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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: The Photon-Belt Encounter

From: Nick Balaskas <nikolaos@YorkU.CA>
Date: Thu, 13 Jan 2000 13:57:31 -0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
Fwd Date: Thu, 13 Jan 2000 17:30:45 -0500
Subject: Re: The Photon-Belt Encounter

>Date: Thu, 13 Jan 2000 17:45:33 +1100
>From: Bill Alford <googong@interact.net.au>
>Subject: Re: The Photon-Belt Encounter
>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <updates@sympatico.ca>

<snip>

>Further to what Ed has posted, the Pleiades were significant to
>the Maya. On the solstice day of May 20, 2012, at Chichen Itza,
>the rare event of the Sun passing through the zenith at midday
>and the Pleiades passing through the zenith at midnight will
>occur. The date on which the Sun and the Pleiades pass through
>the zenith depends upon latitude and changes with precession.

Hello again Bill and everyone.

Summer solstice, the furthest north the Sun gets in our sky, is
aways on June 21 (the same as a dozen years ago or a dozen years
into the future). When you say "... the solstice day of May 20,
2012, at Chichen Itza", I take it you mean when the sun is at
the zenith or it highest elevation in the sky.

Since Chichen-Itza is at latitude 20.7 degrees north, for the
Sun to be at the zenith point over Chichen-Itza it must also
have a declination in the sky of plus 20.7 degrees. According to
my ephemeris for the Sun, this occurs about three days after
May 20. Close but no cigar.

Both the Sun and the Pleiades would be close to each other and
high in the sky over Chichen-Itza on May 20 at midday, not at
midnight. Your "rare event" happens every year. No big deal.

<snip>

>Also, on May 20, 2012, there will be a total solar eclipse that
>will sweep across central and western North America. So the Sun
>and the Pleiades will pass through the zenith along with the
>Moon on May 20, 2012 at Chichen Itza in a rare precessional
>alignment.

<snip>

There is no total solar eclipse of the Sun for May 20, 2012,
just an annular one where no more than 94% of the sun will be
occulted by the Moon. Furthermore, this solar eclipse will not
be visible in the sky over Chichen Itza at all but will be seen
over Japan and by people on cruise ships in the northeastern
Pacific Ocean.

Never-the-less, the Moon will be very near the Sun in the midday sky over Chichen Itza, as happens once every month anyway, but the Pleiades, which have a declination in the sky of plus 24 degrees will not be aligned with the Sun and Moon.

The Pleiades will be about $24 - 20.7 = 3.3$ degrees (or about 7 Moon diameters) further north. Nothing out of the ordinary here either. As a friend in the German military liked to say, close is only good in horseshoes and hand grenades. ;o)

>FARMERS in the high Andes Mountains may have been able to
>predict El Nino for centuries by observing whether clouds dimmed
>the light from a cluster of stars called the Pleiades.

>A potato farming tradition handed down from one generation to
>the next teaches that the brightness of stars in the
>constellation during June roughly predicted the rainfall during
>the growing season from October to May.

I have astronomer friends who observe the sky from world class telescopes on the Andes Mountains because of the excellent seeing, transparency and darkness of the night sky found there who will disagree with you. From meteorological daytime cloud data, every day could be overcast during El Nino years and still produce the same cloudless night skies as on non-El Nino years.

Furthermore, the Pleiades are simply a very prominent star cluster and not a constellation. They are also not visible in June because of their close proximity to the Sun - so how would the potato farmers see them without going blind?

Regretfully, there were few facts in your e-mail and nothing that convinced me of even a remote association between the Pleiades and E.T.s.

Nick Balaskas

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