

Figure 1.5b: COSMIC CALENDAR (DECEMBER 31ST)

Origin of Proconsul and Ramapithecus, probable ancestors of apes and men	~ 1:30 p.m.
First humans appear.	~ 10:30 p.m.
Stone Age.	11:00 p.m.
Fire Domesticated. Homo Erectus appears.	11:43 p.m.
Start of glacial period. Neanderthal appears.	11:56 p.m.
Australia discovered. Cro Magnon appears.	11:58 p.m.
Cave paintings throughout Europe. Homo sapien appears.	11:59 p.m.
Agriculture invented.	11:59:20 p.m.
First cities are developed.	11:59:35 p.m.
Sumer, Ebla and Egypt dynasties established; astronomy developed.	11:59:50 p.m.
Alphabet first invented.	11:59:51 p.m.
Babylonian legal codes established.	11:59:52 p.m.
Bronze Age; Trojan War occurs; compass invented.	11:59:53 p.m.
Iron Age; Assyrian Empire appears; Kingdom of Israel established.	11:59:54 p.m.
Ch'in Dynasty established in China; Age of Pericles in Athens, Greece; Buddha is born.	11:59:55 p.m.
Euclidean geometry and Archimedean physics developed; Ptolemaic astronomy established; start of the Roman Empire; birth of Jesus	11:59:56 p.m.
Zero and decimals invented in India; Roman Empire falls; Muslim conquests	11:59:57 p.m.
Height of Mayan civilization and Byzantine empire; Mongol invasion; Holy Crusades	11:59:58 p.m.
Renaissance period in Europe; voyages of discovery from Europe and Ming Dynasty, China;	11:59:59 p.m.
Development of science and technology; emergence of global culture; first steps in spacecraft planetary exploration and the search of extraterrestrial intelligence	Now: The first second of New Year's Day

*Paraphrased from “The Dragons of Eden” by Carl Sagan