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THE FLIPPIN' POLES



Have we of all mankind been deemed deserving that heaven, its poles uptorn, should overwhelm us. In our time has the last day come? Alas for us, by bitter fate begotten, to misery doomed, whether we have lost the sun or banished it!⁷⁶⁵

Seneca

A dazzling sun rises over Rio Branco, casting my apocalyptic concerns into the shade. Yesterday was milder, last week the rainforest justified its name by raining solidly for days, but the sun keeps rising, and always in the east. Common sense suggests it will continue, as do the principles of inductivism, but can we be sure? Einstein was prepared to entertain the idea that it might not. He wrote the forward to *The Path of the Pole*, a book proposing that sudden shifts in the axis of the planet's rotation caused temperate zones to be thrown towards the poles. The author's evidence includes mammoth trapped in Siberian ice sheets, which, according to butchers, must have frozen extremely rapidly to be so well preserved. The buttercups lodged between their teeth only grow in warm climates, also implying a rapid shift in latitude.⁷⁶⁶

A change in the earth's rotation would also explain why the Nile once wound the opposite way across Africa into the Atlantic, as indicated by satellite radar photos, and confirmed by smooth pebbles and river beds uncovered beneath the dunes.⁷⁶⁷ There is also the geological record. When certain rocks are formed, iron flecks align with the magnetic field at the time, which depends on the planet's rotation. Lava deposits from prehistoric eruptions at different times in Sicily and Hawaii indicate several flips,⁷⁶⁸ and in the Arctic Circle, different layers of ore suggest repeated changes and reversals between 20,000 and thirty million years apart.⁷⁶⁹ One 800 million

years ago was contemporaneous with changes in oceanic ecology thought to be due to shifting warm and cold currents.⁷⁷⁰ The most recent flip recorded is 780,000 years ago, within human history but well outside of recorded history.

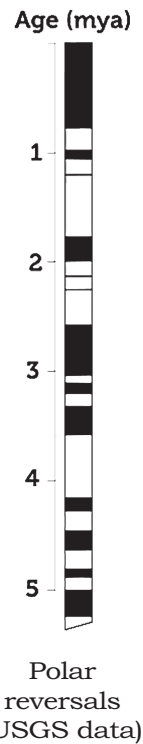
Since the earth's magnetic field was first measured in 1845 it has weakened by ten to fifteen percent, and the rate of decrease is accelerating. This preceded past flips, and some scientists expect another, but a California University geologist shrugs his shoulders about the future: "It's a very complicated, chaotic system, and it has a life of its own."⁷⁷¹ For now, the chaos is increasing. The field was never uniform, it is a shifting sea of charge, and as it weakens new regions of irregularity appear, like slow moving electromagnetic whirlpools. As well as a life of its own, it appears to have a sense of purpose, or of poetry. A leading researcher describes one vortex:

It's a new one, a little thing... Time will tell whether it develops into something significant. But it is here in the North Atlantic, moving towards the Pentagon.⁷⁷²

Dr. Jackman of NASA speculates that a flip would put the earth at the mercy of solar radiation; the atmosphere would become hostile to life, electrical systems from traffic lights to neurones would suffer, and our immune systems might collapse. She might look on the bright side if she got out more. The majority of NASA employees who have journeyed beyond the atmosphere come back telling stories of blissful mystical experiences from where the field is negligible, and returning moon-walkers have set up a variety of spiritual organisations, including the High Flight Foundation, The Institute of Noetic Sciences and The Duke Ministry for Christ. If the poles switch, and we pass through a zero charge phase, will our spirits fly as our bodies go into meltdown?

A flip in the last few thousand years would be too recent to show up in the geological record, but *Isaiah's* threat recalls many curious legends. *The Talmud* relates how Noah's flood came seven days after "the Holy One, blessed be He, reversed the order of nature, the sun rising in the west and setting in the east."⁷⁷³ Another Middle Eastern legend is remembered in a Syrian poem describing a goddess who "exchanged the two dawns and the positions of the stars" and "massacred the population of the Levant"⁷⁷⁴ (ie. the coastlands and islands of the eastern Mediterranean, which would quickly succumb to rising seas). According to Socrates:

[there] occurs a great destruction of them [animals], which extends also to the life of man; few survivors of the race are left, and those who remain become the subjects of several novel and remarkable phenomena, and of one in particular, which takes place at the



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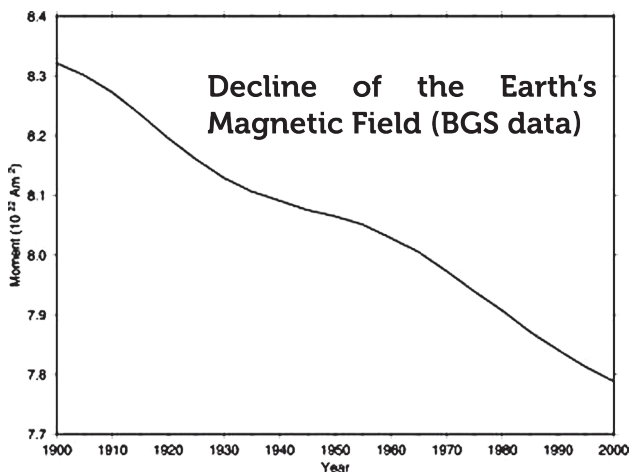
time when the transition is made to the cycle opposite to that in which we are now living... The life of all animals first came to a standstill, and the mortal nature ceased to be or look older, and was then reversed and grew young.⁷⁷⁵

Seneca, Herodotus,⁷⁷⁶ Sophocles, Euripides, and Apollodorus tell stories about the course of the sun changing.⁷⁷⁷ The Roman

Pomponius Mela notes that these stories come from Egypt.⁷⁷⁸ The Egyptian Sun god was sometimes titled Harakhte, meaning 'west-rising'.⁷⁷⁹ An ancient Egyptian papyrus describes an upheaval of fire and water, when "the south becomes north, and the earth turns over".⁷⁸⁰ Another describes the chaotic climate as "Earth turned upside down", and in another, the sun "ceased to live in the occident, and shines, a new one, in the orient".*⁷⁸¹

Chinese sources describe a new order since the stars changed to their present direction.⁷⁸² In Mayan legends, the sun sets one day as normal in the East, but rises unexpectedly the following day from the East, as it does today.⁷⁸³ The sun's path is different depending on where on the earth the legend is told. A Native American legend, for example, describes how the sun hovered over the horizon before coming back again;⁷⁸⁴ Jewish myths remember how the sun stayed high in the sky. Climactic events are also different. In Mediterranean legends, a flood often accompanies the flip, and this also happens in an Aztec myth.⁷⁸⁵ In the epic *Kalevala*, however, from the chilly northern wastes of Finland, the sun and moon disappear and a cold dark famine ravages the land.⁷⁸⁶

The Norse *Edda* begins with the end of paradise in Middle Earth, when the sun turns from the south and forgets where his home is, along with the moon and the planets.⁷⁸⁷ The gods gather the planets together and assign names, but why? Had the names been forgotten? Had they never existed?



* Note on the sources: Many of the mythological references in this chapter were collected by Immanuel Velikovsky. Velikovsky was a founder member of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Einstein corresponded with him on the subject of polar shift, but his *Worlds in Collision* killed his academic career at a stroke. His astronomy is, admittedly, rather dodgy, but his knowledge of mythology is excellent. I scoured the British Library to check his sources, and I cite the originals where I could find them. Regarding rare German translations of crumbling papyri in attics, I am taking his word for it.

Naming is one of several motifs *The Edda* shares with *The Bible*. Men lose their innocence, they smythe treasures and go to war, recalling the vanity, jealousy and violence of the first Biblical family. The rest of *The Edda* is a bloody story that ends, like *The Bible*, “with mighty whoredom”.⁷⁸⁸ The cataclysmic battle of Ragnarök is provoked by Loki, a malicious trickster with much in common with our devil. Loki was once Odin’s favourite, as Lucifer was God’s. He causes chaos and misery wherever he goes, but he also raises questions and brings new understanding.

At the end of *The Edda*, the sun changes course again. Three terrible winters follow without summers, and then Loki attacks Heimdall, the guardian of Asgard and the status quo. Chaos and order annihilate each other. Doomed men die, the heavens split, the earth quakes, crags topple, hot stars fall from heaven, and the Midgard Serpent spits fire which devours the world, all of which parallel events in *Revelation*. The earth sinks into the sea and base urges take over, but finally “I see the earth anew rise all green from the waves again”.⁷⁸⁹ The trials are over. The world is reborn perfect, and without suffering, as at the close of *Revelation*.

In *Revelation*, the grand finale is announced by “an angel standing in the sun”,⁷⁹⁰ and the saviour is Jesus Christ, whose solar nature is discussed in ‘Exu’s Journey’. In our dark times, a ray of hope is breaking through the smoke, as the system reminds us it is solar. Scientists forecast an imminent drop of about 0.2°C in the sun’s temperature.⁷⁹¹ The high sunspot activity of the last fifty years is expected to crash in the next decade as it did during ‘the little ice-age’, which chilled Protestant hotheads and ruined harvests during the last upheaval. Solar winds are already blowing colder.⁷⁹² In a curiously apocalyptic manner, salvation comes from beyond the scope of the perceived problem, beyond the atmosphere of our troubled globe.

The sun also has another trick, which may push the balance in the next decade. Like the earth, our sun has a magnetic field, but it flips once every eleven years, regular as clockwork, at the peak of the sunspot cycle. The last flip took place throughout 2001, when its magnetic north moved to our south, into a configuration that stabilises our field. The earth’s field continued to weaken, however, and in 2012, when the sun flips again, the pressure will increase again, and the field will weaken further. Models predict that the cycle we have just entered will produce EM storms thirty to fifty percent stronger than in the last cycle, sending out sudden surges in EM fields, and physicists predict problems with electronic devices.⁷⁹³ Will there be some more cathartic disturbances?

What might happen if the earth’s field collapsed? The brain is an EM system with EM waves and magnetic compounds distributed throughout.⁷⁹⁴ Magnetic disturbances can wipe computer memory, and perhaps our brains

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would be wiped, but the fact that there are legends recalling a flip suggest that something is remembered at least, and that there are survivors.

A global epileptic fit might be dreadful, but it might be fantastic, with every insult forgotten, every hang-up unhooked, every habit dissolved. We might have no idea what a cigarette is, what NATO means, or what writing is for. We might be struck dumb, and we might not care. We might become cosmic babies floating through synaesthetic chaos, savants inspired with genius. EM irregularities around power lines induce headaches, and the high field of the electroconvulsive shock therapy has powerful and long lasting mental effects, but the 'God helmet' produces pleasant spiritual experiences with EM stimulation (See 'Neuro-apocalypse Three').⁷⁹⁵ The EM field is one of an unknown number of fields, and others may react differently or not at all. Quantum fields do not bend with EM radiation. According to researchers into mind over matter, intention works through non-EM pathways, through magnetically sealed rooms and over hundreds of miles.⁷⁹⁶ A flip could be heaven or hell depending on your state.

The timing of the sun's flip is ominous, because 2012 is the year the Mayan calendar ends, according to some radical archeological. The Mayans were the multi-function Casio watches of the ancient world, with a calendar comprising cycles for the moon, for Venus and other planets, for various gods, for civil, ceremonial, and sacred occasions, and for auspicious days. Already in use 3,000 years ago, it is by far the most accurate calendar humanity has ever produced; it would lose only one day in 6,000 years if it were endless like most calendars. Our own Gregorian calendar is dreadfully inaccurate in comparison, despite being less than half a millennium old. The cycles, however, finish neatly on December 21st, 2012. This is the day the plane of the earth's orbit crosses at right angles the plane of our galaxy. It is also the solstice, and a special day for various boundary-crossing god-men, each bringing their own version of the sacred tree to the cosmic birthday party.

There is more going on on this day, according to apocalyptic of various stripes, but to be honest, I know very little about Mayans, except that their calendar was stunningly accurate. How they or their ancestors produced it is a matter of speculation. They had neither telescopes nor calculators, nothing more powerful than magick mushrooms. Further south, the Incas used coca leaves, yopo seeds, and possibly ayahuasca. They produced a different calendar, but one which also predicts an immanent transformation. Their descendnts in the Andes call this *patcha-kut'i*. *Patcha* is earth, space and time all rolled together into a wrap even Einstein would have eaten. *Kut'i* means 'reversal', and *patcha-kut'i* is the event every 500 or so years when the upper and lower worlds exchange positions, and that which is low comes to the top. "And the meek shall inherit the earth."

Half a millennium ago, as Europe was slipping into chaos, Spaniards destroyed the Inca Empire, which had been founded 500 years before. Eleventh century Europe, however, was at a low point. The Byzantine Empire collapsed suddenly, leaving a power vacuum for Norman and Holy Roman empires to expand into. As the last pagan kingdoms fell in Scandinavia, the Great Schism was tearing the Eastern and Western Churches apart. The papacy was corrupt. Christian scholarship was at an all-time low. Almost the only history to survive is written in shoddy Latin, at a time when most monks could barely write at all. It chronicled the frequent and devastating eruptions of Mount Vesuvius, the rampant epidemic of St. Anthony's Fire, and how "a most mighty famine raged for five years throughout the Roman world". Fires scorched cities across Gaul to Rome herself, where St. Peter's church burned, and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem was overthrown.⁷⁹⁷

Amidst apocalyptic signs, the first Crusade set out towards the Holy Land, but whilst the body count was impressive, crusaders were no match for a Muslim world at the height of its influence. The Muslim polymath Avicenna was compiling his encyclopaedic works on life, the universe and everything, and the eleventh century was also the apex of classical Chinese culture, during which her population doubled and her technologies proliferated.

Winding back another 500 years, as the Anglo-Saxons were becoming established in England, Byzantine princes finally emerged from the ruins of the ruptured Pax Romana. Justinian codified the law and kick-started a 500-year expansion, sending Goths and Vandals back to their chilly homelands, and sending his politicised Christianity across Europe. In 571, Mohammed was born and Islam exploded onto the scene, with a new holy book and a talent for conquest.

Back one more click to the birth of the Common Era. In five centuries of democracy, Rome had grown from little more than a town to a republic covering the whole Mediterranean region, from the Britons at the edge of the world to bearded weirdies of Judaea, whose renegade prophet would eventually become hers. The Caesars subverted the republic in the early decades of the millennium. Emperors began murdering and impregnating their closest relatives, whilst massacring both citizens and conquered peoples. The empire soon went into decline. As a rash of Jewish apocalyptic literature was emerging in Israel, Cicero (106-43BC), Virgil (70-19BC), Ovid (43BC-c.17AD) and Plutarch (c.46AD-120AD) were writing about the emerging New World.⁷⁹⁸ The first century was cataclysmic for the original people of the book, and eventually world changing for the rest of the planet.

Another half-millennium before, Rome overthrew her monarchy, and the slow expansion of the republic began, whilst at the same time la Tène culture was carrying new ideas from the Russian steppes to the British Isles.

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Greece was entering what has been called “the most decisively productive century for the maturation of man’s mind in the history of the world.”⁷⁹⁹ As Athens was emerging as the political centre of the Greek states,⁸⁰⁰ Pythagoras (c.580-500BC) mixed maths into cosmology and removed rapture from religion. Gautama (c.563-c.460BC) was Budhding for pudding in India, whilst Confucius (551-478BC) and Solon (638-558BC) were putting their respective states in order. Cyrus the Great (?-c.530BC) brought the end of the world and the mark of Zoroaster to the Middle East, as well as a new type of empire, where foreign gods and kings were respected rather than humiliated. This universalism echoes the teachings of his contemporary Xenophanes (c.570-c.480BC), and it would develop amongst the Hellenistic and Roman conquerors after him. Cyrus also brought the rule of law to pagan Israel, laying the foundations for a meta-culture that has waxed and waned through the ages and *patcha-kut’is* until today.

Records become scarce looking further back...

Reverend!

...but King David arrived in Jerusalem around 1000 BC.⁸⁰¹ Meanwhile the Iron Age began in Europe and the Bronze Age ended. These were all small *patcha-kut’is*, but according Andean cultures a great big *patcha-kut’astrophe* comes along sometimes, and...

But Reverend!

...and this is the bus which is now due, bearing down on the bus stop at the crossroads of the galaxy...

Reverend, stop!

You are too hungry for signs!

Two and a half thousand years of Whig-wag history, in four paragraphs, told backwards?

Wait, my child, I ...

*What about all this Mayan gobbledigook?
Patcha-flippin’-cooties?*

Well, I ...

*Come back to your flock lest you stumble,
Reverend! The paths of the Andes are not the
paths of your cloister, nor do the gods of the
Mayans hear your prayers.*

... no, they don’t...

Polar flips?!

What are you, a bleedin' geologist as well?

Yes... No... I see. Thank-you.

What the last day meant for the Mayans is also a matter of speculation, but the calendar stops and does not start again, suggesting that time might be different. This would be the case if the earth's rotation changed. At the very least, a day would be longer or shorter, but could a change affect us more fundamentally? The nature of such a world defies the imagination. If we are not bound by time's arrow, like certain quanta in particle physics, could we move into a place where the dead are still alive? Is this the resurrection of the dead, foreseen by ancient Greeks and Jews?⁸⁰²

Terrence McKenna apparently calculated the same end date independently, using maths based on an insight into *The I Ching* gained in an ayahuasca session.⁸⁰³ Whilst this is fascinating, it is at this point that I step back from the abyss, lest I be swallowed up. A little heavy fretting is about as far as Nemu goes on a first and final date, maybe some pole-exchange fantasies if he's really Revved up, but swapping numbers is just a bit too much commitment for me. There are plenty of books on 2012, a bewildering number of bewildering websites, some accompanied by spacey digital music. The apocalypse fast approaches, my brothers and sisters, and I have more important things to do with my time than read the rantings of madmen. I have my own rant to reveal. I have spent a furtive night trawling through the web, and as the sun rises in the east once again, apparently unconcerned by the recent scarcity of sacrificial hearts, I believe I have hit upon a winner, an earlier date to satisfy my impatient nature:

If the prophetic Mayan Calendar... is primarily based on material processes, then matter would be primary to consciousness and this would affect also our view of ourselves as a lump of matter rather than a spirit. On the other hand, if we are primarily consciousness, evolving according to a cosmic divine time plan, then we are aspects of the divine coming into existence, and the purpose of human evolution will gradually manifest as we approach the end of these creation cycles on October 28, 2011.⁸⁰⁴

I'm too tired to understand what he is on about, but I'd rather be an aspect of the divine than a lump of clay, and October 28th is my birthday. I'm throwing a party to trash my house. All invited, bring everything you own.

For now, back to The Book:

it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished. And I heard, but I understood not⁸⁰⁵

Neither do I. This is cryptic, in both English and Hebrew. Newton was perhaps the greatest mathematician who ever lived, certainly the most apocalyptic,

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but despite 4,500 pages of calculations, he could not resolve this fraction. Apocalypse predictions have an ignoble history. The millennium bug was humbug, bringing havoc to nothing more than a few best-before labels. Nostradamus' "1999 and seven months" passed without any sightings of Genghis Khan.⁸⁰⁶ The Jehovah's Witnesses are dispirited and have stopped guessing. Sebastião Mota de Melo's great transformation of the twenty-teens approaches, when money will buy nothing, and only those who plant will eat, but according to *The Talmud*, we have 230 odd years left until our 6,000 elapse.⁸⁰⁷

At the slower end of the scale, the odd Buddhist who gets fired up about such passing concerns as the end of an aeon has the Maitreya to look forward to, but he is only the n^{th} of a series of man^{ny} .⁸⁰⁸ The *kali yuga* mash-up continues for another 400,000 years, according to orthodox Hindus, until the universe is a dead grey soup, and Brahma finally closes his weary eye to sleep it off for twelve million years. I suspect we will be gone long before then. The date depends on what end you await, but between our ears the apocalypse is personal. Our categories can collapse at any time. During the *kaliyuga*, *moksha* (liberation) is closest. When there isn't much worth clinging to, opinions are easier to ditch, and brain waves are most unstable in an irregular field. "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night".⁸⁰⁹

Nemu knows not, but the planet is wobbling. The Middle East is as volatile as ever, Christian and Islamic fundamentalists square up for a rumble, and no tin-pot dictator worth his salt is without a nuclear program. Inequality soars and social tensions mount, as dystopian dreams of a New World Order fast become reality. Meanwhile freak weather abounds, sperm counts slide, and species and habitats disappear.

Ecologists discuss the half-life of the planet, and there is a flood of doomsday books and films to keep the 'lypse is on our lips. Fifty-nine percent of Americans polled after 9/11 thought the prophesies of *Revelation* would come true,⁸¹⁰ and the imagery of the Antichrist appears in presidential campaign adverts.⁸¹¹ Whilst William and the Witnesses knock on doors, ask facile questions, and get told to bugger off, apocalyptic Christians gather on the Mount of Olives, and others fill secret bunkers with tinned beans and ammunition. New Age Hassids cry for the *mashiyach* as they bounce to tekno music at Israeli traffic lights. Muslims of various stripes await the Imam Mahdi, from Sufis whirling through hippy festivals in clouds of love and incense to subversives in sleeper cells, plotting jihad from London flats. Meanwhile, the defiantly unimaginative are coasting on autopilot through a sick society, assuming that everything is going to be alright, that normal service will continue, that the sun will rise tomorrow as it did today.

"As above, so below." It looks like we are facing distinct environmental and social problems, upheavals in the nature of thought and dizzying technological advance, but it is all part of the same imbalance, different

NEMU'S END

vortexes of irregularity in a collapsing field. The field is around us, between us, and within us. We are the field, and the field is going wobbly, but there is something deeper which directs the flow, which cuts, but is not pulled.

The world is polarising. The situation is drastic as death creeps in on all sides. Legions of barely conscious zombies descend upon the shopping mall, transmitting sleeping sickness with a bite, but the defiantly conscious are barricaded in the storeroom, waiting for the right time to break through undead lines. Extreme yin switches to yang. The dot is under pressure, concentrating, crystallizing, purifying the sacred heart until the flip comes, when the point of light will expand and break through the blackened shell of the earth, to shine above the wasteland in a glorious morning of the magicians. The scales of this old world are baked and brittle, but new life wiggles within, so bring it on - war and pestilence, fire and famine, hurricanes, heat waves and towering tsunamis, goodies, baddies, and ugly jihadis. As the fire licks at our shins, the fruits of civilisation melt ever more delicious on our lips. And immortals are born in the flames.

Ω

