

Bruce Scofield  
Maya Prophecy

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Coast to Coast a.m.

George Noory : Bruce Scofield is the author of a number of books and hundreds of articles on astrology. He's maintained a private practice as an astrological consultant. Bruce holds a B.A. and Masters degree, and is currently teaching cosmic and environmental evolution at the University of Massachusetts, as well as astrology, mythology, and psychology at Kepler College. Bruce helps maintain a website with information on Maya and Aztec astrology. He has written a book with Barry Orr called How to Practice Mayan Astrology. Bruce, welcome to the program. Tell me, how did you get interested in Mayan astrology?

Bruce Scofield : I got interested in the early 1970s. I was taking a course at Rutgers at the time called "The Nature of Non-Western Civilizations". We had to read a book called Daily Life of the Aztecs by Jacques Soustelle, which is apparently a very popular book in Mexico. High school students read it there.

It has a huge chapter about Aztec astrology and the role it played in the lives of the people. I had no idea such a thing existed. I had, like everyone else, seen the Aztec Sun Stone, but I didn't realize that it was connected with their astrological system.

That got me interested in the subject, and within a year or two the archeo-astronomy explosion occurred when we started getting all these publications - "Echoes of the Ancient Skies" and "Archeo-Astronomy of the Americas". They were all academic, basically, and a reaction to von Däniken.

G.N. : Chariots of the Gods?

B.S. : Chariots of the Gods? and all the other books like it - Space Visitors and whatnot. That didn't go over too well in academia. Before that Hawkins with Stonehenge Decoded was about it for archaeoastronomy. There was a publication exposition on Native American archeo-astronomy, so I started picking up the books and by the end of the '70s I was hooked. I started going to Mexico and learning more and more about it.

G.N. : Give us a little history lesson of the Maya.

B.S. : The Maya are a group that emerged in the southern Mexican jungles, in the area of Chiapas and Guatemala, somewhere about two thousand or so years ago. There's kind of a vague merging point between the Olmec and the Mayans. Some people say that the Olmec really were the proto-Mayans and so on. But they had a long run as a civilization.

There was a Classic period where a lot of the bigger pyramids and ceremonial centers were built in places like Tikal and Palenque, and then there was a decline, and then a kind of a post-Classic period where sites like Uxmal and Chichen Itza were established, which a lot of people that travel to the Yucatan would know something about.

G.N. : I went to Cancun several years ago and I looked at some of the ruins out there, and also some huts made out of block and brick and stone. They were very, very small and I was always puzzled by the entrance way which was no more than three and a half feet tall.

B.S. : You're probably talking about Tulum.

G.N. : Yes!

B.S. : That's where everybody goes when they're in Cancun.

G.N. : Were the Mayans little people like that, or did they just bend down and go into these places?

B.S. : They aren't really big. I'm five-nine, and I remember the first time going to Merida in Yucatan and towering over these people. It's the first time I had that experience. So, yeah, they may have even been smaller then, but it's hard to say. A lot of things may have had to do with the architecture itself and what they were trying to achieve - maybe making it more difficult to get into a temple for some reason.

G.N. : They were brilliant when it had to do with astrology.

B.S. : Well, it's astronomy-astrology among the Mayan, and in the ancient Western world as well, and the Chinese. There really wasn't that much of a distinction between the two. They functioned together.

So, the Maya were expert observers and built temples oriented toward certain alignments that would happen, sometimes every eight years, or even longer than that. And they worked with big numbers. They didn't use fractions, so they would have to use big numbers and match them up. As a result they were able to resolve the length of the year to a few decimal places. It was a lot more accurate than what we had in the West until about two or three hundred years ago.

G.N. : How did they get that knowledge? Were they helped? Was there an advanced civilization that gave them information? ETs? Or did they do it all on their own?

B.S. : I think they did it all on their own. I don't think it's that hard. If you have a stable society, which is what they had, like the Egyptians or the Mesopotamians, you have social structures in place that will allow for a lot of continuity. You can figure this out. It has to be passed down a few generations, but it can be done, and you can align things, if you know where to stand and watch carefully. And they had a writing system and a way

of keeping records. So I don't think that there's anything absolutely fantastic, but still, it's an amazing achievement.

G.N. : Absolutely. The astrology that they used coupled with a lot of mathematics - heavy mathematics - how accurate do you think they were?

B.S. : They were certainly accurate in terms of astronomy. They were able to predict eclipses. They were able to predict Venus appearances - morning star, evening star - in particular they were interested in the first appearance of the morning star - the heliacal rising. They were able to know those pretty well. They would make tables and they would realize when they would be off, and they had corrections that would be implemented to bring the tables back into alignment with what was really going on out there.

G.N. : I'm convinced that there are descendants of the Maya in Cozumel and [maybe other places]. Are they out there? What happened to them?

B.S. : Maya are still around. Maya people didn't go anywhere. Guatemala is mostly Maya, and so are large parts of Mexico. The indigenous Maya in Guatemala are pretty much in touch with their tradition. Some of them have been converted to Western religion - there are a lot of conversion efforts being made down there. But there's a very strong indigenous movement, and a lot of them don't even speak Spanish. I was in Guatemala, in Antigua, one time and I met with a Mayan elder named Don Rigoberto, and he barely spoke Spanish. And I barely speak Spanish, so it was quite a conversation. We got through it.

G.N. : Did they disperse? What happened to the knowledge? Is it out? Was it handed down from generation to generation? Was there a gap?

B.S. : I think it was handed down. A lot of it's in the inscriptions. The Maya code, so to speak, was cracked a few years back and a lot of information has come out of these inscriptions. But there are also these books, codices, painted on bark, they are folding books. There were a lot of those and they were passed on.

The Spanish came and the friars would burn all the books - they were considered the works of the devil - and we have now four Maya manuscripts left out of probably thousands and thousands. There were huge book burnings that took place. There are a few more Aztec manuscripts, codices, maybe a dozen or so, but there is very little left. But they did have a lot of books. They had libraries, and that's how they kept things in order.

G.N. : Your book, Mayan Astrology, deals a lot with the "lost" system. What does that mean?

B.S. : One of the things I got interested in, in regard to Maya archeo-astronomy, was the fact that the astronomy seemed to be supporting an astrological system, and that that was

pretty much side-stepped by the academic researchers - not that there is anything wrong with that. I mean, they know what they're interested in and went for it.

The astrology is a little bit more complicated because there is a set of symbols, and it's a little more subtle. And when the academic people do go into that area, they call it ethno-astronomy. There are academic people that do that. They go into Maya towns and talk to people that are called Day-Keepers that maintain an oral tradition that has to do with a portion of this astrology.

But to answer your question more specifically, what I became aware of as I looked through the literature was that there actually was a fairly complex system of astrology that had been lost. And part of it does survive in the oral tradition, but the inscriptions and the remaining books suggest that there was a lot more to it.

So that's one of the things that I've been interested in since the 1980s, is trying to reconstruct what that might have been like, but also to take it and develop it further in the direction I think that it was going. So that's been my task, and the book that Barry and I put together was an attempt to bring some of the ideas that I've been developing, and he's been developing as well, into a popular format to get it out there so that people could start working with it.

G.N. : What does it tell us about us? What does it tell us about the future?

B.S. : I think [it tells us about] both, but the way it's set up in the book, it's pretty simple. We're concentrating basically on personality, so you want to see it like you would other kinds of astrology, as a method of acquiring self-knowledge, a way of accessing information about yourself in a kind of objective way.

I think basically human beings are all very, very much alike. But there are differences - subtle differences - and there's this variation that takes place. I don't know to what extent that it's genetic, but there's definitely some kind of variation. It's been my thinking that the zodiac signs of the West are really a kind of set of personality variations that are set in place by the changing day-night ratio during the year - in other words, photo-period.

G.N. : You devoted a chapter on the planet Venus. That was very important to them. Why?

B.S. : Well, one of the first things that you notice if you happen to be a sky-watcher - suppose you're in a group and you get selected to be the sky-watcher, Sun-watcher, Moon-watcher, whatever, you go out and watch the sky every night and you start noticing things. And what you will notice is Venus. It's the third brightest object in the sky after the Sun and Moon.

You'll notice some very interesting things about it. First it's a morning star, then it's an evening star. But it'll go through a complete cycle of morning and evening star and after you go through five of those, you've gone exactly eight solar years. So if you start on

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2000, on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 the Sun and Venus will be back to where they were. As a result, the Venus cycle - it's 584 days for a Venus synodic cycle and you multiply that times 5, it will equal 8 times 365.

So what they did was designate the stages of the cycle in symbolic terms. Then they used these numbers to create larger time counts, and larger calendrical constructions and so on. So Venus was probably the entry point into a view of astronomy that has a lot to do with resonance. Like five Venuses equals eight Suns. This is like a 5 to 8, the number 13 comes up, a 5 to 8 ratio, and they're both Fibonacci numbers.

[Note from transcriber: Fibonacci realized a mathematic sequence that perfected the Golden Mean. The sequence is found in nature in spirals by starting with 1 and adding the next number, then adding the sum to the next number and so on.  $1+1=2$ .  $2+1=3$ .  $3+2=5$ .  $5+3=8$ . So the Fibonacci sequence begins with the numbers 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, et cetera.]

There's a lot of interest in that. People have written about it from a numerological standpoint. It is very interesting, but it's embedded in the astronomy. And you know, the earliest astronomical data from the Middle East - from Iraq, basically Mesopotamia - is the same thing. It's Venus. The Amizaduga Tablets, they go back to about 1700 BC.

G.N. : Were they trying to tell us anything in their work?

B.S. : I don't know that they were trying to tell us anything. I think they were like people anywhere. They were trying to figure out what the heck is going on.

G.N. : As we still are.

B.S. : Yeah. And I think that astrology is an attempt to make meaning out of our existence and to relate ourselves to things that are much greater than us, like planetary cycles.

G.N. : After looking at Mel Gibson's "Apocalypto", one would deduce that it was a very violent society, yet they were so gifted in other ways.

B.S. : Yeah. It was a shame that he spent so much time on the violent side. I think that he could have made a better movie. I was disappointed. It was a great chase scene, but he could have shown another side. But I think what he was trying to show was the Maya - well, he was kind of tossing together Maya and Aztec things all at once - the decline, the decadence of a society and the imminent invasion of conquistadors at the very end.

G.N. : One could do that about just about any civilization today.

B.S. : Yeah. Things are pretty shaky in some places.

G.N. : Give me your website, and where can you get Mayan Astrology?

B.S. : The website is one reed dot com - [www.onereed.com](http://www.onereed.com) - one reed is a code word for the god Quetzlquatl – the Maya called it Kukulkan. We have a lot of things on it, including free Maya Astrology software that you can try out.

G.N. : Is the book available at Amazon?

B.S. : Yes.

G.N. : Bruce, I can't believe how close we are getting to 2012. What's gonna happen?

B.S. : Well, everybody wants to know. People like to have a deadline. This is just another version of Y2K, except that it has a little more of a pedigree. There's not really an alignment, per se, that takes place then. I've looked at the astronomy of it in great detail.

To me, it's like a midpoint. An alignment would be if the equinoxes were passing over the Galactic Equator, but this is just the midpoint between the equinoxes. So it is an alignment of sorts, but there's not a lot there. I do think that it has tremendous symbolic value for the Maya.

The Long Count (which is really what the "Mayan Calendar" is - there are plenty of Mayan calendars - but the one that people are talking about that presumably ends in 2012 is generally called the Long Count in the academic community) and it's about 5125 years in length, and it has this origin point in 3114 BC.

What it appears the Maya did was anchor the end point for the time when the Winter Solstice was passing through the middle of the Milky Way where there's this dark band that the Maya believed was the road to Xibalba, the road to the Underworld, the vaginal opening where humans emerged from.

A lot of these ideas were developed by John Major Jenkins who is a friend of mine [George: He's been on the show.] and Linda Schele wrote some books that brought out these kinds of themes, Maya Cosmos, in particular. And I think that there's probably a lot of truth to it. But it's not universally acknowledged that this is what the Maya did. There's no piece of writing that says, yep, they anchored the Winter Solstice point to be in the middle of the galaxy in 2012 to be right near the edge of this dark band, this entry way, this portal.

But it seems very likely to me. I've been willing to make that leap and say, okay, this is logical. Five thousand one hundred twenty five years makes perfect sense. It's one fifth of a precession cycle – precession of the equinoxes being just under twenty six thousand years – and if you divide that by five and you get this figure. Why five? The question you asked me earlier - five cycles of Venus correspond to eight Solar years.

G.N. : Mathematics again.

B.S. : Yeah. Now, there's another thing about Venus, where it makes its conjunctions with the Sun in the sky form a five-pointed star. It's not arbitrary. So the number five is a very powerful number astronomically, and the Maya used it.

I'd be inclined to believe, although there's no hard facts, but it seems reasonable to assume that they had measured precession over time, generation after generation they saw that there was some shifting taking place. They figured out how fast it was going, they divided it by five, and they created these ages. And the five ages are shown in the middle of the Aztec Sun Stone, and they come up in Mayan myths in various ways.

G.N. : The calendar, we're told, ends at 2012.

B.S. : The Long Count.

G.N. : In your book, Mayan Astrology, for example, it goes beyond that.

B.S. : Yeah. To me, it's just like an odometer turning over in a car, and I think that's probably the way they saw it as well, although the mythological traditions in ancient Mexico had ages ending with some sort of crisis. The previous age for the Aztecs was ruled by water, and there was a flood. Now we're in the age of earthquake, and the idea would be that at the end of the age there would be earthquakes. So the transition takes place and you go on to another age or another creation of some sort.

Now, there apparently are a few Maya inscriptions that contain numbers that do go beyond 2012, but I don't know a lot about them. I just have read references to them. For the most part, the inscriptions in the Maya city-state ceremonial centers will just have a listing of the number of days that have passed since the beginning of the Long Count. And since you know what that is, you know how long the period is, that's how you wind up finding out that it's 12-21-2012.

G.N. : Isn't it interesting how we have an absence of sun spots - one in about 50 days - not a lot.

B.S. : Well, we're in a sun spot low right now.

G.N. : Yeah. But 2012, what's gonna happen? Will it pick back up?

B.S. : One forecast (from the Max Planck Institute was written up in Larry Joseph's book, Apocalypse 2012) is that there was gonna be a larger than usual sun spot count around 2012. Now the most number of spots we've had in a short period of time was in 1958-59, and since then the sun spot cycle has been a bit lower. This one's supposed to be thirty percent bigger than the previous, but I still don't think it'll reach as high as it was in '59 or so.

Now, the driving force behind sun spots, this is still debated, has a lot to do with

planetary alignments around the Sun. And believe me, we're gonna have no shortage of planetary alignments in 2010, so I would figure that following these we'll see a quick rise in sun spots numbers - very quick.

G.N. : Let's take some phone calls while we chat.

Caller Linda : [Discusses correspondences of 11-11, the numerology of it, and how it may relate to the end of the Maya Long Count calendar.]

B.S. : I think that numerology will vary depending on what civilization you live in. We live in the Western world and we have a ten-base system, and we build up associations with certain numbers and they may acquire a certain amount of power in our heads, and they may acquire a certain amount of power collectively. Certainly Y2K drew people together. Other numbers pop up from time to time.

But it would be different if you were living in Maya society. [The number] 13 would be more important. When a certain combination of calendars came together there was a convergence just like you described, Linda, with November 11<sup>th</sup> 2011, when that sort of thing came up there was an anxiety, an interest in it, there was a focal point that drew people's attention. Whether it actually has any power in itself, or it's just some kind of way that the numbers tend to focus the collective mind, I'm not so sure, but I think it's the latter, and that we actually generate changes by being collectively drawn to certain kinds of focal points. In this case, numbers.

G.N. : It's possible that on December 21<sup>st</sup> 2012, that day will come and nothing will happen.

B.S. : Yeah, Thursday will move into Friday.

G.N. : And it just keeps going.

Caller George : With the Mayan calendar, do they say anything about Planet X that is supposed to be out there?

B.S. : Not that I know of. There have been some speculations in regards to some of the Maya numbers and calendrical counts, and there's some speculation about there being a thirteen sign zodiac, but none of that's very clear. As far as other planets are concerned, I don't know.

There are some things that suggest to me that they were aware of rhythms that might actually involve the planet Uranus, and it might be more of a case of actually observing the effects or the correlations in their world, and then seeing that it has a certain number, a certain cycle, associated with it rather than actually visually seeing the planet Uranus. But you know what? You can see the planet Uranus if you have really good eyes and really clear skies. So, maybe it was sighted.

Caller Mike : As a Native American and a Christian, I wonder, did the Maya mention the events that might take place on our Earth - not just the date, but things we might be seeing? Jesus talked about signs in the sky, signs in the sea. What is your take on that?

G.N. : Did the Mayans point out any signs as we get closer to the time period, Bruce?

B.S. : As far as I know in the codices and the inscriptions, probably not. But there are Mayan elders who say things. The indigenous tradition is very much alive, and there are people called day-keepers who are devoted to maintaining the oral tradition about this kind of calendar-like astrological system, and they have things to say.

I'm not sure where they're getting information. Maybe its part of the oral tradition, maybe they're making some of it up. I don't know. But they do have something to say, and I think that they're a sensitive people and they're aware that some parts of the world around them may not be doing so well. And when things begin to collapse under their own weight, you know that the end of an era is at hand.

And there's usually a turn over. And there's a cyclic kind of consciousness and perspective on history, which is what the indigenous people have. They're going to see a collapse followed by renewal. Here in the West we tend to see things in a more linear sense.

G.N. : The Maya, I don't think a lot of people have really understood what it means, who they were. I don't think they've replaced religion with the Maya at all.

B.S. : No. There are plenty of indigenous Maya who, like I said earlier, they don't even speak Spanish. They're very much involved in their old ways. They're very conservative people.

Caller Dan : What happened to the polar flip? Is that supposed to happen in 2012, too?

B.S. : A lot of people have talked about these sort of things. There has been writing. I think Bob Frisell wrote a book a while back that talked about these sort of things, kind of grouped together a number of different predictions.

A magnetic field shift, I doubt it's gonna happen very quickly. What I've learned about magnetic field shifts is, they usually happen on average about every two hundred thousand years. Now, it's been about seven hundred thousand or seven hundred fifty thousand years since we've had one, so it is true, the Earth is very late for magnetic pole reversal.

But apparently, the way it works is that the pole – we have a di-pole right now, a north and a south pole -breaks down into a quadra-pole, and that breaks down into an octa-pole. And different parts of the Earth become points where the magnetic field radiates outward until it with further multiplication the field finally dissolves to some extent, and then the actual flip occurs, and the Earth reestablishes itself as a di-pole.

According to the rock record, there are these volcanic eruptions that occur at regular periods in Chile, the magnetic field particles in the lava show this apparently takes between ten and twenty thousand years to happen. And while the magnetic field does decline to some extent, there always is a magnetic field – even if it’s an octa-pole.

Caller Henry : [Theorizes the world ends at 2012 because the Maya ran out of stone to write on.]

B.S. : The way the Maya recorded numbers is quite brilliant, and they had nice ordering system that could handle high numbers. But there was still plenty of room to go beyond 2012. They certainly had a lot further to go rather than just ending in 2012.

G.N. : What are the next steps as we get closer to this date?

B.S. : If you look at it in terms of an astronomical “alignment”, or as I would say, a midpoint of some sort, if you want to get specific about it, then the “alignment” already happened in 1999. That was when the Winter Solstice point crossed over the Galactic equator. So, it’s already happened.

Now, does this “alignment” actually correlate with some kind of big change? You open up a whole other topic here which I’m not going to go into right away - certainly not in this show because it has to do with understanding how astrology actually works. Suffice it to say that this 1999 “alignment” is still very close to 2012 and it finds us in the middle of a very interesting period in world history. We have way too many people.

G.N. : [Any other thoughts on Planet X?]

B.S. : Well, I’m not so sure about Planet X. There are a lot of objects out there, particularly in the Kuiper Belt. There are eight hypothetical planets that were hypothesized back in the 1920s and ’30s in Germany that are used in astrology but haven’t been discovered yet, if they are bodies. There are a lot of mysteries out there, but I don’t think the Maya had, to my knowledge, anything of substance that would lead us to think that they were postulating another planet, except what I mentioned with Uranus.

Caller Daniel : [Talks about some “safe place” lottery for 2012.]

B.S. : We’re gonna see a lot more of that. By the way, on our website, onereed.com, we have the top thirteen things that are gonna happen on December 21<sup>st</sup> 2012.

G.N. : Tongue-in-cheek?

B.S. : Sure. It’s a less than rational look at it, but we have them listed.

Caller David : [Theorizes low sun spot activity may be due to structures being built near the sun to keep the sun spots down.]

B.S. : The Solar cycle, as I mentioned before, it hasn't been completely worked out, but I'm inclined to think that it is driven by planetary alignments. Is it a coincidence that the average value for the sun spot cycle is very close to the orbit of Jupiter? I don't think so. I think when you filter in all the other planets, and a lot of people have done this, you get a pretty close figure.

What happens is, the planets are strong enough to pull the Sun out of the center of the mass of the solar system. In fact, when all of the planets are on one side of the solar system they can pull the Sun as much as a whole diameter of the Sun out of the center of mass. So most of the time the Sun is actually orbiting this center of mass, and the planets are yanking it and torque-ing it. It certainly causes some disturbance on the photosphere or the atmosphere of the Sun. Some people believe it causes disturbances deeper in and that these eventually become magnetic storms and sun spots, and that's what we see.

G.N. : Bruce, give us some of what you consider to be the wilder theories about 2012 that you've got on your web site.

B.S. : We don't have anything wild. The truth is that Barry and I, we try very hard to think these things out and we expose ourselves to a lot of information. Actually I've reviewed several books on 2012 on our site, but we're a little careful. I walk a fine line between the academic world and the far out world. I'm interested in both. What we have to say is that if you step back from 2012 and you look at the late Twentieth Century and the next forty or fifty years, this has got to be a critical point in Earth history.

I started to say before, we have way too many people. We have, as a result, a lot of instability. We're still domesticated primates, and we're still driven by these very deep drives that we have very little control over. A science writer from Australia named Reg Morrison wrote this book called The Spirit in the Gene, in which he argued that things like crazy fads and religion and things of this nature are basically the means by which the organism deceives itself into realizing what's really going on, and consequently produces a crisis.

And the reason we do that is because as species go, human beings are a pioneer species, like birch. You know, there's a forest fire, all the birch rush in and there's a huge population explosion of birch. You come back twenty, thirty, fifty years later, there are only a few left, and come back a hundred years later, there's one left. So human beings rushed out of Africa very recently, and we've covered the entire globe, including Antarctica, and there's a certain amount of space left. We can get clever and we may be able to feed more people, but it doesn't seem like we're doing so well.

Reg Morrison would probably agree with me that the 2012 ideas are just ways of distracting ourselves from what's really going on, and consequently producing the crisis that we're presumably trying to avoid by becoming more knowledgeable of it. So, we're working backwards. I say, just look at what's going on, and come on, people, we have to stop populating, we've gotta stop burning all the fossil fuel, we've gotta stop living the

lifestyles that we're living. But, again, we're domesticated primates and we want to get ahead, and our primary motivation is our tribalism and rank. That's what we're really driven by, those two things, and we try to rise above them, and some people do. But most people don't.

G.N. : I think the caller about the lottery was talking about an up-coming movie, "2012".

B.S. : Right, but that's just one of a number of things. I'm sure it's gonna get crazy. This is a wonderful opportunity for people to market things and its got everybody's attention. Why? Well, 2000 got everybody's attention to some extent as well, but I think that now we really are living in a tenser world.

G.N. : I think it's that fear of the unknown that keeps so many people on the edge.

B.S. : I think we're also hoping that something outside of us is gonna happen, and basically what we say on our website is that it's really in our own hands. The writing's on the wall. Let's do something rather than wait until 2012.

Caller Jim : What is the tie-in between the Gregorian, the Julian, the Aztec and the Mayan calendars? If the Spaniards landed when the Julian calendar was being used, they encountered the Aztecs so we can make that tie-in. How is the tie-in between the Aztec and the Mayan if the Aztec did not use the Long Count?

B.S. : It's a good question, and there's been a lot of work done on it. When the Spanish came here they kept records, some of the friars kept records, and so on. There are twenty "day signs" in Maya astrology – it's kind of a count of twenty. You might think of it as like a bio-rhythm, but each one of these twenty days has a specific name, a specific symbol, and it seems to correlate with a certain kind of personality quirk. This day count was consistent throughout Meso-America, so the Maya were doing it, the Aztec were doing it.

So if it was the day-sign "flower" in Mexico in Teotihuacán or the Aztec capitol, Tenochtitlan, it was the same day in the Maya cities, just like today is Saturday all over the world. And the count, even with the Gregorian calendar correction in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the order of the days of the week was not disturbed. And the same thing happened in Mexico.

So what happened was, the friars recorded that on a certain day it was 8 Serpent, and they wrote that down. They could then begin to start establishing a calendar correlation. This went on for a long time, and it wasn't really until the 1970s or '80s where most people settled on what's called the GMT - the Goodman, Martinez, Thompson – correlation, and there's even some debate over that, plus or minus a few days. But that has pretty much been accepted now - GMT Correlation. I have a short little article about it on the web page.

Caller Jim : Okay. Do you mention that in your Maya Astrology?

B.S. : Yeah. It's in How to Practice Mayan Astrology as well. I have a little section on that. The How to Practice Mayan Astrology book is special because it has tables where every day is listed. No other book has this. The calculations drive people crazy so we have them all listed for easy look-up. We also have some explanatory sections that tell why we use certain correlations. The GMT Correlation is also the correlation that's being used by the indigenous Maya in Guatemala now.

G.N. : Is it Quetzlquatl who looks like he's sitting in a space ship?

B.S. : No, that's Pacal Volcán at Pelenque. He's a king.

Caller Corky : [Discussed how animals and people are getting squirrely with no apparent provocation.]

B.S. : You're right. You're basically saying what I was pointing to - we have crowding going on. When you push a lot of organisms together in one place, all sorts of things happen. All sorts of strange changes take place in collectivity, how the groups are bound together, and it may induce different states of consciousness. It may be the case that over-population causes a kind of pathology that brings out all sorts of very strange thoughts and behaviors.

G.N. : In your work, Mayan Astrology, can people chart their own life path?

B.S. : Yes. What we're trying to do in this book is really bring it down to a simple level so it is introduced to more people. What a person can get out of the book is a sense of how the system works - they can look up their day signs, they can look up their Venus signs and so on, and they can begin to start getting insight into themselves and the people around them. You have to be able to do that before you can make any kind of forecasting.

You know, astrology in general - astrology is the real deal. But it's hard - that's why in the Renaissance the really good astrologers were people like Kepler, the guy who mathematically modeled the solar system. It really is a complex study. And what most people regard as astrology is just a joke. It's like saying "Dear Abby" is psychology. That sort of thing.

What a person is gonna get out of the book is a foundation for understanding the twenty day signs and a few other things, and once they get that, they now have the ground work laid for something that we'll probably put out in a follow-up book.

G.N. : When this date comes, Bruce, I take it you will not be surprised or shocked. I think you feel pretty comfortable.

B.S. : Well, I'm watching this. Frankly, I think 2010 and even '11 is probably more where problems may pop up. 2010, particularly in August, has some really unusual

alignments. The outer planets are forming what's called a T-Square. As I mentioned earlier, I think that's going to be the gravitational torque-ing that starts getting the sun spot cycle going, and probably very rapidly. But there will undoubtedly be other pressures as well. It seems that the collective mind gets affected by these alignments, and you also have things like earthquakes – an Earth response.

G.N. : I just think the Maya knew something. Like you said, they were great in astronomy, they were great with astrology, and it's just ironic that we see so many solar things happening - lack of, which to me is a major event. I just wonder if they thought we were gonna get hit with a huge solar flare - I mean an X-flare, directly?

B.S. : I don't think that they knew that, however, we haven't had a big flare since what, 1859?

G.N. : We were very lucky. It wiped out whatever - I think the telegraph.

B.S. : Yeah, it wiped out the telegraph. But now we have all these satellites and cell phones and GPSs and everything. All we need is one big flare like that and the satellites are fried - all of the ones on the side of the Earth facing the Sun at the time of the flare.

G.N. : And that could happen at any time!

B.S. : Yeah, flares could happen at any time. But I think 2010 is the year to watch, with the planetary alignments. And then 2012 is the date that the Maya figured, but I think if they had better equipment they probably would have fine-tuned it to maybe 1999. I'm speaking off the top of my head, but the actual alignment that people are talking about was 1999.

G.N. : Are you excited about this impending date?

B.S. : People ask me about it all the time, so I try to have something to say. I think a lot more conservatively than some people, and for other people I'm very radical. I walk a fine line between academia and the borderland people, you know?

G.N. : Which hat do you prefer to wear?

B.S. : I can't really say. I do some things that are regarded as completely radical, like astrology. I've spent so much time exploring it that I don't care what anybody thinks. I've done my homework. I've done scientific studies myself, I've read others. I know what I'm dealing with. The critics of astrology are ignorant of it. So they would look at me as being in a very radical field, but I consider myself fairly conservative.

G.N. : Bruce, we'll have to get you back in the future to talk about astrology and some of the things you do there.

B.S. : Okay. Also, I teach Gaia theory.

G.N. : I'm a believer. How did you get interested in [Gaia theory]?

B.S. : I have a friend in town who was involved in the development of Gaia hypothesis with Lovelock. She teaches at U. Mass, and recruited me. We met hiking. Her name is Lynn Margolis.

G.N. : You were not a believer at the time?

B.S. : I'm interested in anything. I just didn't know the details of it but now I've come to learn the actual science behind the Gaia hypothesis.

G.N. : I've almost at a point where, these crop formations that we hear so much about, that maybe the planet's doing this, trying to communicate.

B.S. : You know, the crop circles formations, that's really interesting. I've never seen one myself, but I've kept up with the literature. I wrote an article about it from an astrological angle about ten years ago. Fascinating stuff. Certainly a lot of them are faked, but I just can't see how all of them are.

G.N. : Exactly. And all you need is one good one.

Caller Ricky : My problem is with Planet X. NASA astronomers determined the existence of planets on distant stars by the gravitational movement of the star. If Planet X is in orbit on the opposite side of the Sun, that should be easy to detect. The movement of the Sun should show that.

B.S. : As I mentioned earlier, the movement of the Sun around the center of mass of the solar system is driven by the planets. You'd think the center of mass should be dead set in the middle of the Sun, which it is sometimes, but mostly it's more toward the edge or sometimes a little bit outside of it, which shows it can definitely be moved by a big planet like Jupiter.

Whatever Planet X is, it would have to be very big to be detected. The sun is affected by the gravitational pull of the planets, but as you get past Neptune the pull isn't very great - something like Pluto is very, very minor, and those other Kuiper Belt objects, even less.

So, Planet X would have to be big to make a dent in the Sun's movement around the center of mass of the solar system. That's the answer I can give you, it would have to be big and then we would notice it. But if it's not big, then we wouldn't.

G.N. : Zechariah Sitchin's work - I'm sure you're familiar with him - he claims that this planet is on a 3600-year elliptical orbit, so it's way out there, then it comes close.

B.S. : It gets really cold and then it gets really hot. It sounds like a comet.

G.N. : It does sound like a comet. [Astrology.] How does it work? How do the stars and the positions of planets, how does that determine who we are?

B.S. : First of all, it's mostly the planets, Sun and Moon that astrologers work with. Some will work with stars, most work with just planets. There used to be explanations. Aristotle had a model that worked and Ptolemy described how astrology might work, but when those systems were discredited in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century astrology was left without a mechanism, and no one's really come up with one that makes sense.

I've written on a possible model that argues this; that we are responding all the time to our cosmic environment. We have Circadian cycles and Lunar cycles and whatnot, and that the planets actually have an effect. I've shown in a study that I've done that there are correlations with cold weather and Saturn-Sun alignments - very minor atmospheric tides. You know how the Moon pulls the water up, it also pulls the air up. So, as organisms, we're responding to these changes in very deep ways.

We also have a developmental cycle, so as we develop from the time that we're born, our brains are picking up these subtle changes and we use them as cues, and this times our developmental stages. In other words, the motions of the planets act as a kind of scaffold around which we build our growth from infant to adult, and we imprint the experiences that we have at these different stages, and then they become the foundations for our behavior on that level. [For example], the first two years of life is bio-survival and has everything to do with how we feel emotionally. That's the Moon. After that comes the terrible twos, which has to do with emotional territorial qualities and may be associated with Mars.

Anyway, what I'm arguing is that organisms, as they develop - the human organism, in this case - are using planetary cycles as registered through things like magnetic field fluctuations, or subtle changes in air pressure and so on, as cues to kick off different stages in the development, and then they become the foundation, the framework on which the rest of our lives is based. And any psychologist will tell you that, it doesn't matter how old you are, you're still trying to work out your relationship with your mother and father.

Caller Jim : [Discusses the website about the 2012 lottery.]

B.S. : You know, this 2012 stuff is very reminiscent of the conjunction of planets in 1524, and back then print technology had descended upon Europe. Astrologers were printing all these prognostications, and I guess around 1518 or something, somebody noticed that there were a lot of planets converging in the water sign, Pisces, and predicted that there would be a great flood.

And then it just got out of hand. And people that probably weren't qualified to make these predictions, started printing prognostications. Then people came out of the closet making prophecies, just making up things. And it got pretty wild. A lot of people sold their houses and moved to higher ground and so on. It really disrupted life, and it

discredited astrology to a large extent. It was a very bad event. We're seeing this kind of thing with 2012.

G.N. : How many predictors will be upset, after the fact, that when 2012 rolls along, that whatever they've predicted over these last few years will be wrong?

B.S. : It doesn't bother people. I mean, religions make predictions and they don't happen, and they continue as religions. They come up with a rationalization. People are very clever.

Caller Adrian : [Reported that the 2012 lottery is promotion for an upcoming movie.]

Caller Joe : [Wondered if Bruce saw astrological correlation with Stonehenge.]

B.S. : Not directly. Presumably, there's been some speculation that you could predict eclipses, and you can certainly locate the Midsummer Solstice, but the application of astrology is absolutely unknown. That is basically an astronomical site. And it probably was used for astrological purposes - that's what ancient peoples did with astronomy. They just didn't look at alignments and say, that's an alignment. They were looking at the alignment and looking at the world around them and trying to notice correlations, and then see what happened when the same alignment occurred again. But we don't know. They didn't write anything. They didn't leave anything written, they didn't leave anything inscribed. We just have the stones.

G.N. : Bruce, what's your next work? What are you going to do?

B.S. : I'm finishing up revisions to a Ph.D. thesis I've been working on for seven years - I've passed the defense - and it's called A History and Test of Planetary Weather Forecasting. It has to do with a very detailed look at astrological weather forecasting, then I have a series of tests that I do, studies.

G.N. : Okay, my friend, good luck with this work, Mayan Astrology - Bruce Scofield has written a lot of books all by himself, this one he wrote with co-author Barry C. Orr. It's a fascinating read, Mayan Astrology.