

James Cameron's Avatar and the Mayan Tree of Life

It is ironic how movie critics blasted Avatar for having what they perceived to be a blasé plot when, in fact, there were plenty of messages to be interpreted that were hidden in plain sight. And it's no wonder that viewers have made this movie the second biggest blockbuster of all time. The messages of Avatar resonate on a level that hits most viewers at the subconscious level. And that's probably exactly how Colin Wilson, occultist, and a Unit Production Manager for the movie, planned it.

The Tree of Life plays to many different religious traditions including Hindus, Jews, Mormons, and the Maya. All believe that there are higher levels of evolution and consciousness that can be attained by moving up the tree. In fact, the Mayan calendar end cycle is associated with the Mayan Tree of Life. And the sacred Mayan Ceiba tree is the place where the Mayas make contact with their ancestors. The Na'vi people in Avatar are the Mayas whose forests and jungles have been decimated by western imperialism: specifically, US imperialism.

Avatar shows the encroachment of western religion and imperialism that heartlessly strips away spiritual connection with all living creatures and spiritual entities. "Eywa" is the female deity who is responsible for the balance of the Earth and the cosmos. She is the antithesis of western religion's warring God "Yahweh". The Tree of Life is the sustenance that connects us to the Earth and the spirit guides. Carl Johan Calleman, in his recent book *The Purposeful Universe - How Quantum Theory and Mayan Cosmology Explain the Origin and Evolution of Life*, has theorized, and done a very decent job in proving the impossible: that the Tree of Life is actually our biological network to the cosmos. Calleman is a biologist who has studied the Mayan calendars and has made a strong case for evolution being non-random, with a purpose. He ties evolution to the big bang and ultimately to the Tree of Life, an actual and purposeful evolving geometric formation that has branched out to create our universe, our galaxy, our solar system and its planets with a "bang". As the cosmos expanded, the Tree of Life expanded to create cellular life on Earth that evolved to human life with an "expanding and ever-evolving consciousness".

The Museo de Culturo Maya in Chetumal, Mexico houses a tree-of-life exhibit. The museum itself is actually built around a Tree of Life, on three stories. The Mayan Tree of Life is a Ceiba tree called *Yaxche*. This tree exhibit comprises all three floors of the museum. The lower level houses the giant buttressed roots that reign over the lower forms of life. This is symbolic of the underworld and the most basic cellular and networked memories, similar to the DNA-type spiraling roots of the Tree of Life in Avatar. The second level houses the tree's trunk that reigns over insect life, birds, animals, and the more "evolved" humans who are in control of their environment through an evolving consciousness.

The third level features a high, branching horizontal top that functions as a jungle canopy, with four branches that point to the four-cardinal directions which embody 3-D Earth. It is this formation that branches out in our galaxy to create new life. The eagles at the top of the canopy represent Father Sky or our evolving cosmic consciousness.

The messages of Avatar are actually a wake-up call for humans because while we may have a somewhat evolved consciousness, many still function as if they are cavemen without a notion of what consciousness and evolution are about. And the Tree of Life, “which manifested the big bang”, has gone through many expanded births of conscious life that tie into the Mayan calendar, and continually repeat seven day cycles of creation (similar to our own book of Genesis). Thus, the Maya’s end-time prophecies, as well as our own scientific timelines correspond to the point that they mark the next evolutionary consciousness leap.

Calleman makes a great case for showing how our biological/evolutionary timeline corresponds to the Mayan calendars and the Mayan Tree of Life seven-day cycles. What scientists and fundamentalists have missed is that these evolutionary leaps are about “consciousness” and are not random, Darwinian, or even about a male deity who picked up a magic wand and created life in his image. The seven-day Genesis cycle ties into the cycles of the Tree-of-Life, which had a “central axis prior to and beyond the big bang and any physical manifestation”.

For the millions of people who have seen Avatar, if only subtly, it is providing us a deeper look into our own subconscious and our connection to each other, our ancestors, and the planet. While some see messages of racism, others see messages of either hope or despair. A recent Avatar blog is being inundated by people who have become depressed after seeing the movie, who believe that the world is hopeless, wishing they could be in Pandora living in paradise. This Pandora world really did open Pandora’s box. The demons that the military characters and movie viewers confronted were their own destructive ways of life and living. They were forced to confront the demons of their own making. It is not without wonder that some viewers became very depressed. But the good news is that for the first time, these people are waking up to the possibilities and truths that have been buried beneath concrete, media, and advertising. There is a better way of living that can heal and restore the planet. However, it requires the end to imperialism, war and the exploitation of indigenous people and their resources. Will this ever happen?

According to the evolutionary timeline interpreted by modern-day scientists and the Tree of Life evolutionary cycles written into Mayan legends and Mayan calendars, this is what the “end time” is all about. We are about to take an evolutionary leap that will propel us to another level of consciousness. If nothing else, Avatar woke up those who might have otherwise missed the evolutionary party.