

THE SECRET OF

2012

AND A NEW WORLD AGE

UNDERSTANDING FRACTAL TIME

GREGG BRADEN

*The best-selling author of **The God Code** and **The Divine Matrix***

THE SECRET OF



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Ancient traditions viewed time as a never-ending dance of cycles—great waves of energy that pulse across the universe, linking the past and the future in their journey. Modern science seems to agree. In the language of physics, time merges with the space it travels through to create space-time, ripples in the quantum ocean that makes the universe possible.

A growing body of evidence suggests that time's waves, and the history within them, repeat as cycles within cycles. As each new cycle begins, it carries the same conditions as the past, but with a greater intensity. It's this fractal time that becomes the events of the universe and life.

Using a code that we're only beginning to understand, the ancient Maya charted fractal time on a series of calendars unlike anything the world has seen since. Because they understood the cycles, they knew that the conditions of the future are also etched into the record of the past. This includes the mysterious end date of the present world-age cycle: December 21, 2012. The key to understanding 2012 and what it means for us today is to know how to read the map of time.

This book is dedicated to our discovery of time as the language of our past, the map to our future, and the world to come.

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INTRODUCTION

*“For I dipped into the future, far as human eye could see,
Saw the Vision of the world, and all the wonder
that would be.”*

— Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809–1892), poet

We’re living the end of time.

Not the end of the world, but the end of a *world age*—a 5,125-year cycle of time—and the way we’ve known the world throughout that time. The present world age began in 3114 B.C. and will end in A.D. 2012. Because the end of anything also marks the beginning of what comes next, we’re also living the start of what follows the end of time: the next world age, which ancient traditions called the *great cycle*.

From the epic poems of India’s Mahabharata to the oral traditions of indigenous Americans and the biblical story of Revelation, those who have come before us knew that the end of time was coming. They knew, because it always does. Every 5,125 years, the earth and our solar system reach a place in their journey through the heavens

that marks the end of precisely such a cycle. With that end, a new world age begins. Apparently it's always been this way.

For at least four such cycles (or five, according to the Mesoamerican traditions of the Aztec and the Maya peoples), our ancestors endured the changes in global magnetic fields and climate, diminishing resources, and rising sea levels that come with the end of time. They did so without satellites and the Internet or computer models to help them prepare for such a radical shift.

The fact that they lived to tell the story stands as a powerful testament to an undeniable truth: it tells us beyond any reasonable doubt that the inhabitants of our planet have survived the end of world ages in the past. Beyond simply surviving, our ancestors learned from the difficulties that can accompany the change. In the words of their day, they did their best to tell us what it means to live such a rare moment in history. It's a good thing they did, because such events are few and far between. Only five generations in the last 26,000 years have experienced the shift of world ages. We will be the sixth.

The present world age isn't something that will simply fade away into the sunset of a time that seems to perpetually linger somewhere "out there" in our future. Just the opposite: our world age has an expiration date. It ends at a specific time, with a specific event, on a day that was marked on a calendar more than 2,000 years ago. There is no secret about that date. The Maya who calculated it also inscribed it as a permanent record for future generations. The date is etched into stone monuments that were built to last until the end of time.

Using the format of the ancient *Long Count*

calendar—the system of timekeeping that the Maya developed to track extremely long periods—the last day of the present world age is written as a five-part code. Read from left to right, the parts have unique names that represent decreasing units of time. The leftmost is the *baktun* and represents 144,000 days. Moving right, the *katun* corresponds to 7,200 days; the *tun*, 360 days; the *uinal*, 20 days; and the *kin*, 1 day.¹ With this code in mind, the Mayan calendar places the end date of our age at 13.0.0.0.0 (13 baktun cycles, and 0 cycles for the rest of the units).

When the date is translated to our familiar system of time, the message becomes clear. It tells us that our present world cycle will conclude with the winter solstice that takes place on December 21 in the year 2012. It's on this date that the mysterious Maya identified the astonishing astronomical events that will mark the end of our age . . . and they did so more than two millennia ago.

Time Code 1: We're living the completion of a 5,125-year-long cycle of time—a *world age*—that the ancient Maya calculated would end with the winter solstice on December 21, 2012.

To put into perspective just how rare the ending of such a cycle really is, consider that the last humans to witness the shift from one world age to the next lived in the year 3114 B.C., approximately 1,800 years *before* the time of Moses and the biblical Exodus.

New Meaning to the End of Time

It's only recently that the meaning of a world age has made sense to modern scientists. Although the countdown to the end of time is etched deeply into our unconscious psyche (almost universally, people throughout the world share their sense of a feeling that something is "up"), the conditions that it brings are only now being recognized by scientific disciplines, ranging from geology and oceanography to astronomy and climatology.

The reason scientists seem to be so late in jumping on the bandwagon of 2012 is because of technology, or the lack of it. Only in the last 60 years or so have we had the computers, satellites, and remote-sensing equipment capable of verifying the connection between the end of a world age and the changes it brings to our lives. The global climate, patterns of war and peace, and even our spiritual relationship with God and the universe all appear to be directly influenced by the planetary changes that are being documented now by the best science of today.

Just as we are cautioning future generations about our 20th-century experience of nuclear weapons and global warming, the civilizations of our past cautioned us about their experience of the end of time. Having just lived the end of the last great cycle in their day, Earth's inhabitants did what humans do following an epic event that forever changes the world: they recorded the events for future generations. In doing so, they ensured that we would know what to expect, as well as how to prepare. And our ancestors did it from direct experience.

More than 51 centuries ago, our ancestors did their

best to inform and warn us of what that they knew would be an era of powerful transition in a future that they could only imagine in their dreams. That era is now. To understand their message is to understand our journey through the heavens and time. It's all about cycles.

Time Code 2: Our ancestors recorded their experience of the last “end of time,” showing beyond a reasonable doubt that the close of one world age is the beginning of the next, and not the end of the world.

The very nature of a cycle is that it repeats itself. So every time the end of one appears, by definition it's also the beginning of the next. The key here is that to get to the beginning of what's new, the cycle must pass through the end of what exists. While this repeating nature of cycles is obvious on the small scale of things, like seasons of the year and phases of the moon, it's not always so obvious when we're talking about cosmic cycles of solar systems moving through the galaxy.

This is where the message of our Mayan ancestors comes in. They recognized the nature of time's cycles long before science described our journey through the heavens. Their timekeepers preserved what they knew and incorporated their knowledge into stories about the universe and life: nonscientific descriptions of creation and destruction, birth and death, beginnings and endings—descriptions that remain today. While the specifics regarding the end-time vary across traditions,

cultures, and religious beliefs, there is a common theme that seems to run through all of them. Almost universally, ancient predictions for our time in history describe an age filled with an epic “darkness.”

From the Hindu chronicling of the *yugas* to the Mayan Long Count marking the remaining days of the current great cycle, the close of our age has been anticipated as an era of war, suffering, excess, and inequality. While these descriptions sound ominous, there is a bright side: *although the darkness appears to be necessary, it also appears to be brief.*

The reason: Physically, our solar system is moving through the shortest part of an orbit that looks like a flattened circle, an ellipsis whose far end carries us to the most distant point from the core of our home galaxy, the Milky Way.

The physical effect: Both ancient traditions and modern science tell us that our location in this cyclic orbit determines how we experience the powerful sources of energy, such as the “massive magnetic fields,” which radiate from our galaxy’s core.² Recent studies suggest that it is precisely such cycles that may explain the mysterious patterns of biodiversity—the rise and fall of life on Earth, such as the mass extinctions that happened 250 million and 450 million years ago.³ Additionally, modern discoveries confirm that Earth’s position (orbit, tilt, and wobble) throughout the journey creates the ever-changing cycles that influence everything from temperature and climate to polar ice and the planet’s

magnetic fields.⁴ Details of these effects will be discussed throughout the book.

The emotional/spiritual effect: As we travel farther from our galaxy's core, our distance from the energy located there was described by ancient traditions as the loss of a connection that we sense both spiritually and emotionally. Scientific links between the quality of Earth's magnetic fields, how they're affected by cosmic conditions, and our feeling of well-being seem to precisely support such ancient beliefs.⁵

In the same way that Earth's rotation makes the darkest part of the night appear just before the dawn, our position in the heavens is such that the darkest part of our world age appears right before our heavenly orbit begins the return that brings us closer to our galaxy's core. With that return, we experience relief from the cataclysmic forces of the cycle's darkness. And just as the night must pass in order to get to the new day, the only way to arrive at the light of the next cycle is to finish the darkness of this one.

We all know that dark experiences definitely exist in our world, and we don't need to look far to find them; however, there's also more to life than the suffering that the ancients foresaw—much more. Even in our time of great darkness, the polarities of peace, healing, love, and compassion are alive, well, and abundant.

Our ancestors had an amazingly deep grasp of just what our experience of cosmic cycles means on multiple levels. Somehow they *knew* that Earth's position in the heavens would affect the physical conditions in our

world, as well as the emotional and spiritual experiences that we need to embrace them. Through myth, analogy, and metaphor, they reminded us that the farther we travel away from the source of such powerful energy, the deeper we are in darkness and the more out of sync we find ourselves with the fields that influence life here on Earth. From the traditions of the Hopi to the ancient Vedas, it's this experience of separateness that is credited with our sense of being lost as well.

Our ancestors cautioned that at the most distant point in our cycle, we would forget who we are—our connectedness to one another and the earth. They told us that we would forget our past. It's precisely this disconnected feeling that seems to be the consequence of the cyclic journey that carries us to the far end of our galactic orbit. It's also the fear that is spawned by such feelings that has led to the chaos, war, and destruction at the end of cycles past.

At the conclusion of the last two world ages, for example, the Hopi describe the greed and wars that led to the loss of the very things that we cherish the most: our families, our civilization, and ourselves. Archaeological discoveries of an advanced civilization located in the Indus River valley between what is now India and Pakistan seem to support the Hopi myths, as well as those of the 100,000-line epic of the Hindu Mahabharata.⁶

The site has revealed the bodies of humans that appear to be in what the archaeologists called "postures of flight," suggesting that they were fleeing from whatever it was that destroyed their civilization. Students of the Mahabharata suggest that the work describes a great war fought in the valley marking the precise location of

the new discoveries. The remains are dated at approximately 10,000 years old, placing them into the time frame of two world ages past.

When we understand what the darkness of our cycle means and why it's necessary, we begin to see the great challenges of our time in a new light. With that light, our moment in history and our response to the changes that come with it take on new meaning. With these ideas in mind, it becomes even clearer that *now is the best time* for us to go through such a cycle.

The reason is that *now is the first time* we have the understanding, the need, and the technology to reach into the realm of all possibilities and choose the kind of future that will arise from the chaos of the present. This is something that would have been impossible even 50 years ago.

If we look closely at the stories and records that have been handed down to us for more than 250 generations, it becomes obvious that those who experienced the end of the last world age worked hard to make sure we know precisely what it means to do so. We find the fruits of their labor preserved for us today in their temples, texts, traditions, and cultures.

The Alignment We've All Been Waiting For

Although the creation stories from ancient civilizations, such as the Hopi, Hindu, and Mayan cultures, differ in specifics, they generally agree when it comes to the cyclic nature of the universe. They state that at least three worlds have existed, and been destroyed, before

the one we're living today. While different traditions use different signs to tell us where we are in our world-age cycle, it seems that *all* the signs are essentially telling us the same thing: the shift from our present age into the next is *now*.

What sets the calendar of the Maya apart from the oral traditions, such as the Hopi, is that their timeline for the shift ends on a specific date. While their system of calendars accurately identifies the alignment that marks the shift (a rare astronomical configuration that modern computers have now confirmed), it's what the Maya knew about Earth's journey through the heavens that makes their story even more astounding.

Specifically, they knew that during a zone of time before and after the 2012 winter solstice, Earth and our entire solar system would move into a position that is extraordinary by any standards. It's during this time that we pass an imaginary line that defines the two halves of our disk-shaped galaxy. In just the way the equator of the earth divides the Northern and Southern hemispheres, the equator-like line that we cross in the Milky Way separates the "top" of the galaxy's disk from the "bottom." As the planets of our solar system line up with one another and our sun, our crossing of the galaxy's equator also aligns us with the mysterious source of energy that lies at the heart of the Milky Way. This alignment and the conditions that it creates signal the completion of the great cycle, as indicated by the Mayan calendar.⁷

To be absolutely clear, this is not an event that happens suddenly in a single day. In other words, our crossing of the imaginary line that divides our galaxy does

not suggest that we'll all go to bed on December 20, 2012, in one world and wake up the next morning to a radically different world on the 21st. Rather, the winter solstice appears to be the astronomical marker that the Maya chose to designate the center of the transition zone. That zone begins well *before* and ends well *after* 2012.

Because of the size and relative distances of heavenly bodies, to us here on Earth this alignment appears as a slow, gradual shift over a period of time. Our familiar experience of an eclipse is a perfect illustration of how such a gradual shift occurs.

If you've ever watched a lunar eclipse, it probably didn't take long for you to discover that it wasn't going to be over quickly. Once it began, you could duck into the house, fix a cup of tea, make a couple of phone calls, and feed the pets before going back outdoors to observe the eclipse's progress. Even though the earth is hurtling through space at about 65,000 miles per hour, on the night of a lunar eclipse, such an enormous speed isn't obvious. That's the effect of huge objects like planets moving through space at tremendous speeds across vast distances. To us, they look like they're in slow motion.

So in the case of the sun moving into an alignment with the equator of the Milky Way, the winter solstice of 2012 marks a point within the zone of a shift that actually began years ago. In his landmark work identifying the 2012 crossover of the galaxy's equator and its significance, *Maya Cosmogenesis 2012*, John Major Jenkins describes how such a transition is a process rather than an event. Using calculations made by Belgian astronomer Jean Meeus, Jenkins suggests that the progression of the

sun across the zone of the Milky Way's equator covers a corresponding zone of time that began in 1980 and ends in 2016.⁸ Even with a margin of error of plus or minus a few years, this means that we're already well into the alignment that the Maya predicted more than 2,000 years ago. (While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information included in this book, new discoveries continue to help us refine our understanding of the 2012 phenomenon. Please see my Website for updates and corrections: www.greggbraden.com.)



What does such a rare moment in astronomical history mean in our lives today? The truth is that no one knows for sure. We can't, because no one living today has a direct experience of the last time something like this happened. What we do have, however, are good indicators of what we can expect. We have facts.

When we marry the facts of today's science with the wisdom and the historical records of the past, we find a story that's almost beyond belief. It's the story of a journey—our journey—that began so long ago that it has taken more than 256 generations and five millennia to reach the end. Now that it's doing so, we discover that the end is actually the start of a new journey. Perhaps poet and visionary T. S. Eliot best described the irony of an end being a beginning: "We shall not cease from exploration / And the end of all our exploring / Will be to arrive where we started / And know the place for the first time."⁹

While the story of a shifting world age based in our

planet's orbit through the cosmos may sound like the plot of a *Star Trek* episode, the celestial calculations that our ancestors left us are surprisingly consistent with the scientific findings of today. When we put it all together, they tell the same story. With that story, we suddenly have a new meaning for the greatest mysteries of our past, as well as the clues that tell us what to expect in our future.

Fortunately, our ancestors left us everything we need to meet the challenges of a great world age. It's not only about cycles. It's about our ability to recognize patterns and where we are *within* the cycles.

The Code of Time

In the 1980s, I worked in the defense industry writing software to look for patterns in data. It was during this time that the world experienced one of the most frightening and secretive eras in history: the Cold War. With more than 70,000 nuclear-tipped weapons poised to strike the largest cities in Europe and North America at a moment's notice, I found myself searching for a way to make sense of war within the context of a bigger picture.

Was the Cold War part of a cycle? Could the seemingly random events leading to the wars of the past actually be part of a great, evolving pattern that began long ago? And if such a thing is possible, then do the patterns extend beyond the experience of war into the things that happen in our daily lives, like love and betrayal?

If we were to find that every aspect of our world is

part of an ancient and ongoing cycle, such a discovery would give us a powerful new way to think of ourselves. It would imply that everything from the beginnings and endings of jobs and relationships to the exact years when war is waged and peace is declared is all part of a cycle—a pattern that makes it possible to reveal the *conditions* for the future that we’ve already experienced in the past. If such a pattern actually exists, then we could even take its meaning one step further.

It would allow us to pinpoint an experience, *any experience*—from romance to hurt—and find that it’s part of a pattern that can be known and, more important, be predicted. Such a vantage point would go a long way toward helping us make sense of our world. It would also be of immense value as we embark upon our journey into the 21st century and find ourselves in the uncharted territory of merging the knowledge and ideas of East and West, and ancient wisdom and modern science, to solve the great challenges that threaten our survival.

Well, you’ve probably guessed that the answer to each of my questions regarding cycles is the same. It’s *yes!* The reason for the answer could fill volumes and is the subject of *this* book. The key to such a powerful view of time and history is that we can only understand how cycles relate to life by crossing the fuzzy line that has traditionally separated science from the spiritual traditions of our ancestors.

For example, when we marry the ancient understanding of time’s cycles with Nobel Prize-winning physicist Albert Einstein’s 20th-century discovery of the unity of time and space, something wonderful begins to happen. Three facts emerge with implications that change

everything we've been led to believe about our lives in the world:

- Fact 1:** Einstein's theory of relativity forever merged our ideas of space and time into the single essence called *space-time*.
- Fact 2:** The events of everyday life (romances, wars, peace, planetary orbits, stock-market fluctuations, the rises and falls of civilizations, and so on) all happen within space-time.
- Fact 3:** Things that happen in space-time follow natural rhythms.

These facts carry two powerful implications that lay the foundation for the rest of this book and are summarized below.

Time Code 3: New discoveries show that we can think of time as an essence that follows the same rhythms and cycles that govern everything from particles to galaxies.

Time Code 4: We can think of the *things* that happen in time as *places* within cycles—points that can be measured, calculated, and predicted.

With Time Codes 3 and 4 in mind, we have the reasons and the tools to think of time in a powerful new way. Rather than considering the minutes of each day as nature's way of keeping everything from happening at once, as pioneering physicist John Wheeler once remarked, now we can envision time as a kind of code that connects the past with the future. Just as any other code can be cracked and understood, the message of the ancient Mayan calendar may be deciphered and read like the pages of a book.

For some people, this perspective of time and life is a very different way of thinking about things. For others, while it is certainly unconventional, it also makes perfect sense. The idea is fascinating. The implications are deep, mysterious, and exhilarating. While they challenge much of the way we've been taught to think of the universe, we also find ourselves powerfully drawn to such a possibility. We want to know more. We find ourselves wanting to apply this new understanding of time to the real world to make sense of everything from the tragedies of life to the mysteries of the future. And we can.

Although quantum scientists tell us that we can never predict an exact future, what we *can* predict are probabilities for the future. This is precisely what the existence of repeating cycles of time demonstrates. *Each*

time a cycle appears, it repeats the general conditions that make something possible, rather than a precise outcome. Just as the conditions in Earth's atmosphere can create the perfect environment for a tornado without ever actually forming one, time's cycles can bring together all of the circumstances that led to an event in history, without that event occurring again in the present.

The key here is that the ingredients for repetition are present and the situation is "primed." The way those conditions play out, however, is determined by the choices we make in life. Knowing in advance where our choices can have the greatest impact tips the scales in our favor as we complete the cycle that holds our well-being and, ultimately, our survival in the balance.

Time Code 5: If we know where we are in a cycle, then we know what to expect when it repeats.

If we can really think of time in the universe in the same way that we think of the stuff that happens in life—as the *events* that fill it—then the cycles within time can be measured in the same way we measure the stuff that happens. Just as we are able to predict the cyclic return of a comet streaking through the universe, suddenly we can also pinpoint the year when the conditions that led to the rise of a civilization or an act of war will come around again. The beauty of such an understanding is that along with the moments in our time that are ripe

for chaos, we can also identify the moments in our future that are ripe for peace.

Because all such cycles are based on natural rhythms, we can use the universal codes that govern everything from the movement of quantum particles to the shape of our galaxy in a formula that takes the guesswork out of finding the places in time we're searching for. That is precisely what we'll do in the chapters that follow.

Once we develop the ideas of time's cycles, we can use our understanding in one of two ways: (1) we can follow the instructions in this book to make our own *Time Code Calculator* that tells us how to find the times in our future when we can expect a repeat of conditions past, or (2) we can use the automated Web-based version that does the same thing for us.

Either way, we'll be able to plug in a specific year, such as the end of the Mayan cycle in 2012, to find the time(s) in the past that tell us what to expect when the cycle returns. In doing so, we give ourselves an unprecedented view into time, and something concrete to anchor our expectations for the end of the present great age.

But the Time Code Calculator is not limited only to major events on a global scale. It works for the things that happen in everyday life as well. It appears that the conditions leading to the pivotal moments we experience—from the joys and crises in our personal lives to the wars and peace between nations—repeat themselves as cycles, large and small, and follow the same natural rhythms. To use the cycles in our lives, we must recognize the patterns: when they begin, how they play out, and how to read their timing.

Time Code 6: The Time Code Calculator shows us when we can expect the *conditions* of the past to repeat, not the events themselves.

This is precisely why the Time Code Calculator is so valuable. Along with the repeating cycles that make the conditions possible, each cycle also contains *choice points*, moments when change seems to come easier and be most effective. So while the themes of global war, personal betrayal, and peace themselves may be set into the timeline, the outcome for each of these specific themes is not. As is the case with all of human experience, it's what we do with the condition presented to us that dictates the next phase of our lives.

In Chapter 1, for example, we'll see how the conditions for a surprise attack on American soil have been present three times throughout the 20th and 21st centuries. Based on repeating cycles of time, the Time Code Calculator clearly identifies the two dates when the conditions for such an attack would be present following the seed event in 1941. But while *we were* attacked on one of those two dates, on the second we were not. Although the conditions were present, human choices (which will be described in Chapter 7) prevented the third attack.

The key to using our choice points is that for us to affect our future in a conscious way, we must recognize where we are in the cycle. This all begins with our realizing that we're actually living a Time Code of sorts, a pulsating field of energy that has a beginning, is ever-

expanding, and carries what scientists have called the “forward march of time.”



With these ideas in mind, questions arise: What is possible? Does the past really hold a blueprint for the future? What could something that happened a thousand years ago possibly tell us about today? What about the mysterious end date of the Mayan cycles? Is there a way to look backward in time to give us an idea of what may be in store for us come 2012? These are the questions that led to the research for this book. The chapters that follow are their answer.

Why This Book?

There is certainly no shortage of books and media coverage regarding the Mayan calendar and the year 2012. It seems like every month new volumes show up on the bookshelves and in Internet bookstores. As with any topic that strikes a powerful chord within people's hearts and minds, the new books offer very different, often conflicting perspectives. Ranging from scholarly predictions that have taken years to research to stream-of-consciousness dictations claimed to be from off-planet intelligence, all serve a purpose. All add to the collective momentum that appears to be building as we approach the winter solstice of December 21, 2012. The revolutionary insights of philosopher and ethnobotanist Terence McKenna in his books *True Hallucinations* (1993)

and *The Invisible Landscape* (1975), and the scholarly work of researchers such as John Major Jenkins, have already explored the mystery and meaning of the 2012 end date . . . and have done so beautifully.

It's precisely because such powerful works already exist that I had to be clear about my contribution to the 2012 literature. What could I possibly say that has not already been said? Perhaps the best way to answer this question is to state explicitly what this book is, what it's not, and what it offers.

In the pages that follow, you will . . .

. . . discover how the conditions for the Mayan end date of A.D. 2012 have already happened in our past as a fractal of what we can expect in our future.

. . . see how nature's "most beautiful numbers" guide us to the places in the past that describe what is to come.

. . . identify the "hot dates" that hold the greatest threats of war and the greatest opportunities for peace in our immediate future.

. . . calculate your own Time Code for the key events and relationships in your life.

. . . discover the personal and collective *choice points* of life and history—moments in time when change seems to come easier than it does at others.

Through the seven concise chapters in this book, I invite you into a powerful and practical way of thinking about your relationship to time, history, and the future. It's important to know up front what you can expect from any new path of self-discovery. For that reason, the following describes precisely what this book is—and what it is not:

— This book *is not* a science publication. Although I will share the leading-edge science that invites us to rethink our relationship to time, this work has not been written to conform to the format or standards of a classroom science text or technical journal.

— This book *is not* a peer-reviewed research paper. Each chapter and every report of research *has not* gone through the lengthy review process of a certified board or selected panel of experts trained to see our world through the eyes of a single field of study, such as physics, math, or psychology.

— This book *is* well researched and well documented. It has been written in a reader-friendly way that describes the experiments, case studies, historical records, and personal experiences that support an empowering way to think of ourselves in the world.

— This book *is* an example of what can be accomplished when we cross the traditional boundaries between science and spirituality. By marrying the 20th-century discoveries of fractal time with the 2,000-year-old Mayan message of cycles and the ancient knowledge

of nature's special template for life and balance—the *golden ratio*—we gain a powerful understanding of time as a force and us as explorers of that force, riding time waves through an ocean of never-ending cycles.

The Secret of 2012 & a New World Age is the result of more than 20 years of research and my personal journey to make sense of the repeating cycles of life, love, and war. If you have always sought to answer the questions *Does history repeat itself?* and *How is the future connected with the past?* then you will appreciate this book.

The key to 2012 and our time in history is understanding the language of nature's cycles and using that language today to prepare for the future. Ultimately we may discover that our ability to understand and apply the "rules" of Fractal Time holds the key to our deepest healing, our greatest joy, and our survival as a species.

The Secret of 2012 and a New World Age is written with one purpose in mind: to read the map of the past and apply what we learn as we approach 2012 and the world beyond. In doing so, we give meaning to the past while unlocking the code of life's possibilities in the future—both opportunities that generations to come will have to wait another 26,000 years to see again.

— Gregg Braden

Taos, New Mexico, 2009

