

Maya Calendars and Writing: 4 Tortuguero Monument 6 and 2012

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Background

- Start date of the Maya long count:
 - 11 (or 13) August 3114 BC
 - 13.0.0.0.0 in inscriptions regarding the creation event
 - Treat as 0.0.0.0.0 if doing arithmetic with the long count
- Next 13.0.0.0.0 is 21 (or 23) December 2012
- Is next Baktun ending 1.0.0.0.0 or 14.0.0.0.0?
 - i.e., Does the Baktun count go to 13 or roll over after 19, like the Katun and Tun.

How did the nonsense start?

- Impact of well-intentioned epigraphers:
 - Linda Schele
 - George Stuart “Mysterious” Maya
 - David Stuart “prediction” regarding 2012
 - Error in first drawing of the monument
- Uncertainty due to damage to the monument
- Human and American penchant for catastrophism

Tortuguero Monument 6

- Has a specific reference to the 13.0.0.0.0 Baktun ending on 4 Ahau 3 Kankin, as opposed to the 4 Ahau 8 Kumku creation date
- 3 panels, left one missing, both remaining ones damaged, small right panel is the one of particular interest
- Main panel has a regular sort of content about the king (Kinich Kan Bahlam), etc.
- See Mark van Stone, 2012, for drawings and photographs of the panels

Right hand panel

- 4 columns by 5 rows
- Damaged on the right hand side, so some key glyphs are largely missing
- Parts in 3 different collections
- Look at composite photograph
- Distance number 3.8.3.9.2
- Leads to 13.0.0.0.0
- “It ends, the 13th Baktun, 4 Ahau 3 Kankin”
- See Mark van Stone for drawings and photographs of the panel

End of the text

- U to ma “it will happen”
- Damaged glyph:
 - originally translated as “black” or “blackness”
 - Now thought to be i, a focus marker or i li “see”
- “Descend (or appear)” or Adorn
- Bolon Yok'te: A god who appeared at the creation event
- Ta ... “at ...” or “in”
- Compare with composite photograph

Left hand panel

- 4 columns by 5 rows, so 20 glyph blocks
- Has not been found (to our knowledge)
- What is its content (conjecture):
 - ISIG - occupying 4 blocks?
 - Tzolkin date – 1 block
 - Lunar series – 5 or 6 blocks
 - HAAB date – 1 block
 - Verb
 - Subject ..
 - Distance number?

Other relevant inscriptions

- Discovery at Xultun this year, with reference to 13th Katun ending
- Coba Stela 1: 20 13s
- Yaxchilan Hieroglyphic stairway 2, step 7: 8 13s
- Palenque: References in some of Pakal's inscriptions to dates in the future and distant past

Background material

- David Stuart's blog: <http://wordpress.com>
- Article by Barbara Macleod and Sven Gronemeyer: Wayeb Notes #34
- David Stuart: The End of Days
- Anthony Aveni: The End of Time
- Mark van Stone: 2012: Science and Prophecy of the Ancient Maya

| Position | | Long count | | | | | Tzolkin | Haab | Event |
|----------|----|------------|----|----|----|---------|-------------|----------|--|
| | | 9 | 8 | 19 | 9 | 16 | 8 Sip | 4 Kankin | birth date of Bahlam Ahau |
| E4,E5 | DN | | 1 | 11 | 11 | 14 | | | |
| F6, E7 | | 9 | 10 | 11 | 3 | 10 | 1 Ok | 3 Kumku | accession date of Bahlam Ahau |
| E9 | DN | | | | 5 | 16 | | | |
| F11, E12 | | 9 | 10 | 11 | 9 | 6 | 13 Cimi | 14 Sek | Star war |
| | DN | | | | 12 | 4 | | | |
| F13, E14 | | 9 | 10 | 12 | 3 | 10 | 10 Ok | 18 Kayab | Chopping event |
| F15,E16 | DN | | | 4 | 9 | 16 | | | Badly damaged |
| E17, F17 | | 9 | 10 | 16 | 13 | 6 | 8 Cimi | 9 Mol | Chopping event |
| G2 | DN | | | | 7 | 8 | | | |
| G3, H3 | | 9 | 10 | 17 | 2 | 14 | 13 Ix | 17 Muwan | destruction of flint and shield |
| F6, E7 | | 9 | 10 | 11 | 3 | 10 | 1 Ok | 3 Kumku | accession date of Bahlam Ahau |
| H9, G10 | DN | | | 3 | 16 | 1 | | | written as 3.1.16 but must be 3.16.1 |
| H12, G13 | | 9 | 10 | 15 | 1 | 11 | 11 Chuwen | 4 Muwan | alliance |
| H11 | DN | | | | 1 | 11 back | | | |
| G14, H14 | | 9 | 10 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 6 Ahau | 13 Mak | Hotun |
| H12, G13 | | 9 | 10 | 15 | 1 | 11 | 11 Chuwen | 4 Muwan | alliance |
| H15, H16 | DN | | 14 | 19 | 1 | 6 back | | | |
| I1,J1 | | 8 | 15 | 16 | 0 | 5 | 11 chikchan | 13 Muwan | earlier alliance |
| F6, E7 | | 9 | 10 | 11 | 3 | 10 | 1 Ok | 3 Kumku | accession date of Bahlam Ahau |
| I3-I4 | DN | | 1 | 5 | 5 | 8 | | | written as 1.5.6.8 but must be 1.5.5.8 |
| I6, I7 | | 9 | 11 | 16 | 8 | 18 | 9 Etnab | 6 Kayab | Burning ceremony |
| J7, I8 | | | | 1 | 8 | 18 back | | | |
| J9,I10 | | 9 | 11 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 4 Ahau | 13 MOL | Hotun |
| I6, I7 | | 9 | 11 | 16 | 8 | 18 | 9 Etnab | 6 Kayab | Burning ceremony |
| L15-L16 | | | 8 | 0 | 7 | 7 back | | | |
| N1, M2 | | 9 | 3 | 16 | 1 | 11 | 8 Chuwen | 9 Mac | sweatbath placing |
| I6, I7 | | 9 | 11 | 16 | 8 | 18 | 9 Etnab | 6 Kayab | Burning ceremony |
| | DN | 3 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 2 | | | |
| P2 | | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 Ahau | 3 Kankin | Baktun ending |

Reference to a much later date

- See “The Tomb of K’inich Janaab Pakal: The Temple of the Inscriptions at Palenque”, on Mesoweb, page 41.
- This is an excellent example of a translation of a Maya inscription, with hieroglyphs, transliteration, and English translation