

## Book One – The Story of Pachacuti

discussion, during which they came more and more to consider their line of thinking too restrictive.

Andries was first to observe that survival of their own small group and its offspring could only be assured in conjunction with a viable much larger society, and their considerations must include both or be practically worthless. They began to explore what it would take to ensure the re-emergence of a nascent civilisation sufficient in numbers and distribution, in social cohesion and cultural flexibility to survive the initial chaos and then rise to global prominence. There began, unnoticed almost, a transition of their objectives from the protection of individuals to the protection of social values.

Unable to ensure individual survival, there seemed but one thing they might practically hope to influence and that was the nature of the re-emergent civilisation. By establishing, before the collapse, a global network of communities with common values they might ensure that a large enough remnant survived to carry those values forward. If the values were shaped to ensure that the surviving communities avoided the pitfalls of this current civilisation, then the effort of establishing them might have meaning and practical worth. Indeed without somebody setting up such a global community, the species would be left to re-emerge from the chaos entirely by happenstance. The duration of the re-emergence and its results in that case were largely unimaginable and it may even come to pass that the new civilisation would merely repeat the follies of the past. That alone seemed to dictate that if it were within their power to intervene, they had some sort of moral obligation to do so.

Should they, or should they not?

Ironically, it was the simple observation that they had nothing better to do that finally decided them and the effect on their little society was galvanic. They moved from languishing despair to buoyancy in a single afternoon and, with renewed vigour, went back to the whiteboard. Within hours, the term ‘pachacuti’ surfaced, seeming to spontaneously volunteer as a name for their proposal. It seemed at first a bit pretentious but gradually it entrenched itself, perhaps mostly due to the absence of a better alternative. Eventually it was formally adopted, appearing, within