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To many people the term “apocalypse” has come to mean the complete and total destruction of the world. However, as Reverend Nemu points out, the religiously-charged term comes from the Greek word *apokálypsis*, which actually means “revelation” or “lifting of the veil.” In other words, the original term means a disclosure of something secret that has been hidden from most people and is finally revealed. Like Nemu, I see no reason why both the contemporary and the archaic meanings couldn’t both be describing the same event, as a sufficiently powerful revelation can mean the end of an old world and the beginning of a new one.

According to the late, silver-tongued, ethnobotanist Terence McKenna, “The apocalypse is not something which is coming. The apocalypse has arrived in major portions of the planet and it’s only because we live within a bubble of incredible privilege and social insulation that we still have the luxury of anticipating the apocalypse. If you go to Bosnia, or Somalia, or Peru, or much of the third-world, then it appears that the apocalypse has already arrived.”

Despite this chilling statement, McKenna predicted a global acceleration of “novelty,” which is set to peak on the day that the ancient Mayan calendar ends - December 21, 2012 - and, for a number of reasons, many people believe this date to be the fateful day of the coming apocalypse. However, by the time that you’re reading this book, I suspect that this day will have already come to pass, and that the “coming apocalypse” will continually appear to loom ever larger.

Ecological disasters, technological malfunctions, and terrorist nightmares aside, there are some people who simply believe that an end to humanity’s reign on Earth is inevitable because this is God’s predetermined will. Some say that humanity lies on the brink of Armageddon, the end of the world is near, and that we are currently witnessing the “Last Days” prophesied in the Judeo-Christian Bible. However, in Yuri Rubinsky and Ian Wiseman’s book *A History of the End of the World* they demonstrate how some people have proclaimed that “The End” was near throughout all of human history - and that’s not all that they said was near.

Just as there have always been people who thought that the end of the world was close at hand, so too it seems, there have always been people who have proclaimed the opposite - that humanity is on the brink of a

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prosperous New Age, a planetary-wide spiritual awakening, or a quantum leap in evolution. The Human Potential Movement, transhumanism, and a lot of popular books on mysticism and technology claim that we are evolving into a higher species and headed into a golden age of enlightenment. There is nothing new about these predictions - the mystical artist and poet William Blake, and the founder of the Theosophical Society Madame Blavatsky, began talking about the dawning of a New Age in the 1800s. The Italian philosopher Giordano Bruno made similar claims in the 1500s, as have many others throughout history.

I suspect that every day forward in time from today will seem progressively more and more like the foretold nightmare apocalypse or the promised utopian paradise is faster and faster approaching - with neither event ever quite fully arriving.

In my book *Conversations on the Edge of the Apocalypse*, I argue that seeing the world as being on the edge of total destruction, or on the edge of a blossoming renaissance, are both, in reality, states of mind that could be accurately describing the world at any time. All throughout human history people have claimed that we stand on the brink of total chaos or utopia.

I maintain that both of these views originate from the same source - the dualistic nature of how we perceive the universe, as composed of ever-rearranging dark and light forces. From our personal perspectives, one force always seems ready to completely devour the other, because they are forever shifting. However, in actuality, they always remain in perfect balance because they are really both parts of a unified whole, what the Taoists refer to as Yin/Yang.

Nonetheless - because complexity builds upon complexity - cosmic, biological, and cultural evolution all appear to be ever-accelerating processes. As a result, the darkness seems to be growing darker, the light seems to be glowing brighter, and more and more seems to be happening in less and less time. This tends to give people the impression that good and evil are headed towards some kind of ultimate showdown - Armageddon - where one force will clearly prevail over the other. But I suspect that this impression is an illusion, a shifting mirage created from seeing the world dualistically, as everything that we create (with our perception, our language, and our hands) simultaneously creates its own opposite.

However, whatever it is that's happening on this wayward world - evolution, development, order, growth, decay, or chaos - it's happening faster and faster, and getting weirder and weirder all the time. So it appears that we are indeed headed toward something big - like the destruction of the planetary biosphere and our extinction, or our entrance into a world that is beyond our wildest imaginings, what McKenna calls "infinite novelty" and technology expert Ray Kurzweil calls "the Singularity."

McKenna envisioned time as a wave, with a beginning and an end point, and he developed the notion that the acceleration of novelty in human history is leading us to a mathematically-determined point of "infinite novelty." Here our imaginations will eventually become externalized, as our minds turn themselves inside out, and everything becomes possible. The end of time, McKenna proposes, is the end of a cumulative process of ever-increasing novelty, that eventually reaches a point of infinite frequency and density.

"Singularity" is a term borrowed from physics that describes a place where the known laws of physics break down, like inside of a collapsed star, and future predictions become impossible, because entirely new variables come into play. All we can really say at this point, with any reasonable assurance, is that, if the human species survives, and doesn't drive itself into extinction, then nanotechnology, advanced robotics, psychic technologies, artificial intelligence, and undreamed of new technologies will surely play a radically transformative role in our lives - and that we will have to become more ecologically aware and spiritually evolved if we want to survive and use these powerful new technologies responsibly.

But how did we get to this place and where did we come from? What is this whole evolutionary process all about, and where are we headed at this seemingly critical moment in the adventure of our species? Reverend Nemu peers over the treacherous edge of the cultural abyss and dutifully reports his findings, to help answer these vital and perplexing questions.

With a sharp wit and penetrating insight, Nemu helps us to untangle these brain-twisting puzzles, and he illuminates these mysteries within mysteries, revealing their ever-shifting nature. This uniquely composed book is simply overflowing with wild and wonderful, unorthodox ideas about the limitations of science, culture, and belief - as well as the astonishing potential that lies within us. Brilliantly composed and imaginatively expressed, I found the thought-provoking ideas that flowed from Nemu's gifted mind to be absolutely compelling, and his book was truly difficult to put down.

Nemu is unusually masterful with his use of language, deliciously weaving together science, poetry, and mysticism with intimate personal experience, alchemically blending them together with his psychedelic insights, clever metaphors, and thoughtful reflections. Nemu's playful and scholarly use of words are both a joy to read and a pleasure to reflect upon. Integrating ideas from an extensive library of varied disciplines - such as linguistics, mythology, neuroscience, and psychology - *Nemu's End* is reminiscent of the writings of Robert Anton Wilson, Hakim Bey, and Terence McKenna.

The book is simply sparkling with shiny phantasmic treasures, and bursting at the seams with those kind of wonderful, mind-stretching ideas that one can truly savor and really appreciate with the help of proper

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shamanic botanicals. I was totally blown away by this book, and as I was reading it, I felt as though I had been waiting years for this book to come along. *Nemu's End* is exploding with fascinating new ideas, mind-changing insights, obscure facts, and carefully pieced-together historical knowledge - yet, somehow, it all seems strangely and archetypically familiar.

But, I implore you, please look past all my worthy praise and be warned! This contemporary 'Book of Revelations' is a powerful psychedelic. It's a living experiment in ceremonial magick, and not everyone is ready to have the veil hanging over reality lifted from their eyes. Those who see the naked Truth too soon may find their egos perishing in flames, so proceed with caution. This skillfully brewed mix of words and ideas is genuinely consciousness-changing, and you won't be the same person after reading it. Like a good swig of Peruvian jungle juice, Nemu will disassemble your cultural conditioning, melt away your cherished beliefs, and then leave it up to you to decide what comes next.

- David Jay Brown
Ben Lomond, California

