

Prophecies And Socio Cultural Perspective by Sucheta Rawal

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IS THE WORLD GOING to end in 2012, like the Mayans calendar suggests, or is this heightened curiosity another Sci-fi theme for Hollywood to capitalize on?

Doomsday prophecies, a recurrent theme throughout history, remain a controversial topic. Modern astronomers have confirmed it is a scientific fact that a galactic alignment shall occur on December 21, 2012 but gave us no indication that it would lead to a global catastrophe. The Mayans calendar simply ended on this date but the Mayans never said that this would be the date when the world would come to an end. Yes, the polar caps are melting and the earth temperature is rising but the next ice age is definitely not two years out.

The Egyptians, Nostradamus, as well as world religions, have predicted disastrous calamities. However, just as the wonderful teachings of religions, spiritual leaders and prophets are sometimes lost in translation, I believe that is what is happening here as well. Based on my understanding, research and belief, the next few years mark "the end of the world as we know it" rather than an outright destruction of the planet itself.

The evolution of Earth as a planet and the life on it has been an ongoing phenomenon. We have been through the ice age, Stone Age, the dark period, agricultural revolution, industrialization, modernism, and so on. Whenever there were periods of extremity, a new equilibrium was always found. Eckhart Tolle, in his book "A New Earth" talks about the collective awakening of humankind that is taking place. He quotes the teaching of Buddhism and Christianity, which still apply to us after thousands of years.

We have reached a point in our society where things are out of balance. There is too much warfare, terrorism, greed, discrimination, hatred, selfishness, egoism, and excessive consumption. Humans have moved away from nature to live in metropolitan areas. We build large homes with little surrounding greenery. We are being wasteful. We transport fresh produce across continents and eat preserved food. We have secluded ourselves from society and become quite comfortable living alone yet seek for constant contact with others through various technologies. We are driven by other's perceptions of us rather than being genuine to ourselves, strive to achieve success through materialistic things, and horde for powers. We are becoming so absorbed with our physical forms and our egos that we forget that it is our souls that drive our living force. Recognizing our harmful life behaviors present us with the opportunity to shift back to equilibrium through spiritual awakening.

The spiritual transition is already starting to take place, not only within individuals, but also in countries, economies, climates, societies, and corporations. In the next issue, we will explore what changes are occurring in each of these areas and what this new world would look like.



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