

2012 in Retrospect

John Major Jenkins. February 1, 2013

I welcome this opportunity to offer a retrospective on 2012. It will be concise and brief. My life and career as a researcher and author has been engaged with studying Maya history, cosmology, and traditions since the mid-1980s. My goal in this article will be to convey what my work on 2012 is about, the landmarks of discovery and publication, and my thoughts on how my work has been received and portrayed by critics, professional Maya scholars, and the cultural zeitgeist of the early 21st century. That's actually a lot to cover in a brief piece, so please excuse the lack of elaboration and exegesis.

In 1986 I visited the cliff dwellings in the Four Corners area, adjacent to where I was living in Colorado at the time. Later that year, after saving some money working a night shift job and planning a lengthy journey, I traveled to Mexico and Central America. Most of this trip was overland and on-a-shoestring. Nevertheless, I visited archaeological sites such as Monte Alban, Palenque, Tikal, Iximche, Chichen Itza, Tulum, and Coba. I also visited Maya villages in the Guatemalan Highlands, and learned first-hand about the genocidal treatment of the Maya. It was a heart-wrenching awakening. My early journalistic articles reported on the Maya struggle, and my many return trips through 1994 involved doing service work such as helping to rebuild a school and delivering relief supplies to Maya communities in resistance.

My early research surveyed many writers on 2012 and the Maya and naturally included Frank Waters, Terence McKenna, Jose Arguelles, Richard Luxton, Barbara Tedlock, and others. I developed my own model for understanding the math and philosophy of the Maya calendar, which I called "The Tree of Life Cosmology." It was elaborated in my first book, self-published in 1989, called *Journey to the Mayan Underworld*. There were many unique elements in this work, including speculations on the relationship between shamanic visions of DNA structure which was later explored with great success by Jeremy Narby. My primary intention was to reconstruct and elucidate lost or poorly understood aspects of ancient Maya cosmology.

That approach, or value, has been a central focus of my work ever since. In fact, my 1992 book *Tzolkin: Visionary Perspectives and Calendar Studies* reconstructed the Maya Venus Calendar in the Dresden Codex, one of the few surviving Maya books, and suggested how it could be recalibrated for modern use. That was actually the first book that I landed a contract for, a very exciting thing for a 28-year-old independent researcher in the Terminal Pre-Internet Era. Yes, in 1992 it was still the gold standard to find a trade publisher for your book, and get a contract. So, Borderland Sciences Research Foundation (in Garberville, California) published my book in 1994. My own release of the book occurred in 1992, and I [re-released it in 2002](#) with a new section added.

A researcher's work will evolve through time. A 25-year writing career will generate many thoughts, ideas, convictions, altered viewpoints, new breakthroughs, and revisions. As I got into some tricky areas of astronomy and deeper into Maya thinking, and my work progressed, I tended to fine-tune my language and terminology. This was in service to clarity, so on certain key topics my earlier writings are not exactly preferable to later ones. That is very common in this kind of work. Nevertheless, there are certain key

interpretations that have remained consistent in my work, despite my entertaining of other possibilities and exploring the fringes of my convictions --- this too is common when applying critical thinking to ones own work. It's actually the hallmark of good science --- asking oneself the hard questions, testing ones findings, and questioning assumptions. I've tried to share this process in my work to reconstruct ancient Maya cosmology, but it is easy for critics to throw up road blocks based on their own misconceptions, lack of understanding, and emotional desire to shoot me down.

The consistent threads with 2012 include my conclusion that the Maya did not intend 2012 to be an apocalypse or doomsday. Nothing spectacular was expected or fated to occur on December 21, 2012. This does not mean that "2012 is a hoax." We can dispense with the false notions about it, and then move on to saying something about what 2012 meant to them. There is evidence for a rare astronomical alignment (not astrological). The Maya integrated this era-2012 alignment, called a "galactic alignment" or a "solstice-galaxy alignment," with spiritual teachings in their Creation Mythology. This is not the same as the astronomical alignment *causing* enlightenment, an accusation which has been leveled at me as recently as last month and by someone who I've done events with and should have known better. Many misinterpretations of my work can only be explained by critics not actually reading my work. This seems to be the case, because to this day no critic has accurately summarized what my work is about, nor have they bothered to cite or discuss the evidence I've brought to bear on my thesis.

My thesis on 2012 unfolded in the mid-1990s. It is, again, offered as a *reconstruction of what the ancient Maya thought about 2012*. I pursued this after asking the question, "where did the Long Count calendar originate?" Many scholars already felt that "the Izapan civilization" was responsible. So, I began studying the site of Izapa. The results over several years were striking. Oddly, no one else had taken this approach to understanding 2012. I found previously unrecognized archaeoastronomical alignments at Izapa and a coherent message on the carved monuments depicting episodes from the Hero Twin Myth (the Maya Creation Myth). I also found evidence for the era-2012 astronomical alignment in the symbolism of the Izapa ballgame and in Maya king-making rites.

I published my ongoing findings in several books: *The Center of Mayan Time* (1995), *Izapa Cosmos* (1996), and *Mayan Cosmogenesis 2012* (1997). Following the complete lack of interest in my thesis by university publishers, the latter book was published in 1998 by a trade publisher (Bear & Company in Santa Fe, NM). My friend Terence McKenna wrote the introduction for it. Oddly, this fact seems overlooked by his bibliographers, as it is not included in the lists of his writings I've seen. And it's not that the book skirted the margins --- it made quite a splash when it came out, is still in print, was the first book to have "2012" in the title, and became possibly the most cited and referenced book on 2012.

Well, this was just the beginning. But all the core elements of my reconstruction, my "2012 alignment theory," were in place. And it is almost completely based on my work at Izapa which, again, none of the critics have ever accurately summarized or evaluated. Again, my critics don't seem to have actually read the clearly presented, [step-by-step arguments and evidence I lay out in *Maya Cosmogenesis 2012*](#). Nevertheless, there was some growing support in areas of scientific arenas. Even before that book was published in 1998, I had the great good fortune to be invited to give a presentation at [The](#)

[Institute of Maya Studies](#), associated with the Miami Museum of Science and Planetarium. This is a venue that many professional Maya scholars have spoken at, so I was excited to have such a platform for my work. Since then I've written many articles for their newsletter, produced and edited by former president of the IMS, Jim Reed. In 1998 I was swept into doing popular radio shows to promote the book --- The Art Bell Show, Jeff Rense, Laura Lee, and so on --- which were also good opportunities to hone my presentation and speaking skills. I began giving workshops and presentations at a wide variety of conferences.

In the summer of 1999 I gave a workshop at the prestigious *Esalen Institute* in Big Sur, California. Then I spoke at a conference in England, flew to Copenhagen for *The Fifth Gate* video interview, and wrapped up 1999 with a series of five Thursday night presentations at Naropa University in Boulder, Colorado. (The Naropa gig was originally conceived as a co-teaching event with Terence McKenna but, sadly, he fell ill in mid-1999.) All of this was like a dream come true, but I was noticing that my reconstruction work wasn't exactly fitting into the niches that the marketplace was carving out for 2012. Most of what was going on in that realm was *not* an attempt to reconstruct what the ancient Maya thought about 2012. Instead the marketplace was generating all kinds of models and systems, and beginning to conflate 2012 with crop circles, solar flares, rogue planets, and UFOs. I have been interested in exposing these unfounded distractions. In fact, in my 1992 book *Tzolkin* I had critiqued and exposed the flaws in [the Arguelles Dreamspell calendar](#), and later continued reviewing 2012 productions such as [Maya Prophecies \(1995\) by Cotterell and Gilbert](#), Will Hart's book, and [Carl Calleman's inventions](#).

Honestly critiquing and exposing factual errors in 2012 books, and critiquing the 2012 phenomenon in general, has been an ongoing concern of mine. I've gotten a lot of flack for that, including hate mail and death threats. That is what happens when you have high standards around truth and not selling b.s. to unsuspecting consumers in the marketplace. Unfortunately, the 2012 topic has generated an ocean of misleading tripe and, sadly, the topic has really never recovered to be seen as a respected and serious topic of rational investigation. It has become, and is treated as, a joke or a hoax. We ended 2012 with the worst clichés still being touted by the media and “experts,” to be swallowed wholesale by the masses.

Well, my career and my life unfolded. Y2K and the Millennium came and went. By 2000 I had appeared in four documentaries: two for *The Discovery Channel*, one produced in Sweden called *The Fifth Gate*, and one called *Earth Under Fire*. My book was translated into Dutch but accounting errors occurred (not in my favor). Events didn't pay much. Articles, interviews, radio and documentary appearances paid nothing. I got married and started working a “real” job in a cubicle. That lasted until I was laid off in 2001, whereupon I completed my next book, called *Galactic Alignment*. It was published by Inner Traditions International in 2002.

That book fine-tuned the definitions and “date ranges” for the galactic alignment astronomy. Following the efforts of shamanic astrologer Daniel Giamario, I cited scientific calculations of the galactic alignment and proposed the 36-year “alignment zones (1980 to 2016 AD). This astronomical alignment is the reason why, according to my work at Izapa, the creators of Long Count fixed the end of the 13-Baktun period to December 21, 2012. What is it? Well, first of all *it is a fact of astronomy*. The galactic

alignment of era-2012 (which I've also called the "solstice-galaxy alignment") is *the alignment of the December solstice sun with the galactic equator in Sagittarius*. That's it. [High school students](#) get it. NASA astronomers don't. [Ed Krupp at Griffith Observatory doesn't](#). Popular science guy [Neil deGrasse Tyson doesn't](#). [Anthony Aveni doesn't](#). [Freidel & Villaseñor don't](#). [David Stuart doesn't](#) get it. [Stanley Guenter doesn't](#). [Mark Van Stone doesn't](#) get it. Astronomer [Louis Strous refuses to look at the evidence](#), and therefore doesn't get it. Astronomer [Stephen Tonkin doesn't get it](#). Math teacher and alias-using stealth stalker [Jim Smith doesn't get it](#). Anthropologist [John Hoopes and astronomer Kristine Larsen don't get it](#). And yet I've had a page up on my website since about 2000 that depicts the process (<http://alignment2012.com/whatisGA.htm>) and I elaborated upon it even more in my book *Galactic Alignment*, citing astronomers Jean Meeus and Patrick Wallace who calculated the galactic alignment! No astrology, no galactic superwaves, no UFOs or cosmic beams, no requirement even that it has *any* kind of empirical efficacy on human beings. Just pure astronomy, with evidence that the ancient Maya knew about it. The fact of an impending galactic alignment, precisely defined scientifically as "the alignment of the Solstice Colure with the Galactic Equator," [was available to any astute reader of the Fifth Edition of Norton's Star Atlas in 1933](#). Yes, in **1933**. It's an idea that, by its very profundity, escapes the notice of pedestrian minds who are afraid of poking their heads out of their status quo careers that put food on their families.

The evidence that the ancient Maya were interested in the galactic alignment of era-2012, and its cousins throughout Maya history, comes from a wide variety of Maya traditions, inscriptions, archaeoastronomy, and iconography. But this comes almost exclusively from my own published work, pursued for years while scholars and scientists didn't give a hoot about approaching 2012 as an artifact of rational investigation. I have documented and discussed the evidence in my books, in presentations at universities, institutes, academic conferences and popular venues, and this is the unprecedented thing that I've tried to offer the 2012 discussion. (By the galactic alignment's "cousins," I mean dates when the sun was aligned with the same Crossroads as it was on *the solstice* in 2012; because of the precession-based shifting of the Tropical Year, these will happen *on different dates* in the Tropical Year throughout Maya history, providing a way to track a consistent interest in such an alignment *over hundreds of years of Maya history*. [See my presentation at the Institute of Maya Studies of January 2011](#).)

I have identified spiritual teachings in the Maya Creation Myth. That there are spiritual ideas in the Creation Myth should not be surprising. They relate to the rituals of sacrifice that are required at period-endings, so that transformation & renewal can occur. No insta-enlightenment here. No fated doomsday. I've identified these teachings as fundamental truths, perennial wisdom that can be found in all of the world's great religious traditions. As such, Maya spiritual teachings are expressions of what is known as the Perennial Philosophy. There is a profound and intellectually deep tradition of thinkers who have elucidated the Perennial Philosophy, including Ananda Coomaraswamy, René Guénon, Seyyed Hossein Nasr, Kathleen Raine, and Joseph Campbell. I have shown that the Maya spiritual teachings related to cycle endings (such as 2012) are completely congruent with the core wisdom of this Perennial Philosophy.

My interpretations of Maya spirituality have been attacked by scientific materialists, fundamentalist Baptists, and academic atheists. For my efforts, I've been

called a “Gnostic” and a “spiritualist” [by undiscerning critics indulging in sophomoric semantics](#) for the purpose of denunciation. It would be hard for them to square their unethical and unscientific accusations with what my work actually is about, as stated in seven books, numerous articles and interviews, *direct conversations with them*, and presentations in academic and popular venues. As a person outside of the academic guild, I can expose the unethical behavior of these scholars without “losing my job.” I’ve done this, in service to clarity and honesty, on [Update2012.com](#) and in my book *The 2012 Story* (2009). My work has documented and shown the deep interrelationships between the Long Count calendar, its 13-Baktun period-ending in 2012, the World Age mythology in the Maya Creation Myth, the archaeoastronomy at Izapa, and an authentic ancient Maya ideology of *transformation & renewal* at calendrical period endings.

Well, all this would be water under the bridge if not for the appearance of a 2012 date in a Classic Maya inscription. This was Tortuguero Monument 6, which gained widespread attention in 2006. It promised a pass-or-fail test for my work. It passed with flying colors. The astronomy in Monument 6 *affirms the galactic alignment astronomy*, as something the ancient Maya were aware of and using in clever ways. I gave [a presentation on this work at the 75th meeting of the Society for American Archaeology](#) in 2010. This triggered [an email exchange with Maya archaeologist Dr. Ed Barnhart](#), who suggested a debate on my paper at *The Maya Exploration Center*, whose board of scholars approved the debate. I invited Maya scholars, especially my critics, to participate and in late-2010 a three-week-long online discussion ensued, which is now [fully transcribed and available for free](#). The bottom line is that several academic critics tried to shoot me down, but totally failed. Other scholars weighed in with well-considered thoughts and their own progressive work, suggesting that an astronomical reading of Tortuguero Monument 6 results in compelling support for my “2012 alignment theory.”

In other areas, I became a founding board member of a non-profit called *The Maya Conservancy*. We organized two trips with traditional Maya Spiritual Guides from Guatemala. On the first one, [in June 2010, we succeeded in doing a ceremony at Izapa](#), ritually “opening it” for the first time in centuries. The second trip, [in June of 2012](#), was part of the *First Izapa Round Table Conference*. During that trip I discovered that my 2012 alignment theory had been embraced and embedded into [a Monument Park just constructed near Izapa](#) and International Development Consultant [Renato Johnsson Núñez had accurately assessed my pioneering work at Izapa](#) in a professional report. During *The First Izapa Round Table* conference [my work at Izapa](#) was summarized and presentation in a concise way. Continuing my direct involvement with the Maya in the 1980s, I have extensively reported and supported the indigenous Maya renaissance underway among Maya leaders including [don Alejandro](#), Rigoberta Menchú, Tat Rigoberto Itzep Chanchavac, [Roberto and Ixquic Poz](#), Gaspar Pedro Gonzalez, and Victor Montejo.

[The 2012 Story](#), my seventh book on Maya cosmology and 2012, was published in October of 2009, just prior to Hollywood’s 2012 doomsday movie. I was invited to do press conferences and walk the red carpet at the movie premiere, and [did my best to speak truth to illusion](#) --- a fool’s errand at best. In March of 2011 I visited Tortuguero Monument 6, took close-up photos, and confirmed several things about the monument that scholars had missed or overlooked reporting; [my report was posted at The Center for](#)

[2012 Studies](#). My next book, [Lord Jaguar's 2012 Inscriptions](#), was published in September 2011. In late 2011 my chapter in Dr. Gelfer's anthology (*2012: Decoding the Countercultural Apocalypse*) appeared. It contained my rebuttal to under-informed critics and a brief treatment of the Tortuguero astronomy that affirms my 2012 alignment theory; [my review of the anthology is here](#).

As Year 2012 dawned, it seemed like the public was fed up with it. The 2012 disaster movie type-cast the whole thing as a joke. I published [several articles](#) in early 2012 that were critical of these distortions, and I continued exploring the cutting edge. In May [I spoke during the full solar eclipse at the Symbiosis Gathering](#) in Pyramid Lake, Nevada. (I had written about this solar eclipse in an article of 1996.) In June 2012, I spoke at the *First Izapa Round Table Conference*, exposed the behavior of an unethical cyber-stalker exploiting Johan Normark's blog site, discovered the "[Izapa-2012 Monument Park](#)" that utilizes my work, and learned of the discovery of yet [another 2012 inscription](#) (from a site called La Corona in Guatemala). I studied it, identified astronomy that pointed to the Crossroads alignment of era-2012, and posted [three essays on this exciting find](#). Scholars ignored the astronomy. In August, [an article I wrote](#) appeared in the premiere issue of *The Heretic Magazine* (ed. Andrew Gough). In October 2012 I wrote [a parody piece](#) for a local Fort Collins arts & literature newspaper called *Matterhorn*. Also in October, I released my final pre-cycle-ending book, [Reconstructing Ancient Maya Astronomy](#).

Throughout 2012 I was doing showings of an amazing documentary called [2012 The Beginning](#), produced by WildHeart Vision Films, that accurately featured my 2012 work. It was quite a breakthrough and affirmation of my 26 years of efforts. I personally attended and introduced showings in Boulder, Connecticut, Sedona, Fort Collins, and premier-showings in Brazil, Honduras, and Canada. Other Indie documentaries that I appreciate include [2012: The End?](#) by Sean Paul, [Awakening Soul to Soul](#) by Guru Rendezvous Films, [2012: Science or Superstition](#) by The Disinformation Company, and [La Palabra Maya \(The Mayan Word\)](#). In December of 2012 I appeared on [Red Ice Creations Radio](#), the "[Electronic Air](#)" program on KGNU in Boulder, and spoke at the 12-12 Conference in Arkansas. As 2012 drew to a close, one final event loomed: *The Great Return Conference*, in Copan, Honduras. It was at the culmination of a 17-day trip to Mexico and Central America. I spoke in an itinerary that included veteran Maya scholar Barbara MacLeod, Copan archaeologist David Sedat, and Maya epigrapher and astronomer Michael Grofe. The trip was filled with surprises, challenges, and discoveries, as documented [in my trip report](#).

So, what about 2012 in 2013, and beyond? The results of my work are quite simple. First, I offer a reconstruction of what the ancient Maya thought about 2012. This isn't "my opinion" or "my viewpoint." The evidence indicates that they thought of 2012 as a time of renewal. However, it's not some kind of automatic predetermined renewal. That's not how it works, as expressed in the Maya Creation Mythology. Does our world need renewal? Yes. Is it going to happen automatically, because a date on the calendar arrives? No. Positive change is best facilitated through the intentional and consciously directed efforts and sacrifices of human beings. I've written extensively about this, but many don't want to hear it. They want Jesus, apocalypse, Planet X, or aliens to determine their futures.

Before 2012, in 2012, this year or next year, we must engage the process of transformation and renewal if we want that to happen. That is a perennial wisdom teaching, found in many world religions, also embraced by the ancient Maya. Meanwhile, more evidence piles in to support the two-part reconstruction work (astronomy and spiritual teachings) that I have documented since the early 1990s. Evidence from Copan, Palenque, Tortuguero, and La Corona can be added to what I found at Izapa. This work will continue, and hopefully the attacks and misconceptions committed by the media and turf-protecting Maya scholars will pass away, so we can understand 2012 for what it was intended to be and the Maya can receive the respect and admiration they deserve. In our post-2012 world the Maya wisdom teachings for 2012 are still relevant, and are still much needed; we have just largely failed to embrace them. But change, I believe, begins in the human heart on a small-scale grassroots level. There are places where transformation and renewal are indeed happening. An instant global awakening and renewal? Not likely, and never was.

I feel, for me, it is time for a break. This work has taken a toll. [The bane of being seen as a “famous” figurehead](#) is real. I am grateful for all the allies of my work, who understood the challenges, and all the many friends I have made through the years. The evidence for what the Maya thought about 2012 is clear and deep, but has not yet been correctly processed or embraced by Maya scholars and others who should be interested. The popular milieu remains unclear on the mish-mash of 2012 assertions and confluences with wacky ideas --- my approach of *reconstructing ancient Maya cosmology* has been sidelined in favor of infotainment. These kinds of breakthroughs elicit a wide spectrum of responses from the cultural zeitgeist, especially since it forces us to reexamine our assumptions about how advanced the ancient Maya were, and abandon inaccurate and racist stereotypes of the ancient Maya as savages. I hope this article can be read as a brief overview of my work, putting it into proper context, and that the links will satisfy those who want more.

That's where it stands in late-January 2013. Despite ongoing breakthroughs, including one that happened on the morning of December 21, 2012 at Copan in Honduras involving Michael Grofe's insights about the eroded inscription on one of the stela, mainstream Maya Studies seems mired in its delusions about the meaninglessness of 2012. My critique could continue. But perhaps this topic needs to rest for a time, so the myopic madness that has grown up around it may abate. I'm pretty sure we will be revisiting this topic over the years, and I'm pretty sure that, finally, the main concern will be to understand what the ancient Maya themselves thought about 2012. That, again, has been my central concern for over 20 years. What I found and have been presenting, year after year through an increasing irrational superstorm of media frenzy, doomsday noise, and academic myopia, is my reconstruction of a two-part paradigm involving the rare galactic alignment *astronomy* and an *ideology* of transformation & renewal. These two aspects are not directly related in the way that many might presume in a low-resolution perception (e.g., that the alignment *causes* enlightenment, or some such distortion), so I direct interested readers to my books and websites for deeper discussion. A deeper, more informed and unbiased discussion is what I've been inviting and trying to facilitate.

Where Are We Now?

Here's my no-nonsense assessment and prognosis of the state of the world in early 2013. It's actually how this rant got started, so although it might seem a departure from the above, I feel I should offer it nonetheless. This is not intended to be negative or pessimistic, but is just a realistic and sober view. I mean, let's get real. Here we go:

The faculties of human beings are being blunted and diminished by various environmental poisons. These include, especially, deluding advertisements and political propaganda. It also includes the damaging psychological effects of the Internet, offering images and concepts that drain our self-determination, autonomy, dignity, intelligence, and humanity. What follows is a manifesto that briefly elaborates how deeply entrenched and influential these areas are in our lives.

Advertising and Economics: You are a youthful, happy, consumer. The world is your oyster. Have fun buying things that are destroying the planet and, without you even knowing it, destroying you. Wait for the next digital toy or game to be released, then you will be happy. Do not look within; do not examine your behavior and what it supports. Eat the poison candy and die slowly by degrees. Don't forget to purchase mandatory healthcare insurance.

Political Propaganda: You are embedded in a dualist either-or, do-or-die, world. You must join one or the other. Both will kill you, because they are both two heads of the same monster. The forces of limitation and control (the "monster") set up this lower-dimensional delusion, and will prevent you from seeing the non-dual unified reality that underlies this impossible, no-win Catch-22. Corrupt politicians are the administrators of this impossible paradox, which is not only a mind-fuck for the populace, but a soul-fuck. It destroys human dignity and renders the populace impotent and unfulfilled.

The Internet Cult: Here is the parent culture's supposed solution to the soul-fuck it has enacted on the populace. You can feel freedom and belonging by become a slave to the Internet, the emerging "Cloud" of heavenly rapture, with its cell phones, iPads, friend networks, Youtubes, and websites. This Internet Cult is actually a pseudo-religious Information Age addiction through which is channeled irrational consciousness-corroding stupidity, vacuous distracting entertainment, and total lies about people, places, and events. This is protected by the mantra of relativistic value, in which truth is relative, that people have the right to believe anything and anything goes (and that is "freedom"). Eternal principles and non-material essences are discarded as a false dream, because "everything is relative." The loudest and most tantalizing and entertaining broadcaster wins; truth and accuracy have no place. The Internet Cult results in, and relies on, a dumbing down of the populace, even while the consuming populace believes they are being informed, feel they are free to choose, and feel they belong to something larger than themselves. Meanwhile, the architects of the Internet-Google-Facebook-Social-Network-Friend-Making Metroplex invade your privacy, implant thoughts and created wants, define your reality, and pick your pocket. So, the Internet Cult is actually a wolf-in-sheep's clothing, a false solution intended to reinforce the collective soul-fuck.

Profane Science and its Academics: Where can you turn for a sane and rational understanding of what is going on? What about the educated academics and scientists — surely they understand reality. You are supposed to believe, not question, and worship these supposed “smart ones”, who in actual fact serve their egos and the corrupt parent culture, protecting its agendas and fixed status-quo perspectives without reference to morality or ethics. They are baby sitters while administering Guaranteed Student Debt to suck the hope and wealth out of the young, offering enslavement in return. A corrupt and profane science with its academic minions is incessantly irrational, is not interested in progress, is motivating by self-serving emotions and will seek to destroy its perceived ideological opponents. One arm of it is allied to big business and includes media experts, advertising weasels, and multi-national business economists and CEOs. It designed the soul-enslaving Internet Cult.

Religion: Here you can join a broken system that is designed to *not do what it is suppose to do*. Faith is not knowledge, and exoteric modern religions are in power-competitions with corrupt governments. As a system designed to control humanity, its agenda is similar to the parent culture. Real religion, which would provide a direct initiatory experience of Truth, is branded a heresy of pagan mystery cults. Its modern shamans and practitioners are demonized and the sacraments are made illegal, its conclaves judged and forbidden by the official religions.

These are the multifarious problems of the corrupt modern world, a world whose values and selfish motivations are leading to global decay, species extinctions, the degradation of humanity, and hopelessness.

Solution: Transformation and Renewal. Healing. Eradicate environmental poisons, including: media poisons, unnecessary pharmaceuticals as quick-pill solutions to depression and other mental problems (see the book *The Watchman’s Rattle* by Rebecca Costa), divest of bad food additives, fake food, and instead nurture local community farms, value knowledge not power, and practice human values such as compassion and kindness. This is just a thumbnail sketch of what might be done, an invitation into a perhaps challenging but more detailed and fulfilling discussion.



John Major Jenkins is a pioneering voice in the evolving 2012 discussion with over twenty years of experience defining and debating the issues. Informed by innovative field work at key archaeological sites and inspired by living and working among the Highland Maya, Jenkins' comprehensive work covers media misconceptions, assessments of 2012 theories, consciousness studies, Maya shamanism, archaeoastronomical research, Perennial Philosophy, academic misconceptions, and the crisis of sustainability faced in the modern world. His own unprecedented "galactic alignment theory" is now receiving new support from recent discoveries in the Maya inscriptions. While integrating the scientific and spiritual viewpoints, Jenkins honors contemporary Maya calendar tradition and the ancient Maya vision of a unified cosmos.

- Advisory director and founding member of *The Maya Conservancy*, a non-profit foundation dedicated to education and preservation of ancient Maya sites
- National Fellow member of *The Explorer's Club*
- Director of *The Center for 2012 Studies*
- Manager of *Update2012.com* and *Alignment2012.com*
- Member of *The Society for American Archaeology* and *The Institute of Maya Studies*

His work has been featured since 1998 in media produced by *ABC Nightline*, the *U.S. News and World Report*, the *New York Times*, National Geographic, Discovery Channel, The History Channel, and NBC's Syfy Channel. He has taught at numerous institutes and universities nationally and abroad, including the Universidad Francisco Marroquin in Antigua Guatemala, the Esalen Institute, Kingsley Hall in London, the Society of Henry XIII in Belgium, the University of Southern Oregon, the New England Antiquities Research Association, the Institute of Maya Studies in Miami, the Society for American Archaeology, and Naropa University. He is also a regular at popular venues such as the Conscious Life Expo, Megalithomania, and the Mind Body Spirit Expo.

Since the 1980s John's articles have appeared in many magazines, newspapers, websites, journals, and book anthologies, including: *The Mystery of 2012* (2007, Sounds True), *You Are Still Being Lied To* (2009, The Disinformation Company), *Towards 2012* (2008, Penguin). His major works include *Maya Cosmogogenesis 2012* (1998), *Galactic Alignment* (2002), *Unlocking the Secrets of 2012*, (3-CD audio program 2007), *The 2012 Story* (2009), *Lord Jaguar's 2012 Inscriptions* (2011), and *Reconstructing Ancient Maya Astronomy* (2012). His books have been translated into twelve languages. His work appeared in a feature profile in *The New York Times Sunday Magazine*, July 2007.

<http://Alignment2012.com> <http://update2012.com>
<http://thecenterfor2012studies.com> <http://www.the2012story.com>

John Major Jenkins. February 1, 2013

Note: An edited version of this piece appeared on [The 21st Century Blues blogsite by Greg Schwartz](#), on February 7, 2013, who wrote an introduction as well as an informative afterword, which I post below:

Intro (by G.M.S.):

This reporter has been following the Mayan calendar research of John Major Jenkins since the 1998 publication of his landmark book, [Maya Cosmogenesis 2012](#) (1998). It's with great pride and pleasure that 21st Century Blues hereby publishes his new retrospective editorial on the path of his research and what it all means at this juncture here in 2013. See my comments at the end...

—Greg M. Schwartz

Afterword (by G.M.S.):

Well okay, first I'd like to thank John for not only taking the time to write this article but also for offering yours truly the opportunity to publish it first here at my blog. We had corresponded by email a handful of times over the years since I'm a long time fan of his work, so it's something of an honor to present this article here at 21st Century Blues. John has dealt with his own share of the blues over the past 13 years, particularly in regard to defending his work against what seems like an inordinate amount of detractors (as he notes in the article.)

I got a taste of that myself when one of those detractors contacted me last month with some very critical venom for John and his research after I had cited John as a major influence on my own interest in 2012 (in my debut post here on the blog, ["What happened to our paradigm shift?"](#)). This critic [[J. Smith](#)] had such a venomous and vindictive tone in his assertions that John was a "snake oil salesman" that it led me to question him on his motives and why he had such particular contempt for John, as opposed to all the real snake oil salesmen and corrupt deceivers in this crazy mixed up world? The man dodged my query several times before one last message in which he insisted I not contact him again. That was fine by me, as his odd obsession led me to speculate whether he was just a kook or possibly something more sinister. I certainly wouldn't put it past the New World Order power brokers to employ disinformation agents tasked with shooting down any research that could possibly give the good people of humanity some hope that a transformative era of positive change could indeed be afoot (I ran into a couple of these types in cyberspace during my UFOlogy research in 1997 when I was working on my X-Files spec script).

What many of these critics have long missed in my eyes is how there are two sides to research about the Mayan calendar. There's the hard line scientific research into the archeoastronomy of the Maya, and then there's the metaphysical side of the equation that explores the spiritual aspects of the Mayan cosmology. Most of the hardcore science types overlook the metaphysical side altogether, and in doing so I feel they are missing an important part of the equation. We live in a multi-dimensional reality and those who seek to paint everything as either black or white and jam it into a 3D box are missing some important shades of gray. On the flip side, some of the more metaphysically inclined 2012 researchers have indeed fallen short on the scientific aspects.

What attracted me to John's research from the beginning was how it was heavily based on the hard science research side, yet not only acknowledged the metaphysical aspect of Mayan cosmology but sought to explore it through the archeoastronomy research. I'm fond of his conclusion that the Mayan calendar has been pointing to a time of renewal, because this planet is in desperate need of such renewal before the greedy industrialists and their bankster henchmen ruin the environment, crash the global economy and drive Earthship Titanic head on into the looming iceberg. I will therefore continue to report on any potential indicators for such renewal...

—Greg M. Schwartz