

Book Review by Bruce Scofield

Calleman, Carl Johan. *The Mayan Calendar and the Transformation of Consciousness*. Rochester, VT: Bear and Co. 2004.

This book presents a theory that the Mayan Calendar (Long Count) is a multi-dimensional map that tracks the evolution of consciousness. To some extent it is unique, but it can also be seen as an extension of ideas found in Arguelles' book *The Mayan Factor*. Calleman's understanding of Maya civilization is not solidly based on archaeology or myth – it mostly derives from his creative assemblage of numeric, historical and mythological “clues,” so his theory is more imaginary than based of fact. Further, he believes that Maya calendrics are universal and they therefore apply to historical changes globally. His perspective is really teleological and religious in nature so there is not much of an effort to actually “prove” anything. Readers are only asked to see if his ideas feel intuitively right.

I will here make an attempt to summarize some of what readers may encounter in this work. One of Calleman's main points is the notion that a cosmic time plan actually exists and only the Mayan Calendar maps out its invisible reality. God's intelligent design controls the evolution of consciousness by invisible mechanisms including shifts generated by the Mayan Universal World Tree – Hubnab Ku. The information that is shaping consciousness is apparently disseminated through holographic resonance, which he calls fractal expansion. History is then a wave-like process created by seven pulses of light alternating with six pulses of darkness, a total of 13 waves – a Mayan Neoplatonism. Calleman believes that the Mesoamerican view of cosmic evolution and its numerology has much greater explanatory power than current Western views. The number 12, a fixture in Western symbolism, leads us to deny the web of creation, the number 13 leads us toward it.

This is not an astrology friendly book. For one, Calleman does not see the Mayan calendar as a kind of astrology – he sees it as something entirely different and far superior. He says that common astrology can't explain the current acceleration of time, and astronomical cycles and Western astrology have nothing to do with a divine plan or with the evolution of consciousness. Calleman can say these things with impunity because, like all critics of astrology, he is ignorant of the subject.

Ultimately, this is a book with a message – get ready for a shift to Universal consciousness. The Mayan calendar as interpreted by Calleman is our guide to alignment with the flow of cosmic energies that help people evolve. But it is the evolution of consciousness that is actually the subject matter of the book, and consciousness itself, not described precisely, is seen as evolving in a linear upward direction over long periods of time from primal to cosmic levels – a scheme not unlike that proposed by Timothy Leary in his book *Exo-psychology*. Evolution is apparently circular as there was once a golden age that was a lot better than today's world, and in the near future, as the Mayan calendar winds down, humanity will experience a return to just such an enchanted cosmos. But its all much bigger than that – the cosmic destination is not just for humanity, this return to golden times will apparently occur more or less simultaneously throughout the galaxy.

Finally, we learn that the end date for the Mayan calendar (Long Count) noted in the Maya inscriptions is apparently wrong. Calleman tells us the correct date for completion is 10.28.2011, 13-Ahau. After this time, the calendar will no longer be needed – it is only a staircase. Presumably, we won't need the book after this time as well.