

News from Info-Cult

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The End of the World

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by Mike Kropveld

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Mountain peak in Bugarach

A recent Ipsos survey found that 8% of their world wide sample thought that the end of the world was coming.

At Info-Cult we have received many calls from concerned parents and teachers whose children, or students expressed fears that a popular prophecy about an imminent end of the world might be about to occur. By now, nearly everybody has heard about a presumed Mayan prophecy according to which this December 21, 2012 is supposed to signal the end of the world. According to some reports, the Mayan calendar's ending has been used to claim that doomsday is near, rather than just the end of one it's cycles and the beginning of another. In fact, in recent months, articles on the subject have been appearing on a daily basis, as well as documentaries, websites and forums.

Fortunately, the information supporting the thesis that the end of the world is near is not convincing according to specialists in the field. Experts of Mayan culture like David Stuart ([The Order of Days: The Maya World and the Truth About 2012](#)) declare that the calendar, which is interpreted to mean doomsday, rather signals the end of a cycle in the Mayan calendar, cycles similar to a year's end on our calendar. David Morrison, a senior scientist at the NASA Astrobiology Institute, has put together a web site designed to answer all the questions raised by this prediction that has many people worried and scared. On his web site, "Ask an Astrobiologist" (<http://astrobiology2.arc.nasa.gov/ask-an-astrobiologist/>), he provides answers to people who fear they are not correctly prepared to face the end of the world. He also explains the Bad Science that contributed in building up this doomsday idea. His explanations and answers to the many questions raised by this frightening idea help to understand what's behind these esoteric beliefs.

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Education

The 2013 Annual International ICSA Conference – Trieste, Italy

The next ICSA (International Cultic Studies Association) conference will be held in Trieste, Italy, July 4 – 6, 2013. Info-Cult is collaborating in organizing this conference.

Information & Special Early Registration Flyer is here:

<http://infosect.freeshell.org/infocult/Earlyregistration-October2012.pdf>

Program information and other details will be forthcoming and when available can be found at:

<http://infosect.freeshell.org/infocult/CongInt.html>

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Unfortunately, many are taking advantage of this prophecy. Recently, I had the opportunity to visit Bugarach, a village in the Corbières mountain range in France where it is believed that people will be saved if it is the end of the world. The village mayor, whom I met, is quite vocal about the profiteers attempting to exploit the fear and the credulity of many. To that effect, a recent Ipsos survey found that 8% of their world wide sample thought that the end of the world was coming (Ipsos survey May 1, 2012 - <http://www.ipsos-na.com/news-polls/pressrelease.aspx?id=5610>).

Experts of Mayan culture declare that the calendar rather signals the end of a cycle in the Mayan calendar, cycles similar to a year's end on our calendar.

For the past 32 years at Info-Cult, I have heard of predictions about the imminent end of the world, this one, however, is scarier; maybe because it has been relayed so much more thoroughly through social media as well as through blogs and e-mails. The potential of the WEB to disseminate ideas is formidable. Unfortunately, sometimes those ideas are wrong and dangerous. Some people are so frightened about the seeming imminence of this prophecy that they are ready to contemplate every option, others are squandering their life savings in fruitless attempts to be saved. It is quite sad and unfortunate to witness all the fear and the destruction that such amateur interpretation of the little known, yet rich civilization of the Mayans can lead to.

Hopefully, the media will take a responsible perspective from now on when presenting reports on this situation. Media reports must not only be more balanced about this "end of the world" scare, but also must give viewers the scientific information and knowledge they need to make good choices.

Mike Kropveld
Executive Director – Info-Cult

For additional information here are some selected links:

English Links

Mayans Protest 'Twisting Of Truth' Over 2012 Doomsday Predictions

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/10/31/mayans-protest-2012-doomsday-predictions_n_2050519.html

A Brief History of the Apocalypse

<http://www.abhota.info/end5.htm>

A Brief History of the Apocalypse - Links

<http://www.abhota.info/endlinks.htm>

2012 doomsday sayers predict profits

http://www.denverpost.com/lifestyles/ci_13697391

With eye on Mayan calendar, 2012 doomsayers are stepping into high gear, as are the debunkers

<http://www.kansascity.com/2011/12/14/3319665/with-eye-on-mayan-calendar-2012.html>

2012 End of the World: NASA Scientist Tries to Ease Fear

<http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/2012-end-world-theories-nasa-scientist-eases-public/story?id=17848248#.ULoUV-Q0chQ>

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Mike Kropveld of Info-Cult
with Jean-Pierre Delord,
Mayor of Bugarach.

French Links

L'expert en fin du monde

<http://www.sciencepresse.qc.ca/actualite/2012/10/01/lexpert-fin-monde>

Nouvel Age: Bugarach, le village de l'apocalypse

http://religion.info/french/articles/article_577.shtml

Enquête - 21 décembre 2012 : les escrocs de la fin du monde

<http://www.lefigaro.fr/mon-figaro/2010/12/20/10001-20101220ARTFIG00506-fous-et-escrocs-prets-pour-la-fin-du-monde.php>

Bugarach : la colère du maire (vidéo)

http://www.wat.tv/video/bugarach-colere-maire-4t5sl_2exyh_.html

2012, le business de la fin du monde

http://www.lepoint.fr/societe/2012-le-business-de-la-fin-du-monde-10-01-2012-1417262_23.php

Qui a peur de 2012?

<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/actualites/201007/31/01-4302799-qui-a-peur-de-2012.php>

L'effroi

<http://www.lapresse.ca/debats/editoriaux/mario-roy/201211/26/01-4597889-leffroi.php>

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News from Info-Cult

Past editions of *News from Info-Cult* are accessible on our website at the following url: <http://infosect.freeshell.org/infocult/ic-news.html>

Info-Cult Website

Various pages of the site are updated on a regular basis. Bookmark our site: www.infocult.org and keep up to date.

Info-Cult E-mail Information Lists (English and French)

Info-Cult's **free** email service offers to subscribers: articles on cults, new religious movements and related subjects, announcements of upcoming conferences, television programs and updates about Info-Cult.

If you are interested in subscribing to **either or both language lists**, email us at: infosecte@qc.aibn.com

NOTE: The information sent on the English and French lists are generally different. The inclusion of information on a group in our mailings is provided solely as a source of information and does not denote that Info-Cult considers the group to be a cult or harmful.

Donate to Info-Cult

Info-Cult is a registered charitable organization and relies on financial support from various sources to fund our day-to-day activities. Info-Cult is recognized for its role in responding to a very real need in our society. Donations to Info-Cult are greatly appreciated.

You can donate by mail to
Info-Cult at 5655 Park Ave., Suite 208, Montreal, QC, Canada H2V 4H2.

Or online at:



<http://www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx?CharityID=s37870&Language=en>

Or by:

PayPal

Go to www.infocult.org and click on **Support Us**



[Info-Cult Video](#)

SKRL Productions

Info-Cult Promotional Video

4 minutes