

DOOMSDAY



SURVIVING GLOBAL CATASTROPHE

by

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Doomsday:

Surviving Global Catastrophe

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Introduction

It would be best to consider this work as one of ‘what-if’s – a book about attempting to prepare for *any* eventuality. This places its contents within the realm of possibility only – therefore it is not intended to be taken by rote.

This work is divided into two parts: conceivable global catastrophes, and survival methodologies. The chapters about possible catastrophes contain a wide variety of information, some scientific, some cultural, some religious, and some the combination of all three. It is important, again, to keep in mind that the author is *only providing information, not truth*. If you find the first section of this book too theoretical, ethereal or disparate for

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your tastes, please feel free to skip forward to the survival section, which is far more pragmatically portrayed and practical in nature.

Survival itself can be seen as having two major facets; short-term survival and long-term survival. Short-term survival, within the context of this book, is directly related to the nature of the catastrophe in question; surviving the first moments of a tsunami would, for example, be quite different from surviving the first moments of an earthquake. Preparation and associated necessities might be very different concerning these two hypothetical scenarios, as well.

Long-term survival takes on a very different form from that of the short term, and can present more of a technical challenge. It is good, however, to be prepared for any eventuality, the basics of which would share many common elements. From a philosophical standpoint alone, it can be said that every person alive would benefit greatly from the highest achievable level of autonomy – not only does this enable greater independence and freedom of action for the individual, it also allows for a much greater chance of survival in the event of a catastrophe, whether local or global.

Adhering to this philosophy, it would then be logical to construct a hierarchy of essential elements necessary for survival. Beneath this hierarchy would then be listed elements which, although not absolutely necessary for survival, would prove highly desirable nonetheless.

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One of the greatest problems concerning the possible effects of global catastrophe in the modern era is the nature of the modern socio-economic structure. A notable facet of this is that the average person today typically has knowledge in just one specialty; for this reason, very few people are immediately capable of living independently in this day and age, as independent living necessitates knowledge in many different areas. A thousand years ago, people were accustomed to growing their own food, obtaining water and building their own shelters. They were somewhat specialized, but not nearly as much as we are – and every small community back then typically contained at least one specialist in each essential area of knowledge and skill.

Today, if some devastating event was severe enough to completely collapse the availability of certain elements required by society, the rest of the system would likely crumble, *and very quickly*. Stores would be rapidly depleted of stock, and would remain depleted without the normal replenishment of global distribution. Gas stations might go empty within a week or two, leaving transportation completely crippled.

The electrical grid and natural gas distribution systems wouldn't last long either, as they require replenishment as well as high-end maintenance. A single, naturally occurring solar flare, if large enough, could in a few seconds completely disable the power grids of whole continents, and knock out most satellite functionality as

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well. If other socio-economic foundations were to be disabled simultaneously, the ensuing chaos could well thrust the whole of society firmly back to a long-term, pre-industrial state.

It is not the author's intention to use scare tactics, or to lead the public to *believe* that a global catastrophe is immediately immanent. What is intended here is simply to educate the reader in such a way as to increase the chances of his or her survival *in the unfortunate case that catastrophe does strike in his or her lifetime*.

It is also the author's opinion that as catastrophe is part and parcel of the many natural processes of the universe, it is best considered as an eventuality rather than just a possibility – and it is always good to be prepared for as many eventualities as is expedient.

But to be fully prepared, it is necessary to consider what to actually prepare for – what is the most likely scenario? What is the 'worst case scenario'?

In an attempt to answer these questions, we have collected a variety of information from different parts of the globe. Although we do not profess to be holding a 'smoking gun', per se, this data may prove useful in at least giving *some* indication as to what might lie over time's horizon...

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Doomsday – Some History Behind The Idea

The idea of an apocalyptic doomsday is very old indeed. The oldest known reference to a doomsday comes from ancient Sumerian tablets at least 3000 years old (possibly *much* older), describing the story of the Assyrian king Upnapishtim who is being instructed by Enki to build a submersible ship that might be instrumental in helping the king and his family to survive the great cataclysmic flood which is immanent (sound familiar?).

Far more recognized and quoted is the account of the global flood in the Bible, and of course the haunting verses written by John the Revelator at the opposite end of

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the great book, speaking of Armageddon and its many associated disasters.

At the end of the first millennium A.D., many people started getting the idea that the prophecies from Revelations would come to pass at the turn of that last century – but the year 1000 came and went with little consequence (familiar again?!?).

Yes, we all remember Y2K, with one camp predicting a complete digital crash (which could create an economic crash), and an even bigger camp waiting for the world to end.

Then of course there were the prophecies of Nastradamus, the most famous doomsday herald of the last millennium. He predicted a whole range of floods, earthquakes, plagues and wars which would ostensibly mark the end of the world as we know it.

And now we're hearing a lot about the 'Maya Prophecy' and the '2012 phenomenon'. In general, the Mayan calendrical system indicates that in December of 2012, the Earth will end its current Great Period (more on this later...).

Doomsday is even becoming a popular subject among modern scientists, with seemingly endless suppositions about possible asteroid collisions, gamma ray bursts from remote stars, supernovas – the list goes on and on.

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So, the idea of a great and final day of doom is nothing new, having been on the minds of myriad people spread out over the many different places and eras of human history.

But is there really some great global catastrophe looming on the immediate horizon? And if so, what exact form might it take – and most importantly, what can we do to survive it? To answer this last question, we must first attempt to answer the first and second – and to do so, we're going to have to do some digging.

Global Warming

‘Global Warming’ has become the ultimate ecological hype-word of the decade, although people like Al Gore had already begun discussing it during the 80’s. 30 years ago, almost nobody wanted to even consider such things – the digital age was upon us, and people were too busy thinking about new ways to live rather than considering terrible ways to die.

But it was exactly that ‘fever for the good life’ that apparently caused global warming in the first place – industrial factories were spouting millions of metric tons of dangerous by-products into the atmosphere every year, using unfettered carelessness as an actual means to

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amassing greater and greater profits without ‘paying the toll’.

Equally guilty is the average consumer, expelling an equal proportion of hydro fluorocarbons from the tailpipes of tens of millions of vehicles, not taking the time to see the combined effect on the atmosphere. Of course, it took a little time for us all to realize that those HFCs were absorbing infrared radiation from the Sun, causing an increased greenhouse effect (this term was actually coined by the French mathematician Jean Baptiste Joseph Fourier in 1824, when he discovered that the Earth’s atmosphere was very slowly warming up).

Nearly 200 years later, the dawn of the technical age has combined with the momentum of the industrial age, causing an exponential increase in the *speed* of warming. It is now painfully obvious that the Earth is in a rapid tailspin, spiraling downward toward bleak consequences.

The main problem with global weather change concerns food production. You see, key crop locations around the globe are positioned where they are because of *current* weather patterns. Even minor variations, if given long enough duration, could spell absolute disaster for global food production, causing widespread crop failure (mostly due to shifting patterns of rainfall and available sunlight). Such changes would likely send the entire global population into a state of famine within a very short time period.

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The modern food production engine is now very different from how it was at any other time in human history. Today, the great majority of the worlds' food crops are situated in just a few, select areas of the world – and usually very far from those they are meant to feed (more on this later...).

Those few densely packed agricultural locations absolutely depend upon highly stable weather and rainfall patterns – and they have had it for a time. This global food production and distribution system has been wildly successful so far; but because of the complexity and sheer size of such a system, one little change might be enough to raze it to the ground – quite literally.

In our case, this little change is represented by a global temperature shift of as little as a few degrees. This would likely be all it takes to create an imbalance in the so called 'conveyor belt' within the transoceanic system of underwater currents (this delicate underwater current system has been said to be one of the biggest driving mechanisms of global weather).

This indicates the danger of what is known as the 'butterfly effect' – one minute change in one part of the system (such as the random flapping of a butterfly's wings) creates another larger change in another part of the system, which creates an even bigger change somewhere else – eventually causing catastrophe through some obtuse system of holistic cause and effect.

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Of course food production issues are only the beginning of the problems we face with global climate shift. Scientists are fairly certain what the greatest consequence of global warming will be – the eventual and total melting of the Earth’s once abundant ice masses. We have already seen a shocking decrease in the great ice masses covering the Earth’s polar regions, along with other large areas such as Iceland. The sudden decline of the world’s great glaciers is equally alarming, an ominous sign of things to come.

This raises a very disturbing question: what do you get when you melt trillions of tons of ice? What you get, once all the world’s ice is eventually melted, is enough water to raise the levels of all the oceans of the world by 250 feet. Doesn’t sound like much?

Nearly two thirds of the world’s population consists of people living in coastal regions. Imagine what 250 feet of extra water would do to Los Angeles, New York, Tokyo, London, Paris, Rome or Athens? And, forsaking the metropolitan cities for a moment, imagine nearly every oceanic island being swallowed whole, leaving a few tiny ‘leftover’ islands here and there where there were once mountainous island volcanoes!

Another even scarier facet of global melting concerns ‘critical mass’, and the theoretically delicate gravitational balance of unmelted ice. Consider the many mountains of pure ice that are even now hovering precariously over the waters of Antarctica, no longer fully

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supported by the previously existing ice structures beneath that have since melted away. Eventually there will come a time when one of those masses will reach a critical breaking point – a point when the sheer force of gravity becomes greater than the structural strength of the lower section of the ice mass, and it will inevitably break off, plunging into the roiling waters below.

Depending on the size of such a mass of ice, the effect could be absolutely catastrophic, unleashing a force greater than a thousand thermonuclear warheads. This force would combine to power a group of super-tsunamis unlike the world has ever seen, potentially obliterating millions of square miles of global coastline in a single day of unparalleled destruction.

And if that's not enough, such a force would undoubtedly trigger more such breakages along the great Antarctic shelf. This would not only cause a greater array of tsunamis, but could speed up the rising of oceanic water.

So now that we have one possible answer to the great 'what', the next even more difficult question, concerning this scenario, is 'when'. And this really is a big problem due to the unprecedented nature of our dilemma – it is so complicated that even our best scientists can only venture educated guesses – and even *they* will be very likely to miss something.

Current guesses about how long this rising of the seas could take are extremely diverse, ranging from three to

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three hundred years – and speculation about critical ice mass is even more nebulous. Most of the confusion of timing centers on the problem of greenhouse gases, and whether or not we little earthlings can slow down our compulsive consumption enough to stem the tide (literally!). But there is another factor that may prove to be pivotal in allowing us to better place this possible great cataclysm in the framework of time...

The Sun: Doomsday Trigger?

There is no force more powerful in our Solar System than the Sun; it hangs (typically) 93 million miles away from the Earth, and presumably has enough fuel to provide another 5 billion years of heat and light.

The Sun has been heralded for millennia as the great ‘Giver of Life’, donating its abundant energy to myriad processes including plant photosynthesis, without which no higher organism could have come to exist.

But it turns out that the Sun is a dynamic entity, just like the planets that encircle it, and the moons that encircle

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the planets (the Earth has many, many cycles, including the 24 hour day, the 360 day year, and the four seasons within each of those years. The Moon has two coinciding 28-day cycles; one for its rotation around the earth, and the other for its rotation around its own axis).

The cycles of the Sun are a bit subtle, and therefore take a little diligence to map out. In general, the Sun is seen as having 11 year cycles, based on the periodicity of sunspot activity (we are now in what is termed ‘Solar Cycle 24’).

Another solar cycle is what is called ‘Solar Max’, and falls at roughly 50-year intervals. This means that about once every fifty years, the Sun reaches its peak output for that period – this is when big solar flares are expected, and general heat/light output is greater.

Mausumi Dikpati of the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) is at the heart of a new, cutting-edge solar theory. He has developed a model depicting what he has termed ‘solar conveyor belts’ (similar to the Earth’s Great Ocean Conveyor Belt). In this model, individualized ‘bundles of magnetism’ are pushed and pulled along massive circular pathways of force, surfacing as sunspots on the outer part of the great circular belt, and approaching the Sun’s outer core on the inner part of the circle, where the sunspot dies but is soon reborn after its force is amplified by the intense magnetism of the Sun’s core.

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Within this theory, it takes between 30 to 50 years for the conveyor belt to complete one loop – and when the belt is turning quickly, magnetic fields are swept up from the core in greater force and quantity, indicating that future sunspot activity will be more intense as a direct consequence. This means greater solar output, and bigger solar flares.

According to Dikpati, because the belt was looping extra fast in the years between 1986 and 1996, that translates to Solar Max arriving in or around 2012. It also indicates that solar output during this next peak may be greater than it's been in at least 100 years.

Now, the Sun has always had its ups and downs. But combine this new scientific possibility with the already existing and proven greenhouse effect, and you suddenly have a potentially lethal scenario: greater solar output, trapped and held by a greater greenhouse effect, suddenly causing exponential growth in the Earth's surface temperature.

Concerning Solar Max, there is also a potential of what are called 'super-flares'. These are theoretical solar flares so powerful that the potential destructive power to the Earth is almost unthinkable. Some scientists suggest that the possibility of extremely destructive super-flares is not so theoretically extreme when considering how other stars wax and wane so greatly in their periodical output. And according to Dikpati's model, we could very well have

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a super-flare heading toward the Earth in a very short timeframe.

Combine all of these newly conceived facets of solar dynamics, and you suddenly have what may end up manifesting itself as the great trigger of the apocalypse.

Pole Shift

There has been talk lately about another theoretical consequence of Solar Max, and that is what has been termed ‘pole shift’ – this is the reversal of the electromagnetic field of the Earth itself, caused by a super-flare from the Sun.

If solar output increases beyond a certain critical level, the intense radiation would conceivably over-saturate the North and South poles of the Earth with magnetically charged particles. This may cause a reversal in the great magnetic field at the Earth’s core. Because magnetic fields can directly affect rotational force, it might be enough to cause the Earth’s core to slow down and eventually begin spinning *in the opposite direction*.

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It this happens, the Earth's outer crust will suddenly be subjected to the most powerful shock waves imaginable, as it slips and slides to compensate for the phenomenal and sudden changes occurring deep below the surface.

The power and effect of such sudden forces are unknown, but have the potential of completely re-shaping the geological / topological structures of the Earth's surface, raising new mountains and crashing old ones down, sending country-sized land masses into the sea, and raising new land masses from the depths.

Another terrifying consequence would be tidal waves of epic proportion, all heading directly eastward as the westward rotation of the Earth slows down in preparation for its eventual reversal.

And if this isn't bad enough, there's more.

The Earth's current electromagnetic field normally acts as a shield against highly charged particles from the Sun. These particles are captured by this field, every moment of every day, ending up in what is called the 'Van Allen Belts'. This is an immense system of two belts which extend from hundreds to tens of thousands of miles beyond the Earth's atmosphere.

Because the Van Allen Belts' structure, and indeed existence, is directly related to the Earth's electromagnetic

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field, the entire structure of the belts would completely collapse if the Earth's magnetic field begins a reversal.

The consequences of such a collapse of the Van Allen Belts would be immense; the Sun's already intense output of highly charged particles would become even greater during solar max, and in this case enter the Earth's atmosphere totally unfettered, causing immediate and long-term radiation damage to all life on the Earth's surface.

It might also be enough to cause massive global forest fires, which would immediately fill the skies with enough smoke to create yet another range of worldwide problems (climate shift, crop failure, global cooling...).

As you can see, the possible impact of the next Solar Max is multifaceted, with inconceivably catastrophic consequences.

If this sounds too fantastic to deem realistic, consider this:

There is actually evidence that something like this has happened before, far back through the mists of geological time. Thick, tropic-like forests of frozen trees have recently been found beneath Antarctic ice, suggesting that the Earth's crust had shifted at some time in the distant past by *thousands* of miles, and within a *very* short timeframe.

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In Alaska there is now what is being referred to as the ‘frozen muck’ phenomenon; these are varied locations which feature massive amounts of crushed bone and debris from a multitude of animals and plants, which all appear to have been very suddenly exposed to incredible physical shock – then rapidly frozen solid. The sites include crushed and mangled trees, boulders and erratic lava deposits, all of which suggest an extremely violent and widespread geological force.

And there is other evidence worldwide suggesting extreme shifts in not only geological positioning and climate, but also water placement. For instance, the base of the great Sphinx in Egypt shows very distinct patterns of water erosion at its base, pointing to the possibility of an extreme geological shift in times as recent as 5000 years ago. This coincides with the fact that ancient Sumerian tablets refer to a time when all of Egypt (known as ‘Megan’ in those times) was completely covered with water.

There is also an extremely enigmatic section of the Old Testament which speaks of a time of great catastrophe, when fire fell from the skies and the Sun refused to rise for three days. Only a cessation of the Earth’s rotation by extreme Solar Max could cause such simultaneous phenomena.

Is it conceivable that such great violence has already been visited upon the Earth, and so recently?

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It is the author's suggestion that such an event may have actually occurred, and that the destruction was likely seen and recorded on a global scale. It is reasonable to consider that *this* was the event that ushered in the transition of the last age into the current one, circa 3114 B.C (more on this date later...).

Global Cooling: Global Warming's Evil Twin

To those few scientists who have used core samples from various deep-ice polar regions of the globe to study the Earth's long history of weather and atmospheric conditions that have transpired over the ages, a few things have become abundantly clear.

The first conclusion that has been drawn from this data is that the Earth has undergone many periods of global warming before, although never at such a rapid pace as is transpiring now.

The second conclusion is that every time global warming has occurred, it has *always* been followed by

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global cooling. Scientists are not just talking about a few paltry degrees here; what they're saying is that each and every time the Earth has seen an episode of global warming – for whatever reason – it has very quickly and dramatically reversed, *each and every time causing a full-blown ice-age.*

Of course this is not instantaneous – the typical timeframe for such reversals has historically been from fifty to hundreds or even thousands of years. But due to the more drastic nature of our current warming scenario, it is logical to concede to the possibility of a greater rapidity of reactionary cooling as well.

In consideration of the aforementioned scenario within which a multitude of forest fires are simultaneously ignited by an extreme solar flare, the resultant smoke output would likely be enough to trigger an ice age *immediately!*

We have already seen how even a few degrees of global warming might catastrophically affect global food production. The effects of global cooling as a domino effect would likely be even more extreme than those of global warming, even if countered by a better localization of foodcrops.

Aside from the considerable problem of food production, global cooling will also bring with it a greater human requirement not only for artificial heating, but also for the specialized knowledge of Arctic living. This type of

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knowledge would usually take thousands of years to naturally develop and to be passed down through a multitude of generations, each generation adding its own meager share to the common collection.

The only good news is that equatorial regions of the world shouldn't feel much of an affect from global cooling, even in a full-blown ice age. They might see a few degrees of average temperature drop, but it shouldn't be enough to modify their very livable, tropical weather, or to adversely affect tropical food production.

Although very serious, the coming ice age presumably poses a less immediate danger than the aforementioned scenarios – therefore, let us get back to a study of the more impending issues...

The Mayan Long Count

The Mayans lived in Mesoamerica between the 3rd and 10th centuries A.D, with a social epicenter in the Yucatan region of what is now Mexico. During that time, there was a Mayan spiritual leader, or prophet, called Chilam Belam (meaning ‘Jaguar Prophet’) who made various predictions, many of which seem to concern our current era.

Contrary to popular belief, there is no known Mayan text speaking of ‘the end of the world’ per se, but it is obvious to Mayan scholars that the year 2012 marked a time of utmost importance to their ancient prophets and timekeepers.

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The Mayans used a total of 17 different calendars, but three were of greatest importance. These three calendars each consisted of complex numerical systems, and although each calendar could be used individually depending on the focus of the user, they also ‘meshed together’ in even more complex ways, supposedly giving the user a greater holistic tool.

Of special interest in the 2012 phenomenon is the Mayan calendar called ‘the Long Count’. As its name implies, it covers the longest timescale of the 3 popular Mayan calendars – it spans a period of 5,125 years.

The Long Count apparently started ‘ticking’ on either the 11th or 13th of August, 3114 B.C. Although the Olmecs were the likely candidates for actually setting this in motion, the Mayans saw this date as the starting point of the current era, or ‘age’ (interestingly enough, three of the worlds oldest calendars from different parts of the world *all started within a few years of this date!*).

In the Long Count system, time is counted in a linear fashion (instead of cyclical, as in some of the other Mayan calendars). The Long Count system is arranged like this: 20 days equals one ‘uinal’, 18 uinals equals one ‘tun’, 20 tuns equals one ‘katun’, 20 katuns equals one ‘baktun’, and 13 baktuns equals one ‘Great Cycle’. This is typically shown in ‘dot notation’, with 13.0.0.0 representing the final day of the present age (12.19.19.17.19 being the previous day).

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When all of this is calculated using the European calendars (Julian, Gregorian...), the final day presumably falls on December 21st or 23rd, 2012 (depending on methodology used...), and represents a day of great change – according to Mayan spiritualism.

Archaeoastronomer Maud Worcester Makemson translated some of the codices from Chilam Belam, bringing us the following interpretation of one seemingly important section:

"Presently Baktun 13 shall come sailing, figuratively speaking, bringing the ornaments of which I have spoken from your ancestors. Then the God will come to visit his little ones. Perhaps 'After Death' will be the subject of his discourse."

This text carries both positive and negative tones, and although it is usually best to remain optimistic, one cannot help but associate all three of these lines with the idea of crossing over into the 'spirit world'!

Another interesting Mayan artifact comes in the form of a stella, and seems to depict a futuristic scene where water is coming from all directions – even from above. And since the end of the Great Cycle, or '4 Ahau' as the Mayans alternatively called it, was apparently the most important date in the 5,125 years of the Long Count calendar, it is not out of the question to give this prominent stella an association with the same date.

Fulcanelli: The Great Dual Cataclysm

The French writings of Fulcanelli are mysterious indeed, and no less mysterious than the author himself, as few claim to have known who he was – and even fewer have any evidence. In fact, some have even argued that as the pseudonym ‘Fulcanelli’ is plural, it may well represent not one author, but a small group. For the sake of simplicity, we will refer to the pseudonym as representative of one man.

Fulcanelli’s first two works were written in the first part of the 20th century, and are typically categorized under the subject of architecture in the great libraries of the

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world. But once the discerning reader gets past the title and a chapter or two of texts and illustrations, it becomes obvious that there is more to it than that – much more. Fulcanelli's contribution to the understanding of Gothic architecture and monumentation is astounding to be sure, but his constant focus on symbology and cabalistic etymology is far more profound, once dissected and holistically re-combined.

His second work, 'The Dwellings of the Philosophers', is a deep well of information, providing enlightenment through architecture, chemistry, metallurgy/mineralogy, linguistics, and much more. Although the bulk of the volume focuses on the alchemical 'Great Work', the final chapter takes a very sudden departure from previous subject matter (although there is a connection, albeit an obtuse and complex one).

A few pages into this final chapter comes the ominous sub-section heading "The Conflagration", in which the author begins to break down the multitude of cryptic symbols brought together on the obelisk of Dommartin-sur-Tigeaux (located in the Crècy Forest of northern France).

In the words of Fulcanelli: "It shows, as a matter of fact, a terrestrial globe given over to the joined forces of *water* and *fire*. Resting on the waves of a raging sea, the sphere of the world, hit on the higher pole by the sun in a helical reversal, catches fire and throws off lightnings and thunderbolts. Here is, as we said, the vivid representation of

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the huge conflagration and flood, equally purifying and dispensing of justice.”

The general idea here is that the Northern Hemisphere will see trials by fire (via the Sun), while the Southern Hemisphere will be tried with water (via super-tsunamis and rising sea levels).

The author speaks of an ancient ‘tradition’ of knowledge concerning the coming of this inevitable dual cataclysm, as if a great many ancient prophets concurred about the specifics of how it would eventually transpire. It can be argued that if the Northern Hemisphere were to be very suddenly the receiver of too much sunlight (due to the greatest Solar Max in millenia), that such an event would have to happen during the summer, the only time of the year when the Northern Hemisphere is in the appropriate position relative to the Sun, due to the tilt of the Earth’s axis.

It can also be reasoned that, combined with the greenhouse effect, the entire surface of the Earth would see a very rapid increase in average temperature, and that global ice masses might possibly be completely melted in a matter of months.

Fulcanelli does not give an exact time that this cataclysm of water and fire will occur, but he does indicate that it will be very sudden and apocalyptic, and not far off in the future.

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He ends the chapter (and consequently the book) with the following chilling statement:

“Thus the cyclical ages (of the Earth) correspond to the seasons of the annual seasonal movement, and they, as a whole, received the names of *Great Period*, *Great Year*, and even more frequently, *Solar Cycle*.”

It is plainly obvious after reading Fulcanelli’s great work that he fully believed in the coming of a dual cataclysm, as if he had foreseen the events himself in detailed visions. He describes the terrible events as necessary – a spiritual cleansing of the Earth, preparing our planet and its few fortunate survivors for a new age of peace and prosperity.

It is not so surprising that he calls this new age “the Golden Age” as so many others have done. After all, gold is the color of the Sun – could we truly be unknowing future witnesses to the coming of the Age of the Sun?

Kalki The Destroyer

Within the sacred writings of both Hindi and Buddhist traditions exists a highly revered group of super-beings known as the ten Avatars – the Maha Avatara (Great Incarnation). These Avatars are typically seen as demi-gods who come to Earth by choice for incarnation, as teachers and guides over all humanity. They are also said to have been given special powers to aid in their mission (although most people consider these stories purely allegorical, the reader will soon discover why this strange story has been included within the context of this book...)

Kalki is known as the tenth and final Avatar of Vishnu the Preserver. The name Kalki Avatara can be variously translated as ‘Tomorrow’s Incarnation’,

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‘Destroyer of Darkness’, ‘Eternity/Time’, or ‘White Horse’ (!). It is said that Kalki, as the last Avatar, will come to bring an end to the Kali Yuga (age of darkness and destruction).

In this tradition, Kalki’s mentor is Parashurama, the sixth incarnation of Vishnu. It is said that a thousand years ago Parashurama received the keys to celestial weaponry by Lord Shiva in acknowledgement for his divine penance. When the appropriate time comes, Parashurama will hand these keys over to Kalki, to be used for the cleansing of the Earth of all corruption.

According to this ancient prophecy, Kalki will arrive on a white horse; this is eerily reminiscent of the first horseman of the Apocalypse in Revelations, chapter 6, who also comes mounted on a white horse, being ‘bent on conquest’ (to be discussed shortly...).

According to an ancient work called the Kalki Purana, the Kali Yuga is the current age of man, which began 5000 years ago (very close to the time the Mayan Long Count began...). It is the Age of Darkness, within which great corruption would eventually arise, whose perpetrators would hold temporary dominion. Kalki’s mission is to wipe out and eradicate, by extreme force, this corruption and all those who perpetuate it. After this great destruction of sin, a new age of sinlessness and peace follow (the Satya Yuga – or ‘Golden Age’!).

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The beginning of the Kali Yuga is marked by the departure of Krishna – God himself who came down as the 8th Avatar in the previous age (many ancient cultures documented the departure of their God/Gods around the same time, circa 3,000 B.C.). The current age brought with it the Kali Demon, who has since ruled the Earth and has brought pain and misery to all.

In another writing called the Bhagavad Gita, The people of the world have forsaken the Gods and the Devas in the Age of Darkness; the Devas journey to Vaikunta to seek help from Lord Vishnu, and in time he eventually comes down to Earth to solve the many problems at hand. Kalki is soon born, living out his childhood in the mystical kingdom of Shambhala.

After the immortals arrive in Shambhala, Kalki begins training under Parashurama, and once fully trained is given many gifts – including a divine sword from Lord Shiva. Kalki marries Padma, has two sons, then immediately gets down to the dirty business of destroying the corrupt kings and false prophets of the ending age, followed by the eradication of all evil-doers and sinners.

Finally, after an epic battle with the Kali Demon, Evil is destroyed and peace can once again be restored on Earth. The new age can begin – the Golden Age.

These Vedic stories are definitely quite strange to most Western senses, with their many oddly named

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personalities and elements. But certain holistic connections are very easily drawn, and are certainly difficult to deny.

These particularly interesting connections can be easily seen in the following summary:

An age lasting approximately 5000 years is brought to a sudden and violent end, via the workings of an enigmatic rider on a white horse, and culminating in the introduction of a Golden Age!

Indigenous American Tradition

In the Americas, various Indian tribes have very ancient traditions that foretell a great future world cataclysm, which they refer to as “The third shaking of the Earth”.

The Cherokees have the following to say:

“At the beginning of this cycle of time, long ago, the Great Spirit came down and He made an appearance and He gathered the peoples of this earth together they say on an island which is now beneath the water and He said to the human beings, "I'm going to send you to four directions and over time I'm going to change you to four colors, but I'm going

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to give you some teachings and you will call these the Original Teachings and when you come back together with each other you will share these so that you can live and have peace on earth, and a great civilization will come about." And he said "During the cycle of time I'm going to give each of you two stone tablets. When I give you those stone tablets, don't cast those upon the ground. If any of the brothers and sisters of the four directions and the four colors cast their tablets on the ground, not only will human beings have a hard time, but almost the earth itself will die."

They claim that the red people, the Indian people, were given guardianship over the Earth – they are its custodians. The stone tablets of the yellow race are kept by the Tibetans, the guardians of the Wind. The tablets of the black race are carried by the Kukuyu tribe in Kenya, the guardians over Water. The tablets of the white race are held by the Swiss, as the guardians of Fire.

Tribal elders also say that, following the 'third shaking of the Earth', a world teacher will come, whom they call the 'Great White Brother'. This will mark the 'time of Purification'.

They say that after the shaking starts, this will make 'trails of dirt', and that the skies of the Earth will be made dirty, causing many secondary problems. The elders claim that all this destruction could be avoided if the people of the world simply united and made peace with one another.

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Hopi tradition is very similar. In the summer of 1958, the Hopi Indian elder White Feather gave the following oration:

"I am White Feather, a Hopi of the ancient Bear Clan. In my long life I have traveled through this land, seeking out my brothers, and learning from them many things full of wisdom. I have followed the sacred paths of my people, who inhabit the forests and many lakes in the east, the land of ice and long nights in the north, and the places of holy altars of stone built many years ago by my brothers' fathers in the south. From all these I have heard the stories of the past, and the prophecies of the future. Today, many of the prophecies have turned to stories, and few are left -- the past grows longer, and the future grows shorter.

"And now White Feather is dying. His sons have all joined his ancestors, and soon he too shall be with them. But there is no one left, no one to recite and pass on the ancient wisdom. My people have tired of the old ways -- the great ceremonies that tell of our origins, of our emergence into the Fourth World, are almost all abandoned, forgotten, yet even this has been foretold. The time grows short.

"My people await Pahana, the lost White Brother, [from the stars] as do all our brothers in the land. He will not be like the white men we know now, who are cruel and greedy. we were told of their coming long ago. But still we await Pahana.

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"He will bring with him the symbols, and the missing piece of that sacred tablet now kept by the elders, given to him when he left, that shall identify him as our True White Brother.

"The Fourth World shall end soon, and the Fifth World will begin. This the elders everywhere know. The Signs over many years have been fulfilled, and so few are left.

"This is the First Sign: We are told of the coming of the white-skinned men, like Pahana, but not living like Pahana men who took the land that was not theirs. And men who struck their enemies with thunder.

"This is the Second Sign: Our lands will see the coming of spinning wheels filled with voices. In his youth, my father saw this prophecy come true with his eyes -- the white men bringing their families in wagons across the prairies."

"This is the Third Sign: A strange beast like a buffalo but with great long horns, will overrun the land in large numbers. These White Feather saw with his eyes -- the coming of the white men's cattle."

"This is the Fourth Sign: The land will be crossed by snakes of iron."

"This is the Fifth Sign: The land shall be criss-crossed by a giant spider's web."

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"This is the Sixth sign: The land shall be criss-crossed with rivers of stone that make pictures in the sun."

"This is the Seventh Sign: You will hear of the sea turning black, and many living things dying because of it."

"This is the Eight Sign: You will see many youth, who wear their hair long like my people, come and join the tribal nations, to learn their ways and wisdom.

"And this is the Ninth and Last Sign: You will hear of a dwelling-place in the heavens, above the earth, that shall fall with a great crash. It will appear as a blue star. Very soon after this, the ceremonies of my people will cease.

"These are the Signs that great destruction is coming. The world shall rock to and fro. The white man will battle against other people in other lands -- with those who possessed the first light of wisdom. There will be many columns of smoke and fire such as White Feather has seen the white man make in the deserts not far from here. Only those which come will cause disease and a great dying.

"Many of my people, understanding the prophecies, shall be safe. Those who stay and live in the places of my people also shall be safe. Then there will be much to rebuild. And soon -- very soon afterward -- Pahana will return. He shall bring with him the dawn

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of the Fifth World. He shall plant the seeds of his wisdom in their hearts. Even now the seeds are being planted. These shall smooth the way to the Emergence into the Fifth World.

"But White Feather shall not see it. I am old and dying. You -- perhaps will see it. In time, in time..."

Christian Eschatology

Although ostensibly representing only one of the many religions and philosophies around the globe, very few people would argue against the assertion that The Bible is the most widely read and revered book in the world.

This great volume contains myriad mysteries – but none of its encapsulated books seem quite as mysterious as the final few chapters – those found in the famous Book of Revelation.

Written by John of Patmos between the first and second centuries A.D., Revelation contains a style of writing that has been interpreted in many different ways.

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One such interpretation, called the ‘futurist’ view, holds that much of what is written in Revelation will come to pass in the final days of the Earth, heralding the second coming of the Christian Savior.

We present here a detailed outline of some of the darker parts of this mysterious book, so that the reader might compare the seemingly incredible circumstances contained within its verses to what we have already presented here, even if viewed from a purely metaphorical perspective.

It all seems to begin in chapter 6, with the opening of the seven seals:

When the first seal is opened, John sees a white horse whose rider is armed with a bow, and who is given a crown to go forth to conquer (we have already mentioned the similarity of this verse to the Hindu prophecy concerning Kalki, who it is said will come on a white horse to conquer the darkness).

When the second seal is broken a red horse comes, whose rider is given the power to “take peace from the Earth, and that they should kill one another”.

With the breaking of the third seal, a black horse comes, whose rider holds a pair of balances and commences the weighing of wheat and barley (and admonishes to “hurt not the oil and the wine”). This would

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presumably indicate the pivotal importance of food during this time.

When the fourth seal is broken, a pale horse comes whose rider is Death, “and Hell followed him”. They are given power over the fourth part of the Earth “to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.”

The fifth seal is broken, with the suggestion that the many Christians martyred in the past would soon be avenged.

The breaking of the sixth seal seems especially significant; it marks the beginning of catastrophic destruction, via a great earthquake. “...and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood.” This verse even describes the stars falling to the Earth, and mountains and islands moving from their places. It also speaks of a great many men racing to hide in the caves of the mountains, and wondering if any man will be left standing.

Chapter seven pauses the destruction for a time sufficient for saving, or ‘sealing’, the servants of God.

Of these servants of God it is written that 144,000 (12,000 from each of the twelve tribes) will be saved – this is a very interesting number, for many reasons. One primary reason is that in the Mayan Long Count calendar, one Baktun is equal to exactly 144,000 days, with the end

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of the 12th Baktun signaling the end of the Great Period – and presumably accompanied by some very significant changes on the Earth.

Chapter eight proceeds with the breaking of the seventh seal, after which there is a half hour of silence, followed by “voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake”. This marks the beginning of the sounding of the seven trumpets.

With the sounding of the first trumpet comes “hail and fire mixed with blood”, which burns up a third of the trees and grass of the Earth (much like Fulcanelli’s description of the first part of the dual cataclysm, where the Northern Hemisphere is ‘calcined’ by the fire of the Sun).

The second trumpet sends a great burning mountain into the sea, turning the water into blood (red lava?).

The third trumpet brings a star down from the heavens (asteroid?) and into the waters, making them ‘bitter’ and killing many people.

With the sounding of the fourth trumpet, the Sun, Moon and stars are “smitten” and darkened, “and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise” (the scientific interpretation is that the smoke caused by so much burning vegetation would make the atmosphere more opaque, so that all external light would be greatly attenuated...).

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In chapter nine the fifth trumpet sounds, and “a star fell from Heaven unto the Earth”, creating a ‘bottomless pit’. This also causes a great cloud of smoke which again darkens the sky. The text goes on to speak of a terrible plague of locusts (with many supernatural features), whose charge it is to torment man for a period of five months.

The sounding of the sixth trumpet brings an intrepid army of horsemen numbering “two hundred thousand thousand”. The mouths of these horses issue “fire and smoke and brimstone”, which by its great force kills “a third part of men”.

The events following the sounding of the seventh trumpet are too numerous and diverse to mention here, covering many chapters in the Biblical narrative. In short, however, it should be mentioned that this is where the four great and terrifying beasts make their appearance, as well as the angels carrying the seven deadly plagues.

Special mention should perhaps be given to two verses within this section, for it seems to resonate with much of what we have covered so far in our presentation. It comes from chapter 16, verse 8: “And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire” (anyone else out there reminded of Solar Max?).

Then, verse 20 says: “And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.” We have already covered what would happen to the islands of the globe if

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the next Solar Max were to be as extreme as some scientists speculate, causing global ice to melt very quickly!

Also noteworthy are the verses in this same section which speak of the last days of merchants and merchandise – we will cover this in some detail in the ‘Survival’ section of this book, as it may well become the most vital factor of long-term survival in the event of global catastrophe.

After the sounding of the seven trumpets, and the dominion of the great beasts, and the working of the seven plaques, the terrible destruction is seemingly drawn to a close. What follows appears to be the closing of one age and the dawning of another. The new age has at its center a great, new city with bejeweled walls and with streets and buildings made of shining gold.

Just like so many other writings from around the world, these texts suggest the ending of a long age of darkness with great, global catastrophe, followed by the advent of a new age – a Golden Age.

Nostradamus

Perhaps the most well known of all doomsday prophets was Nostradamus, a French apothecary who lived in the 1500s. His most famous work, 'The Prophecies', appeared around 1555, and has been the subject of much public attention ever since.

Although many people believe his given date of 1999 for much of the coming destruction in his prophecies to be the actual date of the destructive event(s) described, it can also be interpreted as the 'coming' of the destruction, as in the beginning of an indication of its coming.

He writes that "shaky peace on Earth will be struck by fire from the skies..." and that there will be a "horrible

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slaughter of people and animals” in a time of great thirst and famine.

Now, these prophecies concern the coming of a comet to the Earth – but the effects appear very similar to the possible catastrophes we have already discussed in previous chapters.

It is interesting to compare these texts to those in Revelation, because they both indicate a direct impact to a body of water, along with similar terrifying effects. What is also frighteningly intriguing is Nostradamus’s possible reference to Mount Olympus (in Greece) which, at nearly 10,000 feet high, would receive a pounding torrent of water expelled from the Aegean Sea!

There are many modern theories that might be somehow logically attached to the writings of Nostradamus, including the ‘Nemesis theory’ (that our Sun has a distant sister star which helps to shake things up once every few million years...), the Nibiru theory (a planet spoken of in ancient Sumerian writings that is proposed to have a wildly eccentric orbit, which periodically wreaks havoc in the Solar System), and a multitude of others.

It has also been suggested that sunspot activity can be influenced by external gravitational forces, and possibly by asteroids which impact or fly too near the Sun. This modified sunspot activity might just be enough to produce a super-flare.

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So we have yet another ancient book speaking of ‘fire from the skies’, warning of the impending doom which seems to have been looming over all of mankind for quite some time...

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Edgar Cayce

There are a number of other seers from the past that have foretold of future destruction on a global scale. One of particular note was Edgar Cayce.

Edgar Cayce gained popularity in the early 20th century, during which time he was known to have given over 14,000 psychic readings while in a modified trance state. Most of his readings were personal, given for individuals who had lifestyle or health related concerns.

But many of these personal readings would contain prophecies about cataclysmic events in the not-to-distant future. Some of the more notable prophecies included the

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supposition that New York City, Los Angeles, and other major and largescale coastal regions would be entirely destroyed by some natural disaster of epic proportions. He also said that the Great Lakes would empty their water into the Gulf of Mexico, indicating a massive widening of the Mississippi River (this would also cause great destruction in mid-America).

He also speaks of the Western United States being eventually covered with water – this is something that has been repeated by modern psychics, who even include ‘future maps’ to help visualize the post-apocalyptic changes that are apparently immanent (see Lori Toyé and Gordon Michael Scallion).

This last scenario seems to coincide with the aforementioned ‘pole shift’ scenario, with the modified rotational forces of the Earth causing all global waters to suddenly surge eastward in the most massive global tidal motion ever conceived...

Supposition

As you can see, we have brought together a great many elements in an attempt to answer the very important question – what type of cataclysm is most likely to occur (if any). By studying scientific data, ancient legends and old texts from many different cultures and times, and by comparing and contrasting them, it can be reasonably concluded that nearly all historically significant data points to one singular probability: a dual cataclysm combining the immense forces of fire (heat) and water (each causing a multitude of equally cataclysmic secondary effects...).

It can be supposed, on the scientific level, that the unstoppable periodicity of the Sun will eventually unleash bursts of heat unlike modern man has ever seen – what we

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are calling Solar Max. Many scientists (and screenwriters!) have used this statistical probability and modeled its possible effects on the Earth; the models, although differing in the exactness of the effects, each share one common element – fire, accompanied by the immensely powerful and destructive heat, electromagnetism, and secondary geological forces that it would inevitably release.

Taking these models and combining them with the currently worsening greenhouse effect, gives us a very ominous new model, within which the exponential increase of global surface temperatures would trigger another staggering and equally devastating secondary effect – the rapid release of trillions of tons of water.

Using this suppositional conclusion, we will now move our focus away from the question of what form global catastrophe might take, and focus our attention on the question of how we might survive it...

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SURVIVAL

How We Might Survive In The Age Of Fire

There is a multitude of elements one must consider when discussing the topic of survival. Let us first focus on short-term survival within the context of an extreme Solar Max, and then we'll look at long-term survival within the same context.

The first question is one of severity – how extreme will the next Solar Max be. The problem is that nobody really knows, so we're forced to either guess or to prepare for any eventuality.

Concerning the subject of short-term survival, we don't really need to consider a scenario within which the

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Sun increases its output by just slightly more than the last Solar Max (which occurred in the late 50's), as this will only cause long-term problems (the secondary effect of water being among them...).

If the next Solar Max happens to be far more extreme than those of recent history (as previously shown data appears to suggest), we are in for very hard times indeed.

The first possible problem centers around the phenomenon of solar flares. Scientists and electrical engineers around the world have been discussing this problem for decades – the prospect of a ‘super-flare’. Such a flare would represent a multi-tiered attack on the Earth and its inhabitants.

The first tier, and most obvious, would involve an immense propagating wave of extreme heat, which could be hot enough to cause actual burning of the bodily flesh, along with that of the Earth's massive body of vegetation. This would likely be short-lived, but with the possible secondary effect of increased atmospheric opacity (due to the released smoke). This would be bad enough by itself – but it would likely be sufficient to instantly destroy all our food-crops, and to cause sustained worldwide famine due to the long-term attenuation of sunlight necessary to sustain future food production.

Short-term survival against this first tier might include the necessity of staying indoors if the flare is

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extreme enough to warrant it, especially if one has access to subterranean or sub-aquatic spaces to use as a direct shield against such a wave of heat. If the flare is of ultra-high intensity, only those who are deep underground or under-water at the time would be spared.

Survival might also depend upon the capability of avoiding the direct effects of forest fires, as they will likely be immense and numerous. The keys to surviving forest fires is to either completely flee the whole affected area, or alternatively to find an open area within, not so densely populated by trees/vegetation, to protect any flammable buildings or objects in that area from airborne smoldering debris (this is what makes forest fires ‘contagious’), and to use moist rags or clothing to breathe through.

The second simultaneous tier of a super-flare assault involves electromagnetism. A Solar flare with sufficient intensity could, in one moment, completely wipe out most or all electronic circuits on a global scale due to ‘electromagnetic burnout’. This would likely include serious, even irreparable damage to the immense electric grids that provide electricity to 90% of the world’s population, damage to the thousands of important communications satellites that are currently in orbit around the Earth, and damage to the myriad electronics within homes and businesses. It should be obvious with minimal reflection that such a scenario would immediately cripple our modern, technology-driven culture, even at fundamental levels (more on this later in the chapters delving into long-term survival...).

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Short term survival of this second tier would only concern those on some type of medical life-support system(s). For those individuals, emergency backup power would provide their only salvation.

The third tier of the assault, although not as probable as tiers one and two, has already been mentioned – but it bears repeating. Such a flare could possibly carry with it enough electromagnetic power to strip away the Van Allen Belt, including the outermost layer of the Earth’s atmosphere – not the oxygen we breathe, but a thin layer of auxiliary gases. The stripping away of these elements would in effect remove our greatest protection against high-energy particles. This would leave us highly susceptible to both solar and interstellar radiation; both sources of radiation are *very* dangerous to the unprotected, causing immediate burning of the skin, along with the long-term probability of widespread cancer and rapid cellular decay.

Short-term survival against this tier might include, again, subterranean or sub-aquatic access, and special lead-based shielding added to roofing and external wall material of housing. Long-term survival in this case would likely include special clothing/hats, and heavy-duty sunscreen lotion to provide minimal protection from high-energy particles.

Long-term survival following most of these scenarios is an extremely complex subject, and will

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therefore need to be addressed in great detail (coming up shortly).

Water: Surviving the Rising Tides

Before addressing long-term survival, let us first look at the possibility of one of the principal indirect effects of a solar cataclysm – the effect of water.

It has already been mentioned that the currently existing greenhouse gases would function to capture and retain the extra heat energy radiated by the Sun during Solar Max, causing a very rapid increase in the surface temperatures of the Earth. Even with only a small increase in Solar Max over the previous one, transoceanic waters would eventually rise to levels that would devastate all coastal regions throughout the world.

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A greater increase in Solar Max, combined with the existing greenhouse effect, would cause *extremely* rapid melting of global ice masses, possibly even converting all global ice to water within just a few years. *This would create a total sea level rise of 250 feet, completely and permanently flooding all coastal cities, and killing or displacing roughly two billion people!*

Combine this rise in water with the possibilities presented by the horrors of a pole shift, and you then have incalculably immense water masses violently shifting positions around the globe, as directed by the shifting of the Earth's crust.

The future actions of water, in the author's opinion, represent the most likely, and most devastating, major change to human life than any other scenario presented in this book, due not only to the size and scale of associated changes and the number of affected people, but also due to the relative permanence and irreversible nature of such a change.

What is vitally important here is the acceptance of the *inevitability* of one singular factor – rising sea levels. *Many scientists agree that this, at the very least, will occur eventually – they just can't agree on how long it will take.* Once the inevitability factor is accepted, it simply remains to start getting to higher ground.

Now, it may not be good enough to situate yourself 250 feet higher than the current sea level, because of the

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probability of massive tidal waves in the future. We've already touched on this previously, but the subject demands a more detailed study.

The problem is one of dynamics, involving gravitational equilibrium and critical force. Consider the following scenario: a block of store-bought ice sits upon a block of compacted snow, which itself sits in a pool of cold water. The water is slightly agitated to roughly resemble the dynamics of oceanic motion. A heat lamp shines on this scene from roughly ten feet above.

Nothing much seems to happen, although the usage of time-lapse photography would show the compacted snow slowly giving up its outermost ice to water.

Now, the whole scene is suddenly surrounded by a thick tent (to approximate the greenhouse effect). Temperature measurements now show a logarithmic increase with time, as the tent is keeping the heat of the lamp from escaping.

After only a short time of exponential increase in temperature, it can be seen that the block of compacted snow is melting much more rapidly, and this melting is being aided by the dynamic motions of the water.

As time progresses, the ice/snow structure moves from a state of high stability toward a state of low stability. This means that, at some point in time, the structure will pass through a 'critical' point, where the weight of the

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block of ice on top is greater than the structural support of the compacted snow beneath it. Once this critical point in time passes, the deteriorated snow structure will very suddenly collapse, allowing the massive ice block to crash into the water below it.

Because this effect is very sudden, the instantaneous release of energy is immense; the ice block very easily displaces its own volume of water, while simultaneously pushing the displaced water in every direction, and with incredible force.

Now imagine this scenario applied to real life: monstrous volumes of ice and snow hover precariously over the Antarctic Ocean, constantly chided by the waves of the sea from all sides. A sudden increase in solar output is captured by the all-to-abundant greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere, causing global temperatures to rise at a geometric rate. The increasing heat combines with the dynamics of the oceanic waves, melting the ice away faster and faster, both from the top (via heated air and direct sunlight) and from the bottom (via heated water and wave action), leaving the very heavy ice mass in the middle in an ever more precarious state.

Eventually a critical point is reached somewhere, and without notice billions of tons of ice suddenly come crashing down into the ocean below. The fallen ice has so much weight and volume that the immense transfer of energy creates a tidal wave of epic size and force. A super-tsunami is born.

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This super-tsunami is concentric in nature, because its origin was very close to a point-source – this means that it is radiating outward in all directions. And because of its immense force, it will eventually reach *every shore on Earth that faces it*. These facing shores will receive the full impact, but even shorelines that are at an angle will be greatly affected, just slightly less so.

Also, because of the propensity of waves to oscillate in a feedback loop, this effect would cause multiple secondary and tertiary tidal waves to reverberate back and forth across all the oceans, worsening and lengthening the terrible destruction.

And this reverberation would very likely trigger other avalanches of ice around the Antarctic shelf, further amplifying the mayhem!

Now, as unlikely as all this sounds, we'd like to draw the readers attention to a little known source of very interesting documentation. It comes from the ancient library of Ashurbanipal in Nineveh (modern Syria), in the form of very old clay tablets. One of the Sumerian translations tells of a situation exactly like the one we have just described (only it apparently happened thousands of years ago...).

In the text, a group of people called the Anunnaki have discovered an unstable ice formation on the Antarctic shelf that is precariously close to collapse. They evacuate

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their families from the Middle East in time to avoid the tidal waves and flooding that end up destroying all coastal areas of the world (how they knew these things is a subject that justifies careful study, but this is well outside the scope of this book...).

There is also another very ancient text from South America that tells of a group of people who fled higher up the mountains when their coastal community was suddenly accosted by tidal waves of immense size and force. They wrote that the continually reverberating waves came surprisingly high up the mountains, completely covering and destroying all surrounding areas. Eventually the waters receded after quite some time, having completely and permanently reshaped all areas known to them.

There are many stories from around the globe speaking of a 'great flood', and they all seem to have occurred around the same time. The most popular account is of course that of Noah from the Bible, and this story seems to be echoed with some precision in the Sumerian account previously mentioned.

All this indicates that such global cataclysms are actually cyclic in nature, and that modern humans have helped to speed up that cycle considerably with the industrial production of greenhouse gases (although the next Solar Max may well be great enough to be able to do the job on its own, without the greenhouse effect...).

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As we can see, a few ancient peoples survived the rising waters and tidal forces by escaping from coastal regions, and heading for higher ground (much higher ground), or with the use of extremely sturdy seafaring vessels built specifically to withstand the tempestuous onslaught of water.

When considering survival, what should be considered here is a two-tiered water catastrophe: the first tier involves a group of cataclysmic tidal waves, and the second tier involves permanently rising sea levels (both concurrently and in response to the initial waves).

This indicates that people in coastal regions need to forsake the coastline altogether, and plan a permanent move inland. There is little hope of surviving such a group of successive tidal waves, then re-inhabiting buildings that will likely be submerged for some thousands of years to come!

The construction of specialized vessels capable of withstanding such extreme forces would be time consuming and very expensive – and the physical forces transferred from the tidal pulses to the prospective vessel to its occupant(s) would be astounding, if not fatal. However, if a person lives in a coastal region that, due to its angle, would not receive the full force of such waves, and that person has the means to build such a vessel, then the idea may prove tenable.

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Ship-building is, of course, outside of the scope of this book. The author can, however, offer some meager advice along these lines:

Such a ship would need to be submersible (built like a submarine) to withstand rolling waves, and would hence need to be very strong (steel, reinforced concrete, or at least thick, solid wood). It would have to have special seating that would allow its occupants to be 'strapped in' (including head stabilization). Such seating should additionally require mechanisms for absorbing quite extreme shock, in three dimensions. Locomotion presents big question marks, but two motive systems should ideally be provided – one taking advantage of stored energy, and one using manual or external energy (in case the first system fails).

There is a great deal of information on the internet for DIY builders, although such information is typically for general purpose, non-submersible vessels. It may be possible to combine multiple sources of information into a single custom solution, adapting materials, shapes and features to suit such an extreme venture.

Long Term Survival: Bare Necessities

In the interest of covering all possible eventualities, it would seem expedient to plan for the worst. So the question arises: what would you need to survive independently for at least 50 years, and to keep your progeny alive indefinitely?

Water

The most important of all consumables is water. The average person would only be able to live for three days without water, so it is obvious why this is the first item on the list. For those fortunate few out there who have their own water well attached to their house or property,

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you have already potentially solved the biggest problem concerning long-term survival. With the majority of readers for whom this is not the case, please pay special attention to this section.

It is the author's opinion that every family should have at least a few gallons of potable (drinkable) water in storage. One convenient method of storage makes use of the five-gallon plastic jugs that are used by the big water delivery services (Sparkletts, etc...). These can be purchased pre-filled, or easily refilled using a water hose. These are considered the largest single carryable unit of water by conventional standards. It is suggested to store as much potable water as possible, or at least water that can be easily purified later.

For storing large volumes of water, ready-made tanks can be obtained or purchased. Also, tanks of nearly any size and shape can be built using a variety of methods and materials.

Large tanks can be constructed in the following manner:

Dig a hole in the ground with the appropriate size and dimensions, then line the hole with plastic liner (you can add permanent pipes at this stage if desired). Lay out and tie steel rebar or other reinforcing material against the plastic liner, being careful not to puncture the plastic. Pour concrete into the bottom and slowly work it up the sides so that the concrete just covers all the rebar; this can be done

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in phases if more practical (the top ridge is the most difficult – this can be finished after the main body hardens).

The cover can be made of virtually any material, mainly to provide protection from contamination. Once finished, the tank can be used to receive water collected from rain, brought from a nearby lake, or collected in any other manner.

It is also suggestible to build some type of rain-trap for collecting rain (or precipitation of any kind – snow, sleet, dew...). There are many materials which can be used, and depending on available space, the larger the better.

A rooftop with an existing gutter system makes a great rain-trap – just put a 5-gallon jug in a hole at the bottom of the gutter drain to collect the water.

If you do not have a large rooftop or your house lacks gutters, you can build a custom rain-trap pretty easily. The simplest rain-trap can be built in the following way:

Choose a gently sloping area of land, or create a slope yourself. Dig the area and edges in slightly so that a tarp or plastic sheet, when laid on top, will retain as much water as possible, guiding it down to a single point at the bottom-most part of the slope. At that collection point, dig a hole that will hold the collection container, and position the container in such a way that it will collect as much water as possible from the trap (a permanently rigged

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funnel can be useful here). Secure the edges of the trap with rocks or stakes to protect against high winds.

Now we come to the problem of purification. This can be tricky, but in general, water collected from precipitation only requires simple filtration. If you don't have access to a store-bought filter, the simplest purification method involves running collected water through crushed charcoal. It is better, if possible, to use 'activated charcoal', which has far more surface area to allow for greater absorption of various chemicals (if present).

It might be advisable to build a mid-scale purification system, so that it can be used for a longer period of time and for greater quantities of water. Mid-sized systems also provide much quicker purification, but do not work very well on small quantities of water (single cup...). To build a multi-family sized purification system, proceed as follows:

Take a 55-gallon drum (or any large container, well cleaned) and install a pipe coming out as low as possible from the bottom section, and one leading into the middle of the top (if desired). Fill the container 1/4 full of clean gravel, then fill the next 2/4 with pulverized charcoal (activated if possible, but not essential). Fill the last 1/4 with clean, rinsed sand.

Effluent (unclean water) goes into the top and flows down through the three filtering stages, then exits the pipe

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at the bottom well filtered. This will filter out not only debris, but also many harmful chemicals if present.

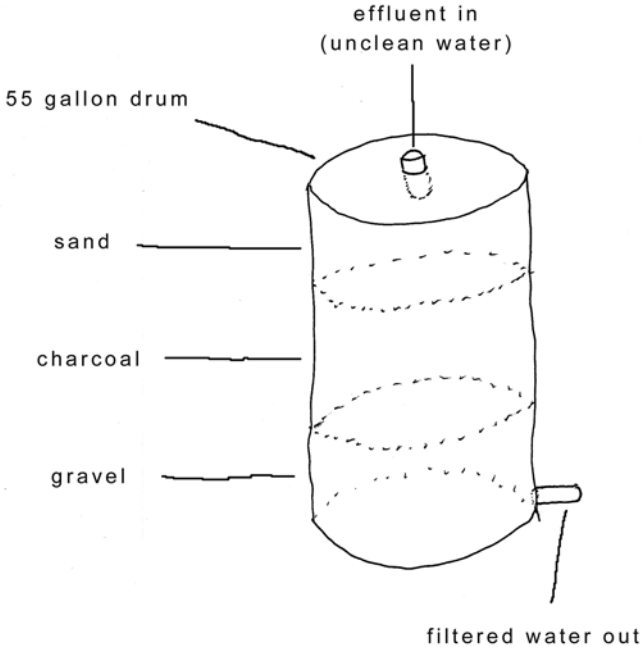


Fig. 1: 55-gallon water filter

This is usually sufficient for rainwater (actually, rainwater can usually be consumed as-is, but filtered is better), but an extra stage may be required for water that has questionable biological contamination (bacteria, viruses,

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amoebocytes...). An extra stage, external to the one just described, can be made in the following manner:

Install any ultraviolet lamp (germicidal UV lamp is ideal) inside the top of any container that will allow filtered water (from the previously described filter) to slowly flow through the container and under the lamp. The lamp can be powered by a photovoltaic cell array (small solar panel, with associated electronics necessary for powering the UV lamp). This stage will kill most bacteria, amoebocytes and other harmful microorganisms.

Far more elaborate systems can be setup for full water reclamation – high-end systems (very large) can even reclaim water from human waste (not for human consumption, though).

Independent septic systems, if efficient enough, can often be enough to reclaim water from human waste, at a clean enough state that it can then be used for irrigation, for instance.

A septic system can be built as follows: all human waste first flows into a very large underground tank, where solid waste collects at the bottom and liquid flows over the top into the next stage – the absorption field. Systems not used for reclamation simply make use of the adjoining field of soil, which then sends the filtered water hundreds of feet down to percolate into the local water table – highly filtered and cleansed by beneficial bacteria in the soil.

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In a reclamation system, an absorption field has to be constructed that will take the effluent from the septic tank, and distribute it evenly over a large bed of sand, which covers a large bed of soil. The soil must have the proper percolation characteristics to work correctly (no clay in the soil...), and there must be enough soil that the helpful bacteria in the soil can completely process the waste products in the water before it is extracted from the bottom of the system.

It is suggested that during times of disaster precious water is not used at all for waste disposal (in other words, go behind a tree!). In this case, all the water collected from the house will be called 'grey water' (instead of 'blackwater', the yucky stuff...), which is of course less problematic to purify.

For the absolute best and safest purification of water, evaporation is suggested. This will remove 99.999 percent contamination (disregarding chemicals with a lower boiling point than water...), and will kill and remove all microorganisms. Evaporation also removes minerals, which is ok for adult consumption – but care must be taken when children drink only distilled water (make sure they're eating at least one or two fruits or vegetables per day to get enough minerals in their diets...).

To make a simple evaporator:

Take any metallic container (steel is best), put an empty cup in the middle, and cover the whole container

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with plastic wrap (secure the plastic wrap with rubber bands around the container). Then weigh down the center of the plastic wrap with something small (a few coins...).

The way this works is, you fill the container with impure water and leave this whole thing in the sunlight. Very slowly, the water will evaporate, condensing on the underside of the plastic wrap. It will soon start dripping pure, distilled water into the empty cup in the middle.

You can get more elaborate by using metallic reflectors to focus more sunlight onto the interior metallic container. Plastic Fresnel lenses will also help. You can make a permanent system by adding hoses – one hose into the main container, and one hose out of the cup in the center.

Food

We have covered water collection, filtration and purification – and now we come to the second foundation of life; food.

This is a very complex subject, because of the fact that the average person knows absolutely nothing about food production! This means there is a lot of work to do – but before diving into food production, let's first look at how to get started with long-term survival – let's start with food storage.

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Food storage is actually pretty simple and fairly easy to accomplish, as long as two simple rules are followed.

Rule one: always use airtight/watertight containers – this is pivotal for keeping dry foods dry, and wet foods bacteria-free.

Rule two: cycle through your food supply constantly, consuming it and replacing it little by little – this way foods will always be as fresh as possible.

Dry foods will usually be your staple foods (grains, tubers, beans...) – these are by far the most important, so don't skimp on these. It is best to store dry foods in heavy-duty, re-sealable containers – do not store rice, for instance, in the wimpy bags they usually come in. One hole in the bag will allow moisture in, dramatically lowering the shelf-life. Large plastic containers are good for dry food storage – they're cheap, easily re-sealable, and stackable. Simply fill some large, thick plastic containers with your favorite staple foods, and put in a desiccating agent if available (silica gel – helps absorb moisture). Oxygen absorbers can also extend the shelf-life of dried foods – one well tested oxygen absorber is the Z300 by Mitsubishi. The little packet absorbs oxygen in the air between foodstuffs, making the oxygen unavailable for oxidation or for use by insects.

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Concerning staple foods, it is suggestible to have a good supply of flaked potatoes – the reason is that in a disaster, power for cooking can be a problem, making staple foods like rice, pasta, wheat, etc., very difficult to prepare. Whole beans are also an issue – for this reason, it is good to have bean flour instead. Bean flour takes far less cooking time than whole beans. A simple meal made from potato flakes and bean flour can be prepared in a couple minutes, using minimal or no heating! Beans and bean flour (and legumes in general) require the same storage techniques as any dry food – always try to keep foods as dry as possible for the longest shelf-life.

Meats should be purchased or prepared in dried form (aka ‘jerkey’) – once dried and salted, the shelf-life of meat is dramatically extended. The only other alternatives are canned meat and fresh livestock (which themselves require food...). Dairy should be stored in powdered form; powdered milk, powdered eggs, etc.

While on the subject of meat and dairy, there is a subject of great contention that should be addressed; that is the question of whether or not meat and dairy are even necessary for human life. In our modern times, many people have chosen to become either vegetarians or vegans, for one reason or another – and new dieters are very often surprised to find that not only can they live just fine without meat or dairy, they actually become more healthy and vibrant!

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The author is living both meat and dairy free, and is very happy not to have to worry about the storage (and expense!) of these items. The main concern here is protein, which is alternatively supplied by legumes, and omegas – these are easily supplied via legumes and oils such as canola and flax seed oil.

Fruits can be dried and stored, although this makes them far less nutritious. They can also be frozen, but the power requirements of refrigeration may prove problematic during post-catastrophic times.

Vegetables pose a similar problem; the energy for keeping these foods frozen may be prohibitive, and canned vegetables are not nearly as healthy as fresh ones.

So this brings us to the subject of food production.

Gardening

Long-term survival obviously depends almost entirely on food production, as food storage can only last so long. Growing food is a complicated process, with seed acquisition, soil management and irrigation being chief among gardening concerns.

Gardening (aka ‘horticulture’) has seen some important changes in recent history, with the advent of

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hydroponics and aeroponics adding a great deal of efficiency to the science of growing food.

If you live in an area that receives plenty of rain and sunlight, you shouldn't have much problem growing food outside during spring, summer and fall. Winter can pose a big problem, though, in areas which get down below the freezing point.

This is where systems such as hydroponics can really be a life-saver (literally!). Such systems are not terribly difficult to implement (disregarding power consumption for grow-lamps and pumps if used...), and the density of food output per space consumption is typically much higher than with conventional gardening.

But before jumping into hydroponics, let's cover the basics of home gardening, starting with the most important plant for survival – your staple carbohydrate. For various reasons, the potato is probably the best choice in this regard (greater calorie density, easier to plant/harvest, resistant to cold/frost...).

Before any planting can be done, the soil probably needs some preparation. Soil for planting should be rich in plant nutrients (dark in color) and loosely packed. It should contain very little sand or clay (clay inhibits water percolation, and sand percolates water too quickly), and should of course be free from any weeds or other interfering plants.

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The first step is clearing – pull out any weeds, grass or other plants. Then comes the actual soil preparation; the most important nutrients usually come in a combined form, which is typically called NPK – this means Nitrogen/Phosphorus/Potassium. Your soil must contain these three key ingredients before anything will grow in a healthy way. NPK can be added either using store-bought fertilizer (the easy way), or by using older organic techniques (more difficult, but should at least be studied...).

Whichever NPK route is taken, your soil needs to be dark, rich and loose in the end. If your soil is light in color, you will have to add lots of fertilizer and mix it in with the existing soil until it's dark and loose. For darker soils, they may need little or nothing – chances are, it's a good idea to add some fertilizer, and to mix it in with the topsoil to loosen it up and to ensure minimal nutrition.

Now you're ready to plant! As the staple carbohydrate is the foundation of the meal, your potato crop should also be the foundation of your garden – you should dedicate most of your gardening space to potatoes. Also, potatoes need to be rotated on a three-year program, which means you'll need three separate locations with proper soil to rotate through (two years would be bare minimum – you can plant other crops there in the off-years of the cycle...). You can also grow potatoes in 55-gallon drums or disinfected trash cans if space or extreme cold is an issue.

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Because of various diseases that potatoes can suffer from, it is advisable to use only certified seed potatoes to start your potato garden. Seed potatoes can be purchased at home garden stores, nurseries, or online. They should be stored in a cool, damp location (refrigeration is recommended). About a week before planting, place the seed potatoes in a warm, sunny location (like inside windowsills) to help ‘wake them up’ a little – this will stimulate sprouting.

Young potatoes like cool weather – planting should be done just after the last freeze of the winter season. Cut your seed potatoes into 1 ½ to 2 inch squares – each square must contain at least one ‘eye’ to sprout. Leave these squares out in the open for a day or two, so the cuts grow over with a thin ‘callous’ layer – this will protect them from the possibility of rotting once situated in the moist soil.

Many potato farmers mix compost and mulch right into the soil, up to a foot down (six to eight inches is common). The most popular method for planting potatoes is called ‘hilling’. Place three seed cubes a few inches apart on the ground, then cover with a small hill of soil about three or four inches high. Space these little hills about a foot apart in neat rows. This makes the potatoes very easy to locate once harvest time rolls around.

All garden plants like the right amount of moisture – not too little, and not too much. A good guide is to add enough water to make the soil moist, but not muddy. It is

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also best to water in the late afternoon or early morning – this way water is not immediately lost to evaporation from direct sunlight.

Potatoes take roughly sixteen weeks to grow from seed potatoes, but this depends on what size spuds you like to eat. You can harvest them periodically in mild seasons (once a month, as you eat them), with one big harvest before the first frost of winter.

After harvesting a batch, leave them outside to dry for an hour or so – a lot of the dirt will drop off the tubers once dry. It is not recommended to wash them off, as this makes it harder to dry and promotes rotting once they're in the root cellar.

Potatoes can store longer than most people realize (they shrivel quickly in the kitchen where most of us are accustomed to keeping them!). If stored in a dark, cool and well ventilated area (experts recommend an area that's 35 to 40 degrees F, with moist, moving air, as the best conditions of a root cellar), potatoes can keep for eight months or so, during which time they'll continue to live and metabolize (sometimes converting starch to sugar – this can be reversed by bringing small batches to the brighter, warmer kitchen where the conditions make the conversion from sugar back to starch more probable).

Too much direct sunlight is not good for potatoes – sunlight can start creating green areas on the potato skin, which is a sign that a toxic substance called solanine is

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being produced. If this happens, just cut off the offending green sections and consume the rest normally.

Now, with your main starchy food planted its time to consider your main protein containing food(s) – legumes. Of all legumes, those highest in protein include soybeans, fava, lentils and kidney beans. Soybeans are becoming more and more popular around the globe not only because they contain the most protein of any known plant (30 grams of protein per cup!), but because of their high oil content (the unsaturated oil is high in calories and contains the healthy fat essential for proper brain development and maintenance).

Another great benefit of soybeans, and of legumes in general, is that they actually help enrich the soil beneath them with nitrogen from the air (this is done with the aid of a naturally occurring, symbiotic and beneficial bacteria that live on the roots of some legumes). This factor will help to lower the cost and labor of adding nitrogen rich fertilizers to the soil.

Soybeans prefer warm climate with direct sunlight. You should plant the seeds when the soil is at least 60 degrees F, (usually 3 weeks after last winter frost). Sow seeds one to two inches deep, two to four inches apart, and space the rows about 24 to 30 inches apart. Plant a minimum of four to eight soybean plants per household member. The plants are bushy, free-branching, and grow annually if the climate is warm enough (good for greenhousing, as long as lighting is abundant).

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Harvesting can usually be accomplished 45 to 65 days after sowing, when the pods turn green.

The only negative factor concerning soybeans is that it's becoming increasingly difficult to find seeds that haven't been genetically modified (genetic modification is *bad*, contrary to what we have been told by their advocates...).

Other popular vegetables for gardeners include squash, spinach, carrots, lettuce, cabbage, eggplant – the choice of ancillary vegetables is more a matter of taste than anything else. In general, it is suggested to grow veggies that are a variety of colors – this helps to diversify nutrients that exist naturally in each variety. Plant some green, leafy vegetables, orange carrots, purple eggplant, and yellow squash for a good variety.

Fruit can be an issue, because of the time it takes for fruit trees to grow and produce fruit. It would seem suggestible to plant some fruit trees right away to get them going, then to plant melons and/or grapes in your garden for a more rapid harvest.

Mulching

Once your seeds are planted, mulching can also be a big help, not only in protecting plant roots from parasites

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and water-loss (by prohibiting evaporation), but also in helping to enrich your soil over the years. It also protects against soil erosion and frost damage.

You can use almost any organic material for mulch – grass clippings, leaves, bark, vegetable peelings, or a combination of any and all of these. Chop it up so that it's easier to spread out, and so water flows through it more easily. Spread the mulch out evenly, in a thickness of your choosing.

Hydroponics

Hydroponics has grown in popularity very rapidly due to the fact that it increases yield per space, is more controllable, and can be accomplished indoors. If you choose to use hydroponics indoors, artificial lighting or multiple skylights will be required. For hydroponics systems in greenhouses, additional lighting is not necessary (except in areas approaching polar regions).

Hydroponics refers to any system which uses nutrient-rich water (keyword 'hydro') for the growing of vegetation – this means no soil is needed! This also means that nutrients must be available as an additive, which will be much harder to find than soil during times of crisis. However, a reasonable stockpile that doesn't consume tons of space can last tens of years. If you're going to be using hydroponics, start stockpiling now.

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The foundation of hydroponics is pretty simple: plants are first ‘seeded’ in small pots of soil (the only time soil is used...), then when sufficient roots have formed they are easily transferred to the hydroponics system. All hydroponics systems have one thing in common: they all place nutrient-rich water directly on the roots of the plant, whether by dripping, spraying, or flooding (usually periodically).

A secondary benefit of hydroponics is that the water is always reclaimed at the bottom and re-fed to the top of the system – this saves not only a great deal of water over conventional watering and irrigation, but it also saves on a lot of nutrients!

A very simple hydroponics system can be made as follows:

Take any medium to large sized, watertight container (an old aquarium works well), and fill it with clean water, leaving a few inches at the top for the plants. Add nutrients according to the volume of water in the tank. Put an aerating stone at the bottom, connected with a hose to an aquarium pump (an aerating stone, or airstone, takes in compressed air from the pump and breaks it into thousands of tiny bubbles, oxygenating the water).

Cut a piece of Styrofoam to slightly smaller than the opening of the top (size/shape not critical), then put rows of small holes in the Styrofoam for the plant roots to go

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through (the plant body will be supported by the Styrofoam, while the roots hang down into the nutrient-rich, oxygenated water).

There are many, many other types of systems that can be bought or custom built – do your homework on this before you get started, and choose the type of system that will work best for your specific situation.

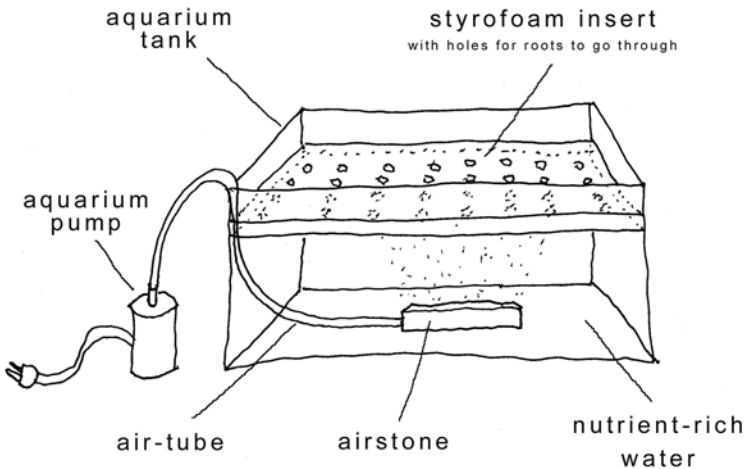


Fig. 2: Simple aquarium hydroponics system

Also consider buying or building your system with the option of using DC power – if a natural disaster disables the electric grid, you'll be faced with the necessity of using alternative sources of energy (these typically create DC power, instead of AC...), or manual energy.

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We understand how complicated all this sounds to the average person, but we can't emphasize enough the importance of at least *learning* about such things, so that if the need suddenly arises, the dedicated reader will be armed with enough knowledge to ensure a much better chance of survival.

Heat

People within thirty degrees or so of the equator will thankfully not have to worry so much about cold winters, but for those of us who see four seasons a year, heat production will become an important factor of life in a post-catastrophe scenario.

Nearly every modern dwelling in these areas comes equipped with either gas or electric heating, along with gas or electric ranges in the kitchen for cooking. In a post-apocalyptic environment, such high-tech systems will almost certainly be rendered useless. As mentioned before, electricity will likely be the very first thing to go, and natural gas will not last very long thereafter.

In wooded areas, it is not so uncommon to see old-fashioned fireplaces and even wood-burning stoves in the main living areas of older houses. For those who are equipped to burn wood, it is definitely advisable to have a good storage of pre-cut wood sitting behind the house (or in

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the basement, as this may soon become a *very* important commodity).

Those fortunate enough to have wood-burning stoves can cook directly on top of the metallic units. For those with wood-burning fireplaces, the fireplace can be rigged for holding pots and pans over the fire. This type of equipment is hard to find these days, and should be sought out or constructed now, while communications and transportation are fully functional. Steel rebar can be used to construct flame resistant support arms to hold pots and pans directly over a flame.

Fireplaces that burn natural gas are gaining in popularity, but will have to be converted at some point if usefulness is to be restored to them. If the fireplace is big enough, and made from real fire-brick, you might be able to burn wood in them. Take precaution the first few times you try it, watching for improper smoke ventilation and heat buildup (inside the adjoining and rear walls...). Since natural gas doesn't burn as hot as wood, some gas fireplaces may not be robust enough to support the additional heat.

Alternative fuels can be used for heat and cooking, but since these are typically difficult to produce, the fuels leftover from the current age will not last long.

Another alternative for heating and cooking is electricity produced by alternative means (solar power, wind power, etc.) – this will be covered in the next chapter

Luxury

Now that we've covered the most basic requirements of life – the absolute necessities – let us take a look at some other elements of living that, although not as essential as water, food and heating, will be highly desirable.

Electricity

Most people today consider electricity essential for living, but if that was the case, how could millions of people have lived for thousands of years without it? This proves that electricity is not an essential, but a luxury.

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More than 99% of American homes are supplied with electricity from a massive grid, which itself is supplied from various electric companies, often within a few hundred miles but sometimes much further. If widespread catastrophe were to strike, it could cause over 99% of all Americans to be left without electricity.

There is a small group of people, mostly located in remote areas, that use alternative energy – some of them have been doing so for many years. They have either purchased expensive systems, or have built their own systems. Some have even converted their home wiring and appliances to obtain top-level efficiency from this ‘magical’ form of power.

Most of these systems rely on either solar energy or wind energy (or both). These systems always have a limit to how much energy they can provide, and they are always subject to peaks and troughs in performance (depending on moment-to-moment wind energy and sunlight availability).

Other forms of alternative energy include hydroelectric (electricity from the movement of water), geothermal (from the heat of the Earth), and nuclear energy. These are usually much larger systems, and because of their size they require extensive maintenance and constant monitoring. Due to these two requirements, it is likely that if the economic infrastructure should crumble due to natural disaster, so too will the maintenance and monitoring of such systems (simply because such systems

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were built and are maintained in the context of our modern but temporary economic backbone).

But, getting back to systems that are small enough to be privately owned and maintained, systems that take advantage of solar and wind energy can be expensive, but not necessarily prohibitively so. For a family that owns their home, as well as two cars, the cost of energy independence is usually well within reach. For instance, the average turnkey system costs around \$20,000, about as much as the average new car.

We suggest that any family who can afford the additional monthly expense of having a turnkey system installed should strongly consider doing so. The benefits are plentiful even without considering extreme changes – and if catastrophe strikes, the benefits become nearly immeasurable.

For those on a more limited budget, DIY systems would cost a fraction of what turnkey systems cost, especially for those with engineering or manufacturing backgrounds. There are people who have built complete wind turbines, including all auxiliary electronics, for just over \$500 in parts! Some plans exist for free on the internet.

The basic design of a standalone system is as such: the main device (any device which converts some type of ‘free’ energy to electricity), energy storage system (usually car batteries), and an inverter (converts direct current from

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the batteries – 12 volts DC – to alternating current for the home – 110 volts AC).

The simplest systems for generating electricity use solar energy; they are simple because they have no moving parts. You have one or more solar panels (they convert sunlight into electricity), connected to one or more car batteries, which lead to an inverter. The inverter then connects to the main electrical panel of the home (must be first disconnected from the local grid first, unless you have a grid-tied inverter – these are much more expensive...).

Solar is a great way to start, not only because of the simplicity, but also because of the *scalability* – you can add additional panels and batteries as you go. So, you start out with a system that only provides enough power for your TV – no big deal. Then next year you add another couple panels and another battery, and now you can power two TVs and all your home lighting. The next year you add two more panels, a couple more batteries and maybe a small wind generator – and now you can get off the grid!

Getting off the electrical grid has many advantages – for one thing, you're not paying rich people huge profits to use *their* electricity. For another thing, you don't have to deal with *their* outages. And, of course the best part; you will have electricity when everyone else is scrambling around in the dark!

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Transportation

It's amazing how much we take things for granted. The average American can, at the drop of a hat, travel hundreds of miles in any direction of their choosing, within just a few hours – and usually just for fun and adventure. And there are many people who fly halfway around the world just to take pictures of inanimate objects!

Transportation depends upon infrastructure; you need economies which constantly push engineers to build cars, push chemists to separate gasoline from raw oil, and push truck drivers to travel thousands of miles to bring that gasoline to your neighborhood.

As we have seen, infrastructure is fragile – more fragile than we ever would have imagined. All it could take is one single domino to fall, and suddenly everything on one side of that domino falls down as well, each one knocking over its neighbor.

We each have a false sense of security when we think about our car – we think it will take us wherever we want to go, at any hour. But what if a modified infrastructure will no longer bring gasoline to your neighborhood? What if an *absent* infrastructure will no longer allow gasoline to be brought to *any* neighborhood?

This is why we have created this book – to make people think about such possibilities. To set the mind in motion, with the hope that the motion created will help to

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increase the chances of *human survival*, in the extreme case that everything suddenly goes awry, as it just might.

We must consider extremes.

What can the average car do without gas? Nothing. Where can it take you? Nowhere. What is it good for? Consuming space.

Let us consider some other pertinent extremes.

What can an electric car do without gas? Drive – as long as it has a charge (via solar power, or wind power from home charging...)! Where can it take you? Anywhere you need to go – as long as you didn't exhaust your charge on ski trips and joy rides!

What about hybrids? Hybrids were invented by people who still want to support the rich oil industry, while creating an illusion of efficiency and energy independence. In reality, these cars only offer a slight boost in efficiency, while still relying on fossil fuels. Don't believe the hype, people – hybrid cars will be just as useless when the gas runs out! We should only be looking into alternatives that provide a clean break from fossil fuels, or from any energy that is or would be dependent on a whole industry for mass production (because the whole concept of mass production may soon go the way of the dodo...).

In light of this, it seems that, at least for the time being, cars that use electric energy are the way to go.

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Battery storage is still an important issue, so stockpiling battery parts and battery acid will also be advisable (due to the fact that lead acid batteries – the kind used in electric cars and in alternative home energy storage systems – require extensive maintenance every three to six years...)

For those of you out there who are within the means, it is advisable to take a look at the currently available electric cars on the market. They will likely need to be recharged at home from the garage, although there are some recharging stations available to the public (rare...). In most cases, all you need is an extension cord going to any available AC outlet or solar panel.

And for those who can't afford a ready-made, turnkey solution, there is always the possibility of converting your gas-guzzler into an all-electric car. It's not cheap, but can be done for around \$5000 (and about a third of that price for mechanics and engineers who do it themselves).

It is fairly extensive, as the whole internal-combustion engine needs to be replaced with an all electric one. Electric engines are much smaller, so the job involves modification of the engine mounting system as well (any welder can easily accomplish this).

The next step is finding a good spot in the car for your battery array. This is not insignificant, due to the fact that the average sized electric car needs an array containing around ten average sized car batteries, all connected

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together. Of course, a new accelerator pedal and some extra electronics are needed to complete the system.

For those hybrid car owners out there, there's good news – your hybrid car can be very easily converted to an all-electric car with just a slight, relatively inexpensive modification. In hybrid cars, the electric motor is already there, and the batteries are recharged by the secondary gas engine – all that's needed is to add a few small parts that will allow external recharging. The cost of such a simple modification would likely fall between \$300 and \$800 (probably less than \$100 for an engineer who knows what he's doing...).

Electric panels can also be added to the outside of the car. Although not very attractive, this provides a constant trickle charge in daylight hours – usually not enough to fully power the vehicle for long excursions, but great for emergency power.

Keep in mind that the motor and batteries are matched according to the size and weight of the car – this means that smaller, lighter cars will be cheaper to modify, and require less energy (and charging time) to run. Large vehicles that were once gas-guzzlers will now be electricity guzzlers – there's no such thing as a free lunch!

Motorcycles would be much easier to convert than cars, and would be very efficient once converted to electric energy – they would require much shorter charging times, or alternatively travel longer distances.

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Of course, in the new age we will mostly be seeing people-powered machines. Bicycles and pedal-operated mini-cars (like the kind seen in large parks) will become far more popular than they are now. These contraptions may also be electric powered, providing travel of a mile or two on a single charge, or collecting power from the Sun via a small panel on top. Such mini-cars would only require a small motor, and a single medium sized battery for energy storage.

Remember, post-apocalyptic societies would be all about raw efficiency and absolute necessity. If it is not needed, or if it abuses vital resources, it would be heavily frowned upon by all those who have survived on blood, sweat and tears.

Communications

One of the many things we modern humans take for granted is the ability to communicate over long distances very cheaply. This includes telephones, internet, television broadcasting, and a whole host of digital services currently available to the public and the business sectors. If the energy grid crashes, so do all these forms of communications.

The communications industries all depend upon electric power, supplied at every link in the communications chain. For a single long distance phone call, for instance, it might take three different independent electric grids, five different communications companies all in cooperation with each other, and working equipment at

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each end of the conversation. This represents an extremely high level of technology – a ballet of electronic and sociological complexity – the beauty and functionality of which suddenly comes crashing down if only one of these links is broken.

Imagine never being able to talk to your family members who live outside of your city, state or country. Imagine months, years or decades going by without knowing if your distant loved ones survived, and are making it through the new, harsh reality imposed by global circumstances.

These are tough scenarios to fathom, but one must be prepared – as has been said more than once within these pages – for any eventuality, whether that preparation is technical or psychological.

For those very few who are prepared on both levels, some of these vital communications links might be salvageable – but it is likely that life in the future will never be even close to the way it was before. A completely new socio-economic infrastructure will have to be set up – one in which a person has to walk to the ‘comms office’ many miles away, and pay a great deal of ‘money’ to be able to place a very short phone call with a very limited distance factor (short wave broadcasting radios may provide some long distance communication capabilities – but they rely on electricity at both ends of the conversation as well...).

Surviving Global Catastrophe

In such barely conceivable times, sparse community centers might be the only place to watch TV (because of available electricity, extremely limited broadcasting, etc.), or to find any sort of entertainment. Because of limitations in communications and electric power, most entertainment will default to 'live' entertainment, performed without microphones or electronic amplification.

No more 'chatting', text messaging or voicemail. No more CNN, NBC or Disney Channel. No more web-surfing, email or downloading mp3's. The age of communication will be over, at least for a time. How long, nobody can say with any surety.

The author suggests that if an actual global-scale catastrophe strikes, virtually all remaining human life will be taken back to a pre-industrial state for a period of *at least* a few years. It is likely that our current state of technology and autonomy may not be realized again for hundreds of years, due to the extremity of the changes that seem to be looming just beyond the horizon.

A New Age

It can only be surmised just how the dominos will eventually fall – but as usual, logic provides a ready means of projecting our minds into the possible range of futures, and surveying the picture of ‘what may come to pass’.

Through the use of such logic, and within the scope of what has been offered throughout these pages, the author has made the following hypotheses:

As an immediate outcome of two of the initial phases of such a dual catastrophe as has been discussed (Sun and water), two thirds of the worlds’ population will likely perish (over a timescale of roughly six months following the beginning of Solar Max).

Surviving Global Catastrophe

Once this has occurred, and after the ensuing mad dash for food, roughly 95% of the remaining survivors will perish from starvation and/or water loss.

The few million people who eventually make it through all three terrible phases of destruction and mayhem will be scattered here and there around the globe, unable for quite some time to communicate with one another in any meaningful way.

This isolation will create new micro-governments and micro-cultures, and progress within each of these pockets of civilization will be slow and tedious.

Although bruised and battered, these few survivors will represent the ‘best’ of the humans – the strongest, the fastest, the most skilled. The smartest and the most adaptable. And these survivors will procreate together to produce new survivors, engendering the next, enhanced ‘breed’ of humans.

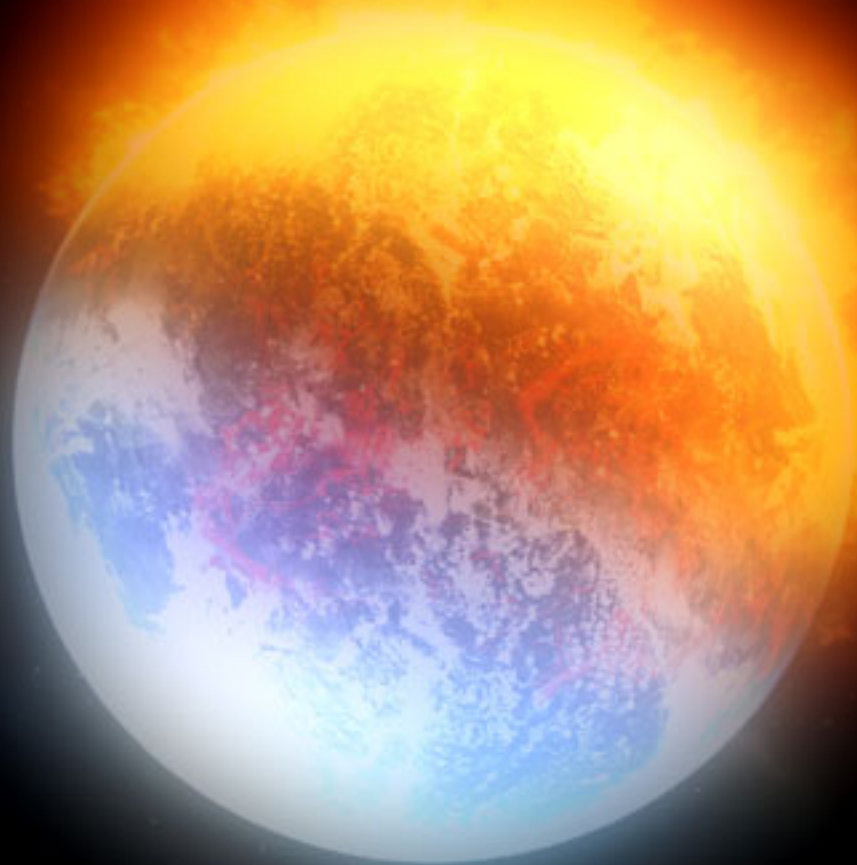
What we are talking about now is evolution – the evolution of the human species via natural selection. Something good from something bad – a ‘silver lining’ through the clouds and a light at the end of the tunnel.

This new future-culture won’t be technologically advanced, at least not for some time. But without the tethers of big government, big business and cultural stagnation, they will have one thing most of us are currently lacking: they will have a measure of freedom.

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And with this freedom will come new meaning, new answers to new questions, and perhaps some answers to the oldest questions ever asked.

We don't know what these answers will be; all we can do is hope, work, learn and teach – so that we and those we love may find ourselves on the other side of that great divide, survivors of an incredible, indescribable transition: The transition of the Ages...



***Is the 2012 'Doomsday Phenomenon' real?
Is there any scientific data to support it?
What form will catastrophe take?***

The author has assembled a stunning array of information in an attempt to answer all of these questions, and follows it up with an arsenal of life-saving survival tips that could prove to be pivotal in the aftermath of virtually any catastrophic event, global or local.

How prepared will you be if global disaster strikes?