Many versions of the following statement have appeared: “the Sun will intersect the Galactic Center on December 21, 2012, signaling the end of the world!!” Let us separate some fact from fiction, and in doing so play with the design of the cosmos.

For this discussion, let us accept the standard model: Our Earth orbits a Sun in an arm of a galaxy comprised of billions of stars, whose radius is approximately fifty thousand light years, our location being a bit more than half way from the center. This is not our sensory experience. We cannot see the center of the galaxy amongst the other stars at night for all the interstellar dust between the center and us. This center was found some decades ago by sensitive instruments measuring radio waves, gamma rays and high energy X-rays outside of the visible range. Even ultraviolet rays and low-energy X-rays will not penetrate the clouds obscuring the center of the galaxy. That location was also known since ancient times in iconography suggesting that powers lurked in that section of the sky, what we would call (astronomically and sidereally) about 2 degrees of The Archer, Sagittarius, an invisible power center toward which the Archer’s arrow points. Taking our cues from observation of other galaxies, we can assume that the billions of stars in our galaxy tend to swirl about the center as a flat plane, or a plane with a bit of thickness, and not as a sphere. That plane is indicated by the Milky Way, whose flowing river shows us the galactic plane.

Now imagine the Milky Way as a large dinner plate with the Galactic Center at the center of the plate. Our interest in the Galactic Center parallels our interest in the Sun – the Sun as the source of light, warmth, orientation and the Galactic Center as the immensely powerful source of creation itself. What flows from the Galactic Center? In Earth Under Fire, Paul LaViolette suggests that the Galactic Center sends a storm of radioactive and charged particles every 26,000 years or so, breaching the protective mantle of our heliosphere, showering the earth with rubidium and iridium, and frying everything. He expects another storm soon. Others have pictured an immense pulse of love from the Galactic Center (for example, John Lash, Not In His Image). These are reasons to ask how and when our Earth interacts with the Galactic Center.
How does our Earth relate to that location in the heavens? The Earth’s orbit around the Sun defines a plane, termed the ecliptic plane, for upon this plane eclipses can occur if something comes between the Sun and Earth on that plane. Imagine this plane as a small plate, with the Earth at the center of the small plate and the Sun traveling around it (it could be Sun at the center, but Earth at the center accords more with our actual experiences).

Then let us imagine several possibilities for the relation to the galactic plane (large plate) and the ecliptic plane (small plate).

1.) It might have been the case that the ecliptic plane (Earth and Sun) was at right angles to the galactic plane. (Set the large plate on a table top, and set the other plate up on edge, its face at right angles to the Galactic Center, the GC.) One version of this arrangement points the axis of the Earth’s rotation, now centered on Polaris in the North, toward the Galactic Center.

Then this grand source of X-rays, radio waves, and other emanations (love, light, and more!) would have beamed upon one hemisphere day and night. Moving to the opposite hemisphere, in the shadow of the GC, one would have felt the lack of the influence of the GC. There would have been no change in this streaming of energy over periods of time, day, year, or longer.

2.) The ecliptic plane might have been parallel to the galactic plane. (Lay the big plate on a table, and the little plate next to it, on the same table.) As the Sun-Earth dance is actually within the galaxy (just over half way out from the center), we would have seen the Sun (and all the planets) moving along the Milky Way throughout the course of the year and every night the Sun’s path would be illuminated by the Milky Way. The Milky Way would pour energy through the Sun every day of the year. From the point of view of the Earth, the Sun would have aligned with the Galactic Center once a year, while we would have received constant (and unremitting) instreaming from planetary
conjunctions with billions of stars of immense power along the plane of their orientation (the galactic plane).

3.) The ecliptic plane could have been tilted in an infinite number of ways so that the Galactic Center was somewhere halfway up in the sky. Neither pole (1) nor Sun (2) would have ever aligned with it, though the Sun (from the Earth’s perspective) would have appeared to enter the domain of the Milky Way twice a year, not in alignment with a point but with a whole zone of starry activity.

4.) The present situation (nearly). Set both plates on the table and slide the little one off the edge of the table while keeping the two plates edge to edge (as in #2). While keeping the edge of the little plate touching the larger plate, twist the little plate. The ecliptic plane is tilted in relation to the galactic plane (about 60 degrees, the reason why the Milky Way seems tilted), approximately focusing for a few days the core energy of the Galactic Center to the Earth.

The Galactic Center (GC) lies, by definition, at the center of the galactic plane. From the Earth’s perspective, the Sun gets in between Earth and GC once a year (dates for this in a moment), and has done so since the Earth and Sun were created. There is no truth to the notion that the
Sun-Earth line lines up with the Galactic Center as if for the first time in 2012; it happens every year. The Galactic Center is also touched by all our solar system’s planets that orbit the Sun as they go past two degrees of Sagittarius. Without the mediation of Sun or planets, we can observe or feel the Galactic Center each day rise at the eastern horizon, pass overhead, and set in the West along the path that the Sun travels. It is no rare stranger.

Were we to guess why the creators made it this way, we might consider that #1 above would have constituted a showering of blessings all the time, and an unchanging shadow in the hemisphere opposite; this would not have prodded human beings to awareness. In #2 above we likewise would have been showered with blessings from the Milky Way all the time, again with no prod to awareness. #3 would have been much less energized, though for periods of time twice a year the Sun (and at other times the planets) would have stimulated our Earth by alignment with the Milky Way, but there would have been no amplification of the Galactic Center by Sun or planets.

In #4, our present situation, we are not stimulated by the powers in the Milky Way (through conjunction with Sun or planets) all the time (as in #2), but at certain times. And once a year, the Sun aligns with the Galactic Center for a boost.

Now for a bit more accuracy. Our situation is not exactly as in #4, where the Sun is conjunct the Galactic Center once a year. We have a bit of #1 in that our solar system lies fifteen light years above the galactic plane. That’s twice the distance from here to Sirius. We also have a bit of #3, as the Galactic Center lies just over five degrees from the Sun’s path (ecliptic), a couple of finger widths distance in your outstretched arm mapping the heavens, thus close, but not exact. The Archer’s arrow points at it, just below the ecliptic. (Here shown via a drawing by Brian Gray of Rudolf Steiner College, Fair Oaks, CA, with the Galactic Center as a small cross just beyond the tip of the arrow, and the ecliptic as a dotted line above.)
The Sun crosses the Galactic Equator (or Galactic plane) twice a year, when the Sun is at 5 Sagittarius 17 and at its opposite when the Sun is at 5 Gemini 17. The Sun is a bit closer to the Galactic Center at 2 Sagittarius 6. (Though we specify a point location for the Galactic Center, X-ray maps show that its greatest intensity may extend for two degrees or more along the Galactic Equator.) The Sun, always in the plane of the ecliptic, passes over the Galactic Equator every year, as well as past the point that is closest to the Galactic Center, while never actually being right on the point of the Galactic Center. Interestingly, the Moon can conjunct the Galactic Center exactly, but the Sun does not. A schematic representation reveals all these interrelationships:
There is something to this tilt of the ecliptic plane in relation to the galactic plane (#4 in contrast to #2) that metes out energy and stimulation, not too little and not too much.

To understand this, we must mention a tilt and a wobble—the tilt of our planet’s axis to the ecliptic plane (23 ½ degrees) and a wobble in the Earth’s orbit whereby the axis of orientation of North and South moves slowly around a small circle of the heavens, taking 25,920 years to complete one wobble (the precession of the equinoxes). The seasons exist because of this 23 ½ degree tilt. Without that tilt, the equatorial middle would be always hot and the poles always cold. With the tilt the weather transforms, people must respond to shifting situations, and consciousness strengthens as a result. The wobble slowly adjusts the seasonal date on which the Sun intersects the Galactic Equator. In Jesus Christ’s time, the Sun intersected the Galactic Equator on November 28 (and was closest to the Galactic Center on November 25). Today it is December 21/22 (and December 18/19).

The tilt of the ecliptic plane in relation to the galactic plane may have the same effect, some kind of awakening (vs. the situations in #1, #2, and #3) that we also get in response to the seasons. Thus we can see the importance of a seasonal date, December 21, winter solstice in the Northern Hemisphere (and midsummer in the Southern Hemisphere), in relation to the Sun’s alignment with the Galactic Center. Even here we must sort the truth from the many claims. This alignment is not unique for the year 2012. As the Sun has a half-degree diameter, the Sun on December 21 has aligned with the Galactic Equator where it crosses the ecliptic plane (at 5 Sagittarius 07 at the present time) since 1980 and will do so until 2016. If you consider that the
fiery disc of the Sun has its most active areas at the edges and going out into the corona, these years may actually be extended by another decade in either direction. 2012 is not a unique contact point.

One could say that there is a special kind of closeness to connect with the path of a thing, even if you come closer to the thing itself in some future. The path is the Galactic Equator. If you say that the Sun on December 21 in relation to the Galactic Equator or directly perpendicular to the center of the galaxy (GC) marks an important connection between earth and sun, then we could say that 1980 to 2245 marks the time when our solstice season interacts with the Galactic Center in a dynamic way.

Thus we can ask about our time right now, “How has the alignment of the Sun with the Galactic Equator on a date important to our seasonal sleep (winter solstice or shortest day in the Northern Hemisphere) and waking (summer solstice or longest day in the Southern Hemisphere) changed the way we experience the Sun’s annual alignment with the Galactic Center?” We don’t have to wait until 2012 to answer that question.

My personal experience was assisted by finding the date of the original Pentecost as May 24, AD 33, when the Sun lay directly opposite the Galactic Center (Sun – Earth – Galactic Center). A downpouring of spiritual fire revealed as sparks of spirit mediated by Mother Mary spread out to the twelve disciples, then to the seventy-two men and seventy-two women most connected to the teaching, then to three thousand people visiting Jerusalem, where the barrier of different languages was breached by the communication of love. These sparks were not intended for one day but for all days, though I experience them most intensely from June 18 (Sun nearest opposite to Galactic Center) to June 21 (Sun on Galactic Equator) and December 18 (Sun nearest Galactic Center) to December 21 (Sun on Galactic Equator). At the StarHouse in Boulder, we celebrate these as solstices, “sun stands still,” a seasonal punctuation mark to accentuate a celestial memory.

The linear alignment of the Pentecost downpouring of spirit becomes simply the line-up of Gemini – Earth – Sun – Sagittarius – Galactic Center, and in more detail as braided streams of life force connected as follows: 2-5 degrees Gemini – Pentecost memory – Showers of spiritual sparks – Earth – Sun as magnifier — 2-5 degrees Sagittarius – Galactic Center. We can
experience this alignment as Earth-Sun on June 18 to 21 and as Sun-Earth on December 18 to 21, this year and every year for a period of over thirty years (and perhaps more).

Now let’s ask anew, why pursue the Galactic Center, so grand, yet so distant and obscured from view? The Galactic Center—as swirls of heat, electricity, subatomic particles, and forces of gravity, all of immense size, even to the distortion and extinction of time and space as we know them, indeed as the disembodied and chaotic source of creation—has no meaning unless compared to the coagulated, embodied earth, expressing itself in a version of time and space that we can call familiar, that is, part of our family. From our embodied selves on the embodied earth, we can experience the immensity of spirit force in the Galactic Center through its regent and representative, the Sun. When we attune to the Sun in all its power, beyond the measures of light and warmth, we can begin to feel the intensity of love focused there, and then emanating ceaselessly for all.

Perhaps this is why the Galactic Center has been obscured from view, to point our attention closer to home. The Sun represents the power of love of the greater center, stepping down further to the heart of the Earth and the heart of the human being. I experience the source, what some call the Central Spiritual Sun, in the Sun and its center, and also in my heart and in the hearts of others. The alignment of Sun, Earth, and Galactic Center merely intensifies a relationship that is there always, represented by the regent – the Sun. That representative and the spiritual beings who reside there are with us always, not in some future time, but this very moment.

---

1 The use of sidereal/astronomical (versus tropical) location points is not the argument of this article. It does help with some of the pictures that we use later. See Robert Powell, *History of the Zodiac* (Sophia Academic Press, 2006, based on his Ph.D. thesis on this topic).
3 John Lash, *Not In His Image* (Chelsea Green, 2006).
4 Adjustments to tropical degrees is easily made by adding 25 degrees.