interconnected counts<sup>1</sup>, which were the sacred measures used to create harmony and connection between the people and the cycles of the universe. The sacred counts were based on observations of the natural cycles within nature and the cosmos, combined with the Mayan's astonishing knowledge of mathematics.

The Haab' count of 365 days, (18 Months of 20 days with a 5-day celebration cycle called Vayab) is the most famous Mayan count.

The Mayans also had many other counts, recording complex planetary orbits, cycles, conjunctions of celestial bodies and



El Caracol (The Snail),  
Mayan observatory  
at Chichén Itzá,  
Yucatán, Mexico

cosmic rhythms, at a time when Europeans could barely add up and believed that the sun circled the earth. Even today their achievements still overshadow much of our astronomical and scientific knowledge; the Mayan long count is the most accurate measure of time humans developed before the atomic clock. The length of one earth year measured using modern equipment is 365.2422 days, the ancient Mayans calculated it to 365.2420 days.

The Mayan mathematical system unifies every aspect of their knowledge, from astronomy to architecture; it is a spiritual mathematics built on their understanding of the way the

cosmos is constructed - a mix of philosophy, science and astrology that can be applied to almost everything.

Through this discipline and the Mayans' painstaking observation of all things celestial and terrestrial they gained a deep understanding of the cycles, patterns, interrelationships and rhythms of movement through time and space. Moreover they knew about the coherent interrelationship and interconnectivity of the vibrating web of life that constitutes the body of the universe, and how to entrain their civilisation to harmonise with it.

Many western commentators see Mayan astronomers as the greatest masters of time that have ever existed, but the Mayan

*Mayan culture was built on a series of interwoven and interconnected counts, which were the sacred measures used to create harmony and connection between the people and the cycles of the universe, based on observations of the natural cycles within nature and the cosmos, combined with the Mayan's astonishing knowledge of mathematics*

measurement of time was only a tool to track something far more important to the Mayans - their understanding of Creation and its cycles of evolution and change. The Mayan counts were never about time, they were about measuring and keeping track of this flow of Creation.

Many academics dismiss the sacred counts of 360 days as being primitive, but they fail to understand that these counts were not trying to measure the solar year, but instead were used to measure the cycles of Creation, and that the Mayan were doing this through the use of perceived harmonic numbers - such as 360 - in order to decode the subtle geometries of space and time.

### THE SACRED INTENTIONS

The Tzolkin is the most sacred and pivotal count within the Mayan system, and it was seen by the Mayans as a magical loom on which the 'sacred intentions' and manifestations of Creation wove their magical dance.

To quote from a 2004 presentation given by the late Ian Xel Lungold, a writer on the Mayan calendar: "[According to the Mayan] there are 13 intentions on the part of creation, 13 intentions and 20 different aspects of creation that are represented in this calendar<sup>2</sup>."

These two numbers, 13 and 20, were magical and sacred formulas that molded Mayan civilisation into a mirror of their Cosmos, bringing harmony to every aspect of their culture.



The Maya and the Hopi people agree that the last sign of their prophecies, the appearance of the 'blue star kachina', occurred in October 2007 when Comet Holmes exploded, creating a blue disk that became larger than Jupiter.

Above: the debris field of Comet Holmes after it had exploded

For the Mayan, the number 13 vibrates like an octave. This can be illustrated if you think of a conventional musical keyboard. If you were to play a chromatic scale - using both the white and the black keys - the scale will have 12 notes, before resolving on the 13th note, which will be one octave higher than the note you started the scale on.

The number 20, which is the base of their mathematical system, is an important geometrical building block that influences form, and is their multiplier of Creation. This is reflected in the fact that it is not possible to make a regular Plutonic solid with more than 20 identical faces (*icosahedron*)<sup>3</sup>.

The Tzolkin count measures cycles of 260 days - the length of human pregnancy and the growth cycle of Quiche Mayan corn among other things. But more importantly Maurice Cotterell, a British scientist, has discovered

that the sun's equator rotates in 26 earth days and 10 of these cycles are equal to 260 the tzolkin number therefore making, the Tzolkin a precise way of keeping track of solar activity. Interestingly Cotterell's research suggests that the 2012 date is also the end of a huge cosmic cycle of the sun.

#### END OF THE LONG COUNT

The magical date of the winter solstice in 2012 completes the present Mayan long count, named so because it was the longest individual cycle they tracked.

This count divides time into the following units: one day = a kin. 20 days = a uinal. 18 uinals = 360 days, which was called a tun. 20 tuns = 7,200 days, which was called a katun. 20 katuns = 144,000 days, which was called a baktun.

The final structure of the long count comprised of 13 baktuns, giving a total of 1,872,000 days, or almost precisely 5,125 years. Or if divided by 360 days, exactly

5,200 Tun. If we then multiply this by 5 we get 26,000 Tun which is very similar to the cycle of the procession of the equinoxes<sup>4</sup>.

The present long count started in 3113 BCE and finishes on the 21st December 2012. The Mayans see the ending of this long count as the end of the Fifth Sun and the movement into the Sixth, or the end of the Forth Sun and movement into the Fifth depending on different Mayan traditions.

Sacred counts are precise spiritual and astronomical devises of elegant design which help humans to cohere harmonically with the greater universal cycles of the earth, moon, sun, planets, galaxy and universe as a whole: the sacred measure to which once we were all entrained and attuned.

In comparison, our Western calendar is far removed from being a sacred measure, it instead perverts and distorts the passage of time and turns it into a device of enslavement and control. Through it we live in disharmony with the great cycles of the cosmos, and are instead entrained to the cycles of money and its markets. This forces the commoditisation of life itself, everything having its price, which ultimately means that we sell the disenfranchised corpse of our Grandmother the earth, disrupting and endangering the very cycles of life that support us.

The whole social system under which we live is created and held in place by this use of an artificial measure; this has helped to create the unreality that has totally disconnected us from the earth. We need to realise this, and turn away from it, before we destroy life and it becomes to late.

#### THE MAYANS TODAY

It is amazing how many commentators on 2012 extol the virtues of the ancient Mayan's but completely forget their living relatives, who despite the theft of their lands and being murdered in their millions, still practice the traditions of these revered ancestors.

There are 8 million Maya still left in Central America, consisting of 440 tribes spread across many countries from Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador and into Central America.

Recently they have met for the first time in hundreds of years and elected a council of elders and a



Right: Don Alejandro Cirilo Perez Oxlaj (Wandering Wolf)

leader, Don Alejandro Cirilo Perez Oxlaj - a 13th generation Maya shaman, who calls himself Wandering Wolf, because he wanders the globe howling the message of the Maya to all who will listen.

As he travels throughout the world gathering people in the name of global unity and sharing his visions with other tribal and indigenous leaders Don Alejandro has warned of dangers in the closing dark period of the Fifth Sun in which we currently live.

His message is one of hope and inspiration - telling all the people who will listen that we must unite and change the way we live now.

Don Alejandro has been working with the film maker Steve Copeland, who has traveled with Don Alejandro for six years and knows all the members of the council of elders. Together they are making a film called 'The Shift Of Ages', through which Don Alejandro hopes to bring the message of the living Maya to the world.

Don Alejandro is very clear that the world is not going to end, and a new long count will start when this current one finishes, however he states that it is the end of our current sun and the birth of a new sun, and it is all part of a cycle.

He says that the living Maya are no longer sure exactly when the long count will end, explaining that the men and women of wisdom were the first ones assassinated when the Spanish came to the 'New World' and that Bishop Diego de Landa, during the invasion, gathered all the written counts and commentaries and burned them.

During the following time of turmoil, the exact counting of days was lost, and although the count has since been realigned, periods might have been dropped in the process.

It seems the Maya and the Hopi people of the South West of the USA agree that the last sign of their prophecies, the appearance of the 'blue star kachina', occurred in October 2007 when comet Holmes exploded, creating a blue disk that became larger than Jupiter.

### THE SUN OF FLOWERS

We are now in the region of the end of the long count but this period, according to Don Alejandro could extend to as far as 2015 and beyond.

But Don Alejandro says we will know when this has happened for sure because... "Every 5,200 years there is a new sun. This



a Mayan shaman makes offerings

happens as we cross over the centre of the galaxy. During this time the earth will pass through the central axis of our galaxy which is like a permeable tube.

When we pass into this tube we will be unable to see the light of the sun and this will create 60 - 70 hours of darkness when we will be unable to see. During this time the nature of the sun will be transformed and reborn. As we emerge from this tube we will see the new sun."

According to Mayan tradition this new sun will be the Sixth Sun, which they call the Sun Of Flowers. The Maya say they have lived through two of these changes of sun before and remember them through their cultural memories.

According to Don Alejandro: "Previous to the Yucatan the Maya live in Mai or Atlantis." The Maya legend of Mai shares much in common with the stories that have come down to us of Atlantis from ancient writers such as Plato. After the end of a previous sun, 10,400 years ago, the



Pages from the ancient Mayan Dresden Codex



Maya say that they moved to the Yucatan in Central America where they live now. There is evidence that there was a severe global catastrophe around this time, which submerged lands and changed the face of the planet<sup>6</sup>.

Don Alejandro has shared predictions of other things that the Maya think might happen around the time of the creation of the new sun. "We are the ones of yesterday and the ones of today and we will be the ones of tomorrow... The sun that shines on us does not have much time left. This sun will go. There will be grave change on the face of

the earth, even though we do not want that. Those who live in high building will be stuck. Because the day the sun goes all electrical devices will fail. This is the time when the human ego ends."

#### PASSING THE STAFF OF POWER

The earth will at some point undergo a magnetic pole reversal, it could be imminent. There are already magnetic anomalies occurring, and at present the magnetic field of the earth is the lowest it has been for 2000 years. The Shumen Resonance, which is the vibration coming from the earth, has risen from 7.8 hertz to over 13.5 since the 1980s. Also the North Pole has started moving towards Russia at the rate of 25 feet per year.

If there was a magnetic pole shift it is predicted that electrical devices will not function, and it might be argued that as our consciousness and memory are related to magnetism a reversal in the field could wipe our memory and possibly relocate our consciousness.

Indigenous wisdom suggests that during the end of the previous sun our consciousness moved from the heart to the head - from a sense of oneness to duality - and that through this shift and the trauma of the planetary catastrophe that followed, the ego was born. Perhaps a new sun will take us back to a more feminine form of consciousness based in the oneness of the heart.

One of the members of the International Council of 13 Indigenous Grandmothers, Nicaraguan Mayan

Grandmother Flordemayo, has talked about the final glyph (pictogram) from the Mayan story of creation, found in the Dresden Codex, a pre-Columbian Maya book of the eleventh or twelfth century.

Grandmother Flordemayo says that the glyph shows the reawakening of the Feminine and the transfer of the staff of power to the spirit of the feminine.

Whatever happens, it seems that according to the Maya we are going to undergo rapid and substantial change, as the Mayan Elder Hunbatz Men puts it: "...great manifestations of power will be seen and heard by the whole of mankind. After this, the great power of Great Father Sun will shake the genetics of all manifestations of life and when he starts his journey to the north of the continent, the genetics of every human being that has been incarnated as a child of the sun will be awakened. Just after this, they will start to remember their past solar lives."

The Q'eros, a tribe of Inca who moved to high parts of the Andes to escaped the Spanish invasion and were not rediscovered until the 1950's, prophesie that during 2012 solar flares will activate what our science calls junk DNA, and we shall evolve rapidly.

The Maya are hopeful for this shift too, and say it will bring the return of the ancestors, the men of wisdom and a great flowering of human consciousness. They say that we are returning to where we have come from and that we will again experience a golden age.

But they are giving stern warnings about environmental collapse and the devastation it will bring as we approach the shift. Their message to us is that we must stop now in our destruction of the earth and its life forms.

They say that we stop the environmental contamination before we sign the death warrant to all life on this planet, and that we need forget our differences and come together as one to do this, to be like the fingers of the hand - each different yet united within the hand.

Again to quote from Don Alejandro, speaking in April 2011: "We are seeing a series of events approaching us as never seen before, these events come charged with tremendous sufferings and pain. They will

*When I first heard these prophecies from my medicine teachers, some 25 years ago, I was told that in the coming time we will recover our true history and find that this reality was not what we were taught in school - rather, reality is more akin to what we have learned through myths and legends*



2012 has entered the popular imagination. The dial center of this watch by Swiss makers De Bethune features a glyph of the baktun, a measure of 144,000 days. The price - in case you want one - is around £62,500 (approx \$98,000 us)

happen in different places. They will touch us equally, men and women, old and young, indigenous or non-indigenous.

Our recommendation to avoid more suffering is this: No more nuclear testing, no more wars, no more mining and other explorations, no more use of chemicals. This is the only way the human race, the animals and the ancient trees could survive and see the new sun. If we do not change, few will be the ones to survive and see the arrival of the Sixth Sun."

According to the Maya and other ancient cultures our world is already falling down, and this coming year everyone will see more clearly the true root and cause of the underlying dissonance.

Perhaps the much heralded and approaching apocalypse (Greek: 'lifting of the veil' or 'revelation') will be in the form of the disclosure of the hidden truths kept from the majority of humanity and a huge surge of commonsense in relation to our stewardship of the planet.

When I first heard these prophecies from my medicine teachers, some 25 years ago, I was told that in the coming time we will recover our true history and find that this reality was not what we were taught in school - rather, reality is more akin to what we have learned through myths and legends.

We need to rediscover - if you will forgive the pun - 'her-story' rather than history; find again the true history of the planet; because when we truly know where we have come from, we will know where we are going, and then we can act in alignment with this knowledge and step fully and consciously into the 'Sun Of Flowers. By doing this, we will awake both to ourselves and our obligations within the great stream of 'livingness.'

Duncan Wordley is the director of the 'Circle Of Flowers' a teaching organisation dedicated to self knowledge, organic spirituality and co-creation with the living planet.

[www.medicinewheelshamanism.co.uk](http://www.medicinewheelshamanism.co.uk)  
This article is an edited summary of a much larger article which can be downloaded from Duncan's website.

#### NOTES:

1: See 'The Great Gift of the Calendars' by Aluna Joy Yaxkin <http://bit.ly/zaYtYC>

2: There are many videos about the Mayan calendar presented by Ian Xel

Lungold on youtube:  
<http://bit.ly/wY3dw2>

3: An icosahedron is a shape with 20 identical equilateral triangular faces. It is a regular Platonic solid, i.e. a symmetrical shape made up of identical faces. It is impossible to have a regular Platonic solid with more than 20 faces because an equilateral triangle is the simplest face a shape can have. A cube is a regular Platonic solid made up of 6 sides, each of which are a perfect square.

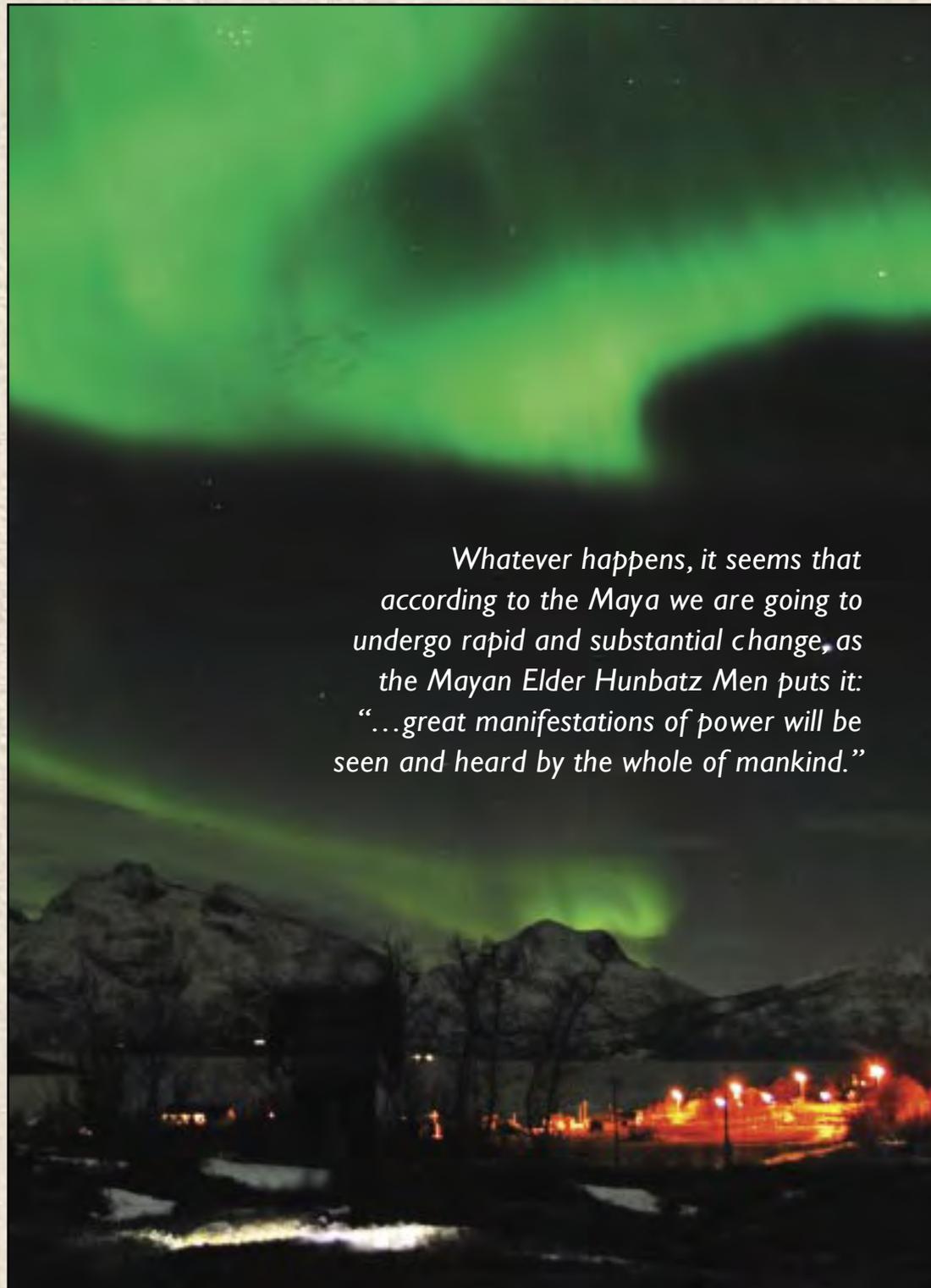
4: The procession of the equinoxes - also known as the axial precession - is a gravity-induced, slow and continuous change in the orientation of the earth's rotational axis. This makes the earth's

rotation on it's poles move like a slowly wobbling top rather than as a rigidly fixed rotation. The axial precession appears to move the stars seen from earth in a gradual oscillation which takes around 26,000 years to come back to the start. This 26,000 year period is called a Great or Platonic Year.

5: The film 'Shift of Ages' [www.shiftofages.com](http://www.shiftofages.com) There are also trailers and excerpts from the film on youtube as well as interviews and films of Don Alejandro.

6: Barbara Handclow 'Catastrophobia' Reprinted edition 2011 shows clear geological evidence a global cataclysm centered on this period.

*Below:*  
**a massive solar storm sparked a dazzling display of the northern lights above Tromsøe, Norway January 25th 2012**



*Whatever happens, it seems that according to the Maya we are going to undergo rapid and substantial change, as the Mayan Elder Hunbatz Men puts it: "...great manifestations of power will be seen and heard by the whole of mankind."*