

Book One – The Story of Pachacuti

eight or ten years to get this job done. After that it will get too hard.’

He knew that Adam Strong believed his estimate was overly optimistic but he didn’t tell Diederik that, not that it would bother him either way. If they had to accelerate, that was what Diederik would do, provided they had the money.

As the Bakkers left the café, Diederik ordered yet another coffee and picked up the manila folder to read his copy of the discussion paper, the Constitutional guidelines prepared by ‘The Girls’.

It was a document compiled out of extensive consultation with the rapidly growing network of Pachacuti communities. Diederik knew it contained the distillation of their thoughts and proposals regarding the future social structure of the movement. Though his interest was academic rather than practical, he found himself being caught up in the atmosphere of history-in-the-making that the document represented. He knew they had laboured long over its contained philosophies and their proposed social alternatives to the current capital-centric system. He found himself, almost reluctantly, wishing he could be around long enough to see if they worked. They couldn’t, he pondered, do worse than the current model.

At about the same time, in a hotel room across the street, Adam Strong was reading an emailed report from Barry Hannigan. It was a summary of ESI’s latest ocean current survey results. As he read the words and numbers confirming the start of natural events he’d been anticipating with dread for decades past, he knew for sure that Bakker’s deadline estimate was indeed optimistic. By the time it expired, the populations of Northern America and Western Europe would be seeing crippling winter temperatures eight to ten degrees lower than anything in recorded history and they would be evacuating in full rout. Where they would go and how many could escape, Adam had no idea. Two years beyond that, starving, diseased and cold, those who’d remained would be dying in bewildered abandoned hordes.

He made a paper print of the report and dropped it on top of the Constitutional guidelines document in his battered metal briefcase, mentally adding ‘acceleration’ to the meeting agenda as