

¿Maya Apocalypse in 2012?: a critical view from the Mesoamerican astronomy and culture

In recent months the idea has spread which, according to some Maya prophecies, will happen in December 2012 a global cataclysm with serious consequences for humanity. This talk presents the views of science on such a claim. It explains the Maya system of time reckoning and why 2012 may be designated as a special year. Shown are the archaeological remains that led to that interpretation. It discusses the impossibility of an accurate astronomical prediction on a planetary cataclysm. From the mural painting recently discovered in the city of Mayapan, there is the possibility that pre-Columbian Mayas were able to record the transit of Venus across the solar disk. On June 5, 2012 will occur the next event of this type so it is proposed that the Maya priest-astronomers may have set their own calendrical system so that on the day of this transit an important calendrical cycle would be completed.