

Revisiting Nostradamus's Famous 1999 'King of Terror' Quatrain



# **DAY OF THE CHRIST PANTOCRATOR SKY**

**AUGUST 11<sup>th</sup> 1999**

**JONATHAN PHOTIUS**

**“(...) this will be preceded by the solar eclipse, more obscure and mysterious than has ever been since the creation of the world, except the eclipse after the death and passion of Christ.”**

**- Nostradamus in his letter to King Henri II**

This book is a fresh re-examination of Nostradamus's Century 10-Quatrain 72 "King of Terror" prophecy. Ever since the world-ending comet failed to materialize in the year 1999, many naysayers and skeptics quite often use this quatrain as the number one proof-text to demonstrate that Nostradamus is nothing more than a charlatan and false prophet. But the question still remains, is that for this specific quatrain - Nostradamus saw a vision so compelling, that he thought it was proper to "date" it. Perhaps Nostradamus saw some other hidden celestial event of great religious significance which was to occur "in the heavens" in that fateful summer of 1999. Jonathan Photius investigates events of August 11<sup>th</sup>, 1999 and tries to answer these questions: Were the Total Solar Eclipse and Fixed Grand Cross alignment of August 11th 1999 a frightening divine omen foreshadowing another great sequence of events to come? And did this day coincide with the birth of a great Christian King descending from of an ancient bloodline, born in exile, who will bring about the conversion and restoration of the world to Christ?

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Jonathan Photius is an avid researcher of biblical, nonbiblical and Byzantine-era end-times prophecies. His primary area of focus is interpreting Daniel and Revelation with a Historicist view, using church history and mathematical concepts to achieve the interpretation.

**Day of the Christ Pantocrator Sky**

**Eastern Light Publishing**

**ISBN: 978-1-949940-05-3**

**Price: \$26.50 USD**

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FAMOUS 1999 "KING OF TERROR" QUATRAIN

**Jonathan Photius**

Eastern Light Publishing  
SHERIDEN, WY

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Eastern Light Publishing  
30 N. Gould Street, Suite 2302  
Sheridan, WY/82801  
[www.easternlightpublishing.com](http://www.easternlightpublishing.com)

Day of the Christ Pantocrator Sky/ Jonathan Photius. —1st ed.  
ISBN 978-1-949940-04-6 (e-book/EPUB version)  
ISBN 978-1-949940-06-0 (paperback version)

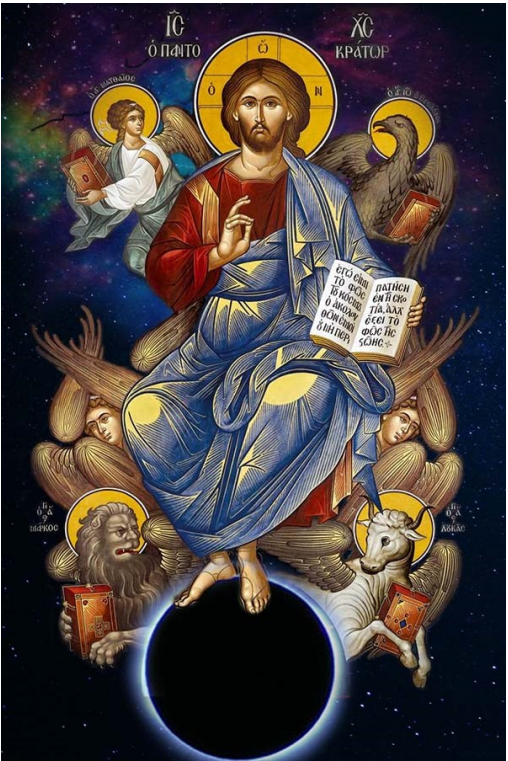
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*Dedicated in memory to Peter Lemesurier, Vlaicu Ionescu, and Kimberly*



*"(...) this will be preceded by the solar eclipse, more obscure and mysterious than has ever been since the creation of the world, except the eclipse after the death and passion of Christ."*

—NOSTRADAMUS IN HIS LETTER TO KING HENRI II

*How can we with mortal eyes contemplate this image  
whose celestial splendor  
the host of heaven presumes not to behold?  
He who dwells in heaven condescends  
this day to visit us by his venerable image:  
He who is seated on the cherubim  
visits us this day by a picture,  
which the Father has delineated  
with his immaculate hand,  
which he has formed in an ineffable manner,  
and which we sanctify by adoring it with fear and love*

—A BYZANTINE HYMN TO THE MANDYLION

*Today is hung upon the Tree, He Who suspended the land in the midst  
of the waters. A crown of thorns crowns Him, Who is the King of  
Angels. He is wrapped about the purple of mockery, Who wrapped the  
heavens with clouds (...)*

—THE 15TH ANTIPHON OF GREAT HOLY THURSDAY



# Remembering Nostradamus's Most Famous “False” Prophecy

Nostradamus, that most-famous sixteenth century French seer, wrote many of his prophecies over five hundred years ago, and yet up to the present day, he is still regarded as one of the most famous and controversial figures in Western history. Numerous books have been written on his prophetic quatrains in his most famous published work – *Les Propheties*. Most Protestant and Orthodox Christians and other skeptics have accused him of being a fraud, charlatan and false prophet with failed numerous failed predictions. Protestant biblical scholars now regularly cite his most famous 1999 “end of the world” failed prophecy as the number one proof-text to demonstrate his failure as a true prophet. Others have accused him of being a secret Kabbalist Jew and astrologer who dabbled in the occult and divination to write his prophecies. And still, other scholars say his quatrains were written too obtuse and deep that you could interpret them to describe just about any event. It has also been suggested by some scholars that Nostradamus might have drawn inspiration for his works through the many prophetic rare manuscripts he obtained, which were written centuries ahead of his time. He could have copied portions these sources to compose his quatrains. So then, perhaps Nostradamus simply might very well turn out to be one of the world’s greatest plagiarists.

But still, the question remains for many of us, is that for that specific “King of Terror” quatrain: ***Why did Nostradamus see a vision so compelling and moving, that he thought it was proper to “date” it?*** After all, Nostradamus’s quatrains rarely if ever mentioned specific dates. Therefore, this specific verse which offered the exact year of 1999 for its realization, sparked a myriad of debates regarding the identity of the “*King of Terror*” and its role in events to occur in the summer of 1999. And since this date was so close to the start of the new millennium, it fed right into the hysteria regarding the apocalyptic prophecies coming into fulfillment as we transitioned from one age to the next. I can still remember those days back in the early months of 1999, the so-called “prophecy experts” were in a state of frenzy and panic trying to identify any possible catastrophic events that was soon to unfold on the earth. After all, it finally was the year that Nostradamus said a great “King of Terror” would fall from the sky. And we heard some pretty convincing theories in various published books and internet sites regarding the idea the Nostradamus predicted that a large asteroid or comet was going to crash into earth in July of 1999 and would coincide with the rising of a new Genghis-like Mongolian Antichrist. Others interpreted the prophecy as an alien invasion or crash of the Cassini space probe. The “end was near,” so they told us. Well, not really. The year 1999 came and went with no major impact from the skies above. Then two years later, to save face, other well know Nostradamus scholars like John Hogue equated the September 11th attack on the twin towers to be THE fulfillment of the King of Terror quatrain, saying Nostradamus was simply off by two years and meant to say the “Sept” month on 9/11, not 1999. But that interpretation just does not make sense. It is like putting a square peg through a round hole.

Now, twenty years have almost passed since the famous quatrain of Nostradamus, and although the hype has died down significantly, a few people are still debating the interpretation of the text. Many are still just as confused as ever and often still ask the same questions: “What is the meaning of that ‘1999’ quatrain and that scary King of Terror character?” And thus, this is the primary question that this author hopes to address. The reader will find this book is different than all the other published

works written on the prophecies of Nostradamus. It primarily offers a unique Christian perspective on his most famous 1999 “*King of Terror*” quatrain, which is numbered as Century 10, Quatrain 72. While a few other related quatrains are discussed, the majority of his quatrains are not discussed here as and beyond the scope of this book as they are not relevant to the topic of the year 1999. Now, let’s examine the text of the quatrain and review some of the more popular translations and most common theories proposed on the meaning of the text.

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### The Text of C10.X72 - From The Sky Will Come ... Terror

Here is the original French text and a slight variation of many of the more common translations of the prophecy:

*Century 10, Quatrain 72*

*L'an mil neuf cens nonante neuf sept mois,  
Du ciel viendra vn grand Roy deffraieur:  
Resusciter le grand Roy d'Angolmois,  
Auant apres Mars regner par bon-heur.*

*Suggested Translation:*

*In the year 1999, and the seventh month  
From the sky will come the great King of Terror.  
Resurrecting the Great Angolmois King  
Before and after Mars to reign with good fortune*

At first glance it looks like a terrifying vision. And it is easy to see why the reader would think thoughts of a terrible destructive event to come from the sky. But to really get a good feel on the context of the quatrain, let’s look at some of the more popular translations of the text in to English from a few notable published Nostradamus authors and experts. Also note that I have highlighted some critical renderings of the text by each author that will be discussed afterward.

John Hogue (*Nostradamus and the Millennium*)<sup>1</sup>:

In the year 1999 and seven months  
The **Great King of Terror** will come from the Sky  
He will resurrect **Ghengis Khan**  
Before and after **war** rules happily

Stefan Paulus (*Nostradamus 2000*)<sup>2</sup>:

The year 1999, the seventh month,  
From the sky will come a great King of Terror:  
Resuscitating the great **King of the Mongols**,  
Before and after **Mars** to reign happily.

Erika Cheetham (*The Final Prophecies of Nostradamus*)<sup>3</sup>:

In the year 1999, and seven months  
from the sky will come the great King of Terror.  
He will bring to life the great king of the Mongols.  
Before and after war reigns happily

Ian Wilson (*Nostradamus – The Man Behind The Prophecies*)<sup>4</sup>:

The year 1999, seventh months,  
From the sky will come a great King of Terror:  
To bring back to life the great King of the Mongols,  
Before and after Mars to reign by good luck.

Michael Jordan (*Nostradamus and the new millennium*)<sup>5</sup>:

"In July 1999, a great and terrifying ruler will  
come from the skies and revive the great king of the Angoulmois

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<sup>1</sup> (Hogue, 1987)

<sup>2</sup> (Paulus, 1996)

<sup>3</sup> (Cheetham, 1989)

<sup>4</sup> (Wilson, 2002). Identical translation to (Leoni, 1961)

<sup>5</sup> (Jordan, 1998)

before and after which Mars will rule with *good fortune*."

Peter Lemesurier (*Nostradamus Bibliomancer*<sup>6</sup>)

[In] The year 1999, seven months  
Shall come a great *defraying king* of the region.  
To resuscitate the great king from Angoumois  
Before, after March, he shall reign [again] with good fortune

Alef<sup>7</sup>

The year nine hundred ninety nine seven month,  
From sky will come one grand King of fright:  
Resurrect the grand *King of Angolmois*,  
Before after Mars reign by good-luck.

Gary Somai<sup>8</sup>

The year 1999 and seven months,  
From the sky comes a *great paymaster King*  
Resuscitating the great King of Angoumois,  
Before and after March reigns by *good fortune*.

Gary Somai<sup>9</sup>

The year 1999 and seven months  
*From heaven* comes a *great sovereign Paymaster*  
To invoke from below the great rule of Angoumois  
Before and after Mars reigns by good fortune.

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<sup>6</sup> (Lemesurier, 2010)

<sup>7</sup> Alef (1999, May 15). *10.72 six weeks left. King of fright*. Message posted to Usenet: alt.prophecies.nostradamus

<sup>8</sup> Somai, Gary (1999, May 17). *X.72 Money from Heaven*. Message posted to Usenet: alt.prophecies.nostradamus

<sup>9</sup> Somai, Gary (1999, Nov 29). *Analysis of X:72 interpretation*. Message posted to Usenet: alt.prophecies.nostradamus

Author Unknown<sup>10</sup>

The year 1999, seven months

**From the heaven** will come a great King of Terror:

Resurrect the great King of Angoumois,

Before after Mars to reign by good luck.

Let's highlight a few critical words used in the different translations and interpretations of the quatrain. The various authors either describe the phrase and anagram for "**Roy d'Angolmois**" as either: "*King of the Mongols*," or "*King of Angoumois*," which obviously are completely different empires on almost opposite sides of the world. The first one is located in Asia (Mongolia) and the latter in Europe (region in France). There are also two different primary French renderings of the King from the sky as either: "**grand Roy d'effraieur**" which is often translated as the more common interpretation "*Great King of Terror*," or "**grand Roy deffraieur**" which is often translated as a "*Great Paymaster King*." We will spend a significant portion of our study examining the difference between these two published versions to decide which one was intended. The phrase "**Du ciel**" has been translated as "*from the sky*," "*from heaven*" or "*from the region*." The French word "**Mars**" is often interpreted unchanged as either "*Mars*" the Roman God of War, or simply "*war*" or instead the month of "*March*." Finally, "**bon-heur**" is often translated to mean "*good luck*," "*good fortune*," or "*happiness*." In this study, we will further analyze the differences of each of these terms and search for further clues with some historical records to help us identify the proper context and meaning of the French words.

It becomes evident, based on the different proposed interpretations brought forth by various authors, the reasons for manufactured mass hysteria and conspiracy theories generated by some of these authors and their followers trying to understand the meaning of the X.72 quatrain.

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<sup>10</sup> The Year 1999, Seven Months (X-72), (Sept 21, 2012) <http://prophecyexperimentalzone.blogspot.com/2012/09/the-year-1999-seven-months-x-72.html>

The proposed interpretations for the King of Terror were numerous and vastly different. Here is a just a sample of different theories on the identity of the Terror King:

- Comet Lee (some expected it would collide into the Earth)
- Another comet would become visible during the 8/11/99 eclipse
- Asteroid
- Alien Invasion
- Cassini Space Probe filled with plutonian crashed into earth
- NATO bombing against Serbia for Kosovo
- Nuclear War
- September 11<sup>th</sup> World Trade Center Collapse
- August 1999 Istanbul earthquake
- Crash of Mir Space Station
- Opening of the “Hall of Records” underneath the Sphinx

A few of the proposed links for the solution of the anagram “*Angolmois*” interpreted as the “*King of the Mongols*” included:

- Osama Bin Laden
- Vladimir Putin
- A new Genghis Khan or King of the Mongols
- Resurgence of a new Chinese Empire
- Rise of the “third” Antichrist

It’s no wonder that after the year 1999 came and went, Nostradamus’s credibility suffered due to the supposed “failed” quatrain. The many skeptics jumped all over the failed prophecy and still reference it today to show that he was not able to accurately predict the future. But perhaps there was another explanation. It is possible that Nostradamus saw something in the summer of 1999 of great importance that he felt compelled to date the quatrain. So then, just what exactly was this “King of Terror” that captivated people for many generations before the turn of the Millennium? This is the primary motivation for this study and the question that will be answered in the following chapters.



## Goal of this Study – Revisiting the 1999 Total Solar Eclipse

The purpose of this study is to re-examine certain astronomical and astrological events that occurred on August 11th in the year 1999, to see if they were truly the fulfillment of his famous “1999” quatrain. Most Nostradamus researchers have often rejected the idea that the solar eclipse of August 11<sup>th</sup>, 1999 had anything to do with this X.72 quatrain. However, we will re-examine some of the eclipse data provided by NASA, such as the time, duration, location and path of the eclipse, and correlate this data with the patterns on the astrological charts of August 11th, 1999. By combining all the scientific data at our disposal, we will see a strong correlation to key *Christological* concepts commonly found in the scriptures, iconography, hymns and services of the Church. That is, the events of August 11<sup>th</sup>, 1999 construct an intricate mosaic filled with images of the Cherubim, the Sphinx, the four living creatures of the Apocalypse and other themes ominously related to the crucifixion of Christ. The events reveal the idea of the God-Man proclaimed in the Nicene Creed and revealed at Great Entrance of the Divine Liturgy. Ultimately, the day of 8/11/99 offers a promise for a future restoration and redemption of humanity through Christ’s new apostle who will help to bring a new Golden Age for the Church, in an era of peace and prosperity when the Gospel will be preached to all nations. At the end of our study it will be reasonable to conclude that Nostradamus was in fact a true Christian prophet, who was not only proud of his Jewish heritage, but acknowledged Jesus Christ as the Divine Logos with a grand plan for salvation and restoration of humanity. Nostradamus no doubt understood the religious significance of this ‘**most synchronous day of the millennium**’ and its foreshadowing of an even greater event to be realized at a future appointed time. An event he found so moving and humbling, that he mentioned the mysterious event in his Letter to King Henri II:

(...) this will be preceded by the solar eclipse, more obscure and mysterious than has ever been since the creation of the world, except the eclipse after the death and passion of Christ.”

# The August 11<sup>th</sup> 1999 Total Solar Eclipse

From ancient times, solar and lunar eclipses have been viewed as an ominous sign to indicate a power change to the social order of the world. Major eclipses have often been viewed as a clear division between the closing of one age to the dawning of a new one. In order to understand and appreciate the text of the famous X.72 Quatrain, we need to go back to examine the eclipse of August 11<sup>th</sup>, 1999 to see if there is a possible link to Nostradamus highlighting a new powerful change was coming to the world. The X.72 quatrain is fundamental for us to understand the significance of this unprecedented celestial formation. Nostradamus mentions that a significant event will be either visible or will “come down from” the sky in the “seventh” month of 1999. We know that July is the seventh month. Nostradamus seems to be providing a huge clue by providing in plain text the year for the quatrain. However, there is a slight issue with the month of the eclipse. We know that during Nostradamus’s time the Julian Calendar was still in use. With the forward correction from the Julian calendar of Nostradamus’ day to the current Gregorian calendar, this could correspond with the eclipse of August 11, 1999 as falling into the bounds of the “Sept” month mentioned in the quatrain. And if we use any online conversion tool between the Julian

and Gregorian calendar, we will notice that August 11<sup>th</sup>, 1999 would have fallen on July 29<sup>th</sup>, 1999 under the older Julian Calendar.

	Year		Month	Day	
Julian date	19 ▼	99 ▼	July ▼	29 ▼	1999
Gregorian date	19 ▼	99 ▼	August ▼	11 ▼	1999

Solar eclipses take place at the time of a New Moon. The question we will try to answer is if the total solar eclipse of August 11<sup>th</sup>, 1999 was the event that Nostradamus was pointing to, based on his own calculations. Was there anything different in this eclipse compared to any other know eclipse through the ages since the time of Christ? This is the primary question we will examine.

There are very good reasons to theorize that the solar eclipse of August 11<sup>th</sup> was the eclipse mentioned by Nostradamus in his letter to King Henri II. There is a passage describing the eclipse and some of the other events:

"There will be a solar eclipse more dark and gloomy than any since the creation of the world, except after the death of Christ. (...)"

Certainly, Nostradamus himself believed the eclipse (described in the letter) was an important marker or datapoint for the event in the year that he is describing. Is it possible this eclipse could have been another time in history? Yes, of course it could be. However, the examination of the evidence suggests otherwise. The letter itself makes no mention of a specific city or country in the world, most likely suggesting that Nostradamus meant the eclipse would occur in France. After this eclipse which occurred in France, on August 1999, there will not be another total solar eclipse in northern France for over ninety more years until 2090 AD. Nostradamus seems to associate this particular eclipse in the letter with other ominous events described in the letter. Whether it was to be in the same year or in a sequence of subsequent events in different years is uncertain. Another thing we should highlight, if this eclipse was im-

portant enough of a matter to mention in his letter to King Henry II, it is probably the same eclipse mentioned in other quatrains. We will examine a few related ones as well later in this study.

There is another hidden clue in the letter to Henri II for helping us identify the eclipse of August 11<sup>th</sup>, 1999. Nostradamus compares the future eclipse in the letter to the eclipse said to have occurred when Jesus was crucified on the Cross. The symbolism of this particular Eclipse with the cross or crucifixion would have to be proven. The examine some of the details of the eclipse to determine if there is any link to the eclipse described in his letter to King Henry II.

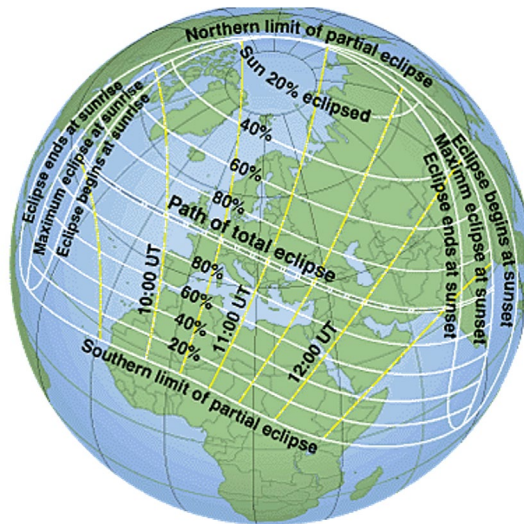


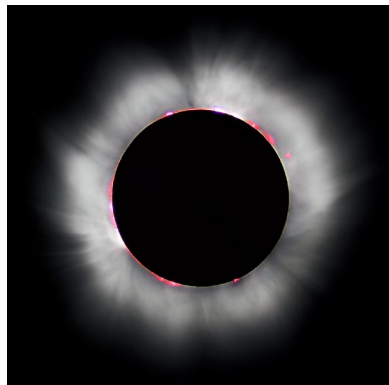
Figure 2.1 Total Solar Eclipse of August 11<sup>th</sup>, 1999

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## August 11<sup>th</sup> Total Solar Eclipse Overview

On August 11, 1999, there was a total eclipse of the sun, which was the last Total Solar Eclipse of the Millennium before the year 2000. This ominous event is reminiscent of the Solar Eclipse in August 1990 which triggered the Persian Gulf War. Because of the high population densities in the areas of the path, this was one of the most-viewed total solar eclipses ever in human history, with substantial coverage by the news

organizations like the BBC. The Eclipse began in Europe at exactly 11:11:11 AM on the 11th of August 1999 British Summer Time, where it first hit Cornwall in the south of England. This would be the last total solar eclipse of the sun they would see for the next hundred years. The shadow landing on Cornwall in Southwestern England was a very fitting start, as this was considered the mystical land of Arthur, Merlin and the Holy Grail. The eclipse was visible from within a narrow corridor which traveled through the Eastern Hemisphere. The path of the umbral shadow of the Moon which began in the Atlantic streaked across central Europe (France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Romania and Bulgaria), the Middle East (Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Pakistan), and India where it ended at sunset in the Bay of Bengal. A partial solar eclipse was seen within the much broader path of the Moon's penumbral shadow, which included northeastern North America, all of Europe, northern Africa and the western half of Asia. The Total Solar Eclipse began at the time of the New Moon, perhaps with further examination we will understand the symbolic representation of this event to signal a New Era for mankind. Perhaps this ominous great event was itself a prophecy of the future foretelling the coming of a new social order on the world.



**Figure 2.2** The Total Solar Eclipse 1999 in France<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Photo Credit - Viatour, Luc. (11 August 1999) File: Solar eclipse 1999 4 NR.jpg. Creative Commons [CC BY-SA 3.0]

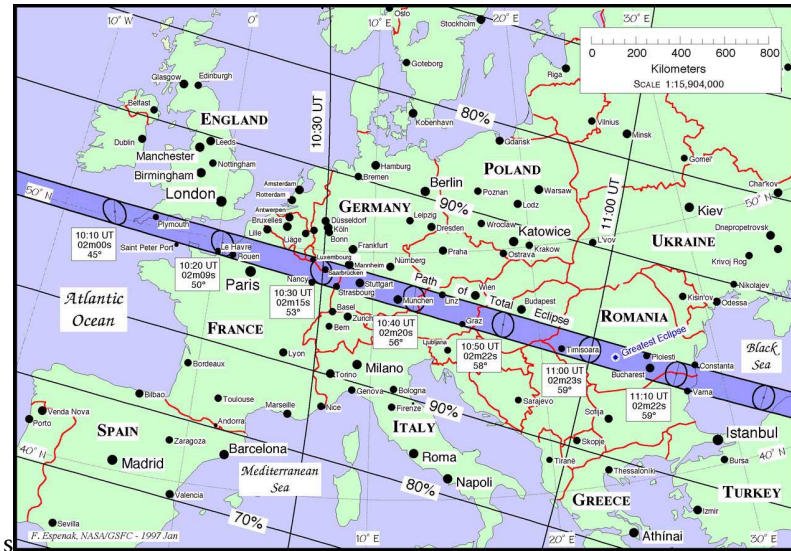


Figure 2.3 Path of 8/11/99 Total Solal Eclipse Through Europe<sup>12</sup>



Figure 2.4 Path of 8/11/99 Total Solal Eclipse Through the Middle East

<sup>12</sup> NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center, Total Solar Eclipse of 1999 August 11<sup>th</sup>, <https://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/SEmono/TSE1999/TSE1999.html>

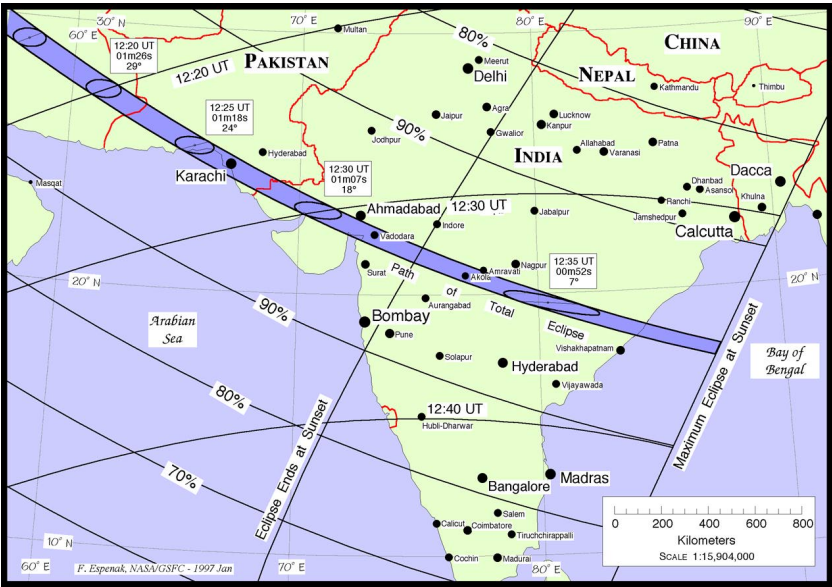


Figure 2.5 Path of 8/11/99 Total Solal Eclipse Through South Asia

## Time and Space Synchronicities During the 8/11/99 Eclipse

The plot thickens as we examine the timing of this eclipse. In fact, based on the evidence shown, we could conclude that August 11<sup>th</sup>, 1999 could be considered “*the most synchronistic day of the millennium.*” Let’s examine the exact timing and location of the eclipse. First, we will note, the Total Solar Eclipse of 8/11/1999 aligns precisely 222 days after 1/1/1999. The start of the eclipse began in Europe at exactly 11:11:11 AM on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of August in 1999 in Cornwall south of England.

Now the peak of TSE intersects the Earth at 45 degrees North latitude and 22’30” East longitude near Bucharest, Romania. A division of the Northern hemisphere by 2 gives 45 degrees, and the Eastern hemisphere by 2 -- three times (2,2,2) gives 22 1/2 degrees, the very center of this eclipse!

Dr. Frank Espenak, who was the director of the Nasa Goddard Space Flight Laboratory back in 1999, pointed out an interesting fact that an