

Branly López Quemé

(1975) Xelajú N'oj (Xela), Guatemala

CV - BRANLY LÓPEZ

Maya-K'iche' from Guatemala

Ajq'ij –Mayan spiritual supporter and time keeper.

Artist and consultant on Mayan art and culture

44 years old.

Birth date: 12-23-1975 / 11 Keej – 11 deers according to the Mayan Lunar calendar

e-mail: branlylopez75@gmail.com

Phone: (502) 54.14.21.35

Skype: branly.lopez

2020 Director, local government Theater. Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.

2013 to date Ajq'ij –Mayan spiritual supporter and time keeper in the highlands of Guatemala.

2017 - 2019 Actor and collaborator of the film Dramayama by Jeanette Groenendaal.

The Netherlands, India and Guatemala.

2019 Nine petal Mayan Chart and readings. De Roos, Amsterdam, NL.

2015 - 2017 Art in Residence, exploring topics related to art, science and spirituality,
for the Age of Wonderland Program, HIVOS and Baltan Laboratories, NL.

<http://ageofwonderland.nl/fellows/2016/branly-lopez>

2015 Executive director, Ciudad de la Imaginación: art laboratory.

2015 Owner of a shop on Mayan incenses in my hometown.

2013 - 2014 Researcher on Mayan philosophy and Mayan art; published book.

Sotz'il Jay Association, Sololá, Guatemala.

2013 Coordinator of the film festival: Memory, Truth and Justice.

Iska Cine Germany-Guatemala.

2011- 2012 Cultural Promotor, Spanish Cultural Center. Guatemala city.

2012 Professor on development with cultural approach.

Chipi'xab Institute and the University of Madrid. Huehuetenango, Guatemala.

- 2010 - 2011 Director of City of Imagination: laboratory of art. Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.
- 2010 Local tourism consultant. Grupos Gestores, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.
- 2007- 2009 Director. Casa No'j –local government cultural center,
Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.
- 2005 – 2006 Cultural consultant for different local and international NGOs.

Education

- 2013 Ajq'ij –Mayan spiritual supporter and time keeper. Elders of Xelajuj N'oj,
Guatemala.
- 2005 Master's degree in local development, spatial planning and social
communication, University of Poitiers, France. France government
grant for Guatemalans.
- 2003 Master's degree in sustainable tourism and local development,
Rafael Landivar University, Guatemala
- 1999 Bachelor's degree in finance and international business, Saint Michael 's
College, Vermont, United States America. US government grant for
Guatemalans.

Interests:

I am really interested to find connections between different ancient spiritualities, specially between the Mayan spirituality and the Vedic one. Also interested on linking art, science and spirituality.

DIARY TO SPACE TIME

Half way to go back in time in the present

Branly López

For centuries, on the heights of the farthest mountains, the wisdom behind the Mayan spirituality has been transmitted orally, and embraced in secret, from one Mayan generation to another. This spirituality has been the flame that keeps the Mayan culture resisting the violence of a discriminatory, racist, exclusionary and genocidal system since the fifteen century until nowadays.

In that century, the Spanish invasion took place in the Meso american country –South Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador- where many people from different cultures, including the Mayas, were killed or enslaved. Their libraries, with thousands of books, were set on fire; the smoke coming from this infamous bonfire was seen from a place as far as Ecuador. Centuries of historic, scientific, artistic, astronomic, political, economical, environmental and spiritual knowledge disappeared in the hands of ignorance and religious radicalism.

Before the coming of the Spanish, some Mayan cities were abandoned for different political, environmental and economic circumstances but the invasion made that many others cities were desolated. Most of the Mayan temples, during the Spanish colony in the Meso american country were either destroyed and their stones used to build catholic churches or used as structural platforms for those churches. The sacred places in the ancient cities for more than five hundreds years never felt again the warm of Mayan ceremonies with fire.

Despite this, our ancestors kept alive our calendars and spirituality, having learned it by heart in the heights of the mountains and volcanoes, and in the deepest caves and rivers or in the silence of their cellular memory. Nonetheless, many astrological, scientific... knowledge did not survived.

Motivated to get to know more about my own culture and its spirituality, I started a spiritual

path in Guatemala. For some years, I have been embracing this spirituality and searching for information that can help us to unfold more knowledge about the Mayan spirituality and culture.

Many ancient cultures and spiritualities, around the world, have many traits in common and I believe that those ancient spiritualities, including the Maya, come from the same root, a mystical one. One day, I came upon some books of Theosophy where the authors stated that the Tamil people from India and the Maya people from Meso america were very close related.

I started looking at web sites to know more about the Tamil and their rituals and I was so amazed to find some resemblance between the Tamil and the Maya spirituality. For instance, in South India, there is the Chidambaram temple, in the town of the same name, and here in Mesoamerica we have the Chilambalam book, which is a historical text of the Mayan civilization. Also, some Tamil priests use fire to do their prayers as we do here in Guatemala. For me, it was also interesting to know that priests have been feeding with prayers the different temples since many centuries ago until now. Therefore, I was really wishing to go back in time in the present, which means going to those temples in India as If I was in the ancient temples when they were also alive. And there, for sure, I would find much alive scientific and spiritual knowledge that can help me to find the “lost” astronomic knowledge of the Maya.

The Mayan calendars were created according to the planets, to the constellations, according to the Universe; nonetheless we just know a little of this vast knowledge behind them. But beyond, I have been wishing to go there in a sort of pilgrimage to find my spiritual brothers and sisters, to find my spiritual masters from former lives.

However, it is expensive to go there from Guatemala, but I knew that the right time would come. In the 2014, people from Hivos in Guatemala asked me to share the Age of Wonderland open call with the artistic community in Guatemala. At the same time, they asked me if I could ask some artists, that I consider could be really interested, to send an application. Fortunately, one of the artists that I recommended was chosen. In the 2015, a

person from the program came to Guatemala to visit the artist that participated in the program in the Netherlands; we met and this person motivated me to apply to participate in the program. So, in the 2016 I went to the Netherlands.

The destiny made me to meet Jeannette Groenendaal, an astrologist and filmmaker that has been several times, since fifteen years ago, in Tamil Nadu and who had a film project related to the spirituality of South India. We went together to the Theosophical library in Amsterdam to see if I could find more about the connections I was interested on. And then, she asked me if I wanted to be part of her film project. At that moment, I knew that the right time for me to go to South India had arrived. The time to embrace my spiritual brothers and sisters while I do my prayers in the Mountain of Fire in South India, as I do them here in the highlands of Guatemala arrived.

LETTER OF INTENT

Half way to go back in time in the present

Branly López

Maya k'iche' from Guatemala and Ajq'ij or time and space spiritual counter

For centuries, on the heights of the farthest mountains, the wisdom behind the Mayan spirituality has been transmitted orally, and embraced in secret, from one Mayan generation to another. This spirituality has been the flame that keeps the Mayan culture resisting the violence of a discriminatory, racist, exclusionary and genocidal system since the fifteen century until nowadays.

In this century, the Spanish invasion took place in the Meso american country –South Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador- where many people from different cultures, including the Mayas, were killed or enslaved. Their libraries, with thousands of books, were set on fire; the smoke coming from this infamous bonfire was seen from a place as far as Ecuador. Centuries of historic, scientific, artistic, astronomic, political, economical, environmental and spiritual knowledge disappeared in the hands of ignorance and religious radicalism of the Spanish.

Before the coming of the Spanish, some Mayan cities were abandoned for different political, environmental and economic circumstances but the invasion made that many others cities were desolated. Most of the Mayan temples, during the Spanish colony in the Meso american country were either destroyed and their stones used to build catholic churches or used as structural platforms for those churches. The sacred places in the ancient cities for more than five hundreds years never felt again the warm of Mayan ceremonies with fire.

Despite this, our ancestors kept alive our calendars and spirituality, having learned by heart, in the heights of the farthest mountains and volcanoes, and in the deepest caves and rivers or in the silence of their cellular memory. Nonetheless, many astrological, scientific... knowledge did not survived to this day.

Motivated to get to know more about my own culture and its spirituality, I started a spiritual path in Guatemala, where I am from. For some years, I have been embracing this spirituality and searching for information that can help us to unfold that “lost” knowledge.

Many ancient cultures and spiritual-ties, around the world, have many traits in common and I believe that those ancient spiritualities, including the Maya, come from the same root, a mystical one. One day, I came upon some books of Theosophy where the authors stated that the Tamil people from India and the Maya people from Meso america were very close related.

I started looking at web sites to know more about the Tamil and their rituals and I was so amazed to find some resemblance between the Tamil and the Maya spirituality. For instance, in South India, there is the Chidambaram temple, in the town of the same name, and here in Mesoamerica we have the Chilambalam book, which is a historical text of the Mayan civilization. Also, Some priests use fire to do their prayers as we do here in Guatemala. For me, it was also interesting to know that priest have been feeding with prayers the different temples since many centuries ago until now. Therefore, I was really wishing to go back in time in the present, which means going to those temples in India as If I was in the ancient temples when they were also alive, but now they are empty. And there for sure, I would find much alive scientific and spiritual knowledge that can help me to find the “lost” astronomic knowledge of the Maya.

The Mayan calendars were created according to the planets, to the constellations, according to the Universe; nonetheless we just know a little of this vast knowledge behind them. But beyond, I have been wishing to go there in a sort of pilgrimage to find my spiritual brothers and sisters, to find my spiritual masters from former lives.

However, it is expensive to go there from Guatemala, but I knew that the right time would come. In the 2014, people from Hivos in Guatemala asked me to share the Age of Wonderland open call with the artistic community in Guatemala. At the same time, they asked me if I could ask some artists, that I consider could be really interested, to send an application. Fortunately, one of the artists that I recommended was chosen. In the 2015, a person from the program came to Guatemala to visit the artist that participated in the program in the Netherlands; we met and this person motivated me to apply to participate in the program. So, in the 2016 I went to the Netherlands.

The destiny made me to meet Jeannette Groenendaal, an astrologist and filmmaker that has been several times, since fifteen years ago, in Tamil Nadu and who has a film project related to spirituality of South India. We went together to the Theosophical library in Amsterdam to see if I could find more about the connections I was interested on. And then, she kindly asked me if I wanted to be part of her film project. At that moment, I knew that the right time for me to go to South India had arrived. The time to embrace my spiritual brothers and sisters while I do my prayers in the Mountain of Fire in South India, as I do them here in the highlands of Guatemala is arriving. In this year 2017, in October, I will be in the Netherlands again; so my heart knows already that I am half way to my pilgrimage to South India.