

PASTOR MARK BURNS
THE MAN WHO RESTORED
MY FAITH

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Prologue

Dedicated to the Man with a capital “M” — Pastor Mark Burns.

I begin this book with words of profound gratitude to a man I never had the honor of meeting in person, yet who became the very voice that returned light to me in the darkest period of my life. At that time, it felt as if everything was collapsing; when you lose not only your homeland, your home, and the work of your life, but even hope itself and faith. His name is Pastor Mark Burns, and his voice managed to break through the dense veil of despair, disillusionment, and pain that had enveloped my soul.

His words reminded me that even a single person, filled with active love and strength of spirit, can ignite hope and faith in others.

His ministry is a living testimony that even today, two thousand years later, there are still people who, following the example of Christ, continue to sow throughout the world that same singular seed once entrusted by Christ to His apostles. That seed — love, compassion, and reverence for human life — was and remains the greatest gift ever given to all of humanity.

As long as even one such voice is heard, faith and hope retain their power. And for me, that voice was Mark Burns. This book is my path back to faith, hope, and dreams, despite all the hardships, trials, and deprivations of life.

With gratitude to Pastor Mark Burns!

Introduction

Sometimes light comes not when you seek it, but when you have already stopped expecting it. When it seems that ahead lies only cold and darkness, and everything that once was your foundation has turned to dust. It was in such a moment that a man entered my life whose name is now forever woven into my destiny — Pastor Mark Burns. I speak this name with the same reverence and gratitude one feels for someone who has saved one's life. Because that is precisely what happened.

To understand the scale and meaning of this turning point in my life, one must see the road that led to it — a road through trials and through the abyss of despair in which I once found myself.

When I decided to write this book, I knew it would hold many painful memories. But confession does not tolerate silence. Its strength lies in sincerity and honesty — qualities that have the power to heal.

From an early age, science shaped my perspective on the world, and my life gradually took shape along that path — from a child's fascination with geology to a professional career in geophysics. I have always viewed my research as a form of service for the good of others. Together with my colleagues, friends, and fellow volunteers from the international movement ALLATRA, we conducted interdisciplinary research, seeking real solutions to make the world safer and more resilient amid the planet's rapid changes in geodynamics.

We never confined science to theory: we sought to inform the public and relevant institutions about real

planetary threats and the processes that could affect the fate of millions.

But that very openness became the reason for the blow that followed. The truth we spoke ran counter to the interests of powerful private groups for whom a potential geological catastrophe in Siberia seemed less dangerous than the loss of profit. Thus began a planned campaign of discrediting — an avalanche of lies, distortions, and media attacks.

We found ourselves in a reality where truth seemed powerless and falsehood omnipotent; where people's good names were dragged through the mud, and faith in humanity was tested to its core. Those were days when the world appeared orphaned and silent, as if God were no longer in it, and ahead lay only impenetrable darkness.

I held on to the few things that still gave warmth — the support of family, the kind words of friends, and the quiet acts of humanity that reminded me goodness still existed. These people stood beside me, keeping me from falling entirely into the abyss of despair. Yet even their warmth could no longer dispel the inner darkness where faith, meaning, and the future had all but vanished.

And then, at the very moment when everything seemed darkest, when I had stopped expecting anything at all, light suddenly entered my life. It came from where I least expected — through a man I had never met, yet whose words filled my life with meaning. Pastor Mark Burns became the one who brought a quiet but genuine miracle into my life — the miracle of renewed faith.

Chapter 1

I grew up in an educated family where conversations about scientific and technological breakthroughs never ceased — not at the dinner table, not in the hallways, where the walls seemed to preserve the echo of formulas, debates over the laws of physics, and discussions of geological processes. Scientific arguments did not stop even at holiday feasts.

The words “science” and “benefit for humanity” were never abstract ideals borrowed from newspaper articles or fleeting speeches. These notions were the very air we breathed, the unshakable foundation upon which not only the life of our family was built, but also the inner world I came to form. At times, it seemed I was not so much taught these values as I absorbed them with my mother’s milk, with the scent of old books, with the bright stillness of long winter evenings spent in shared reading. While ordinary children were read fairy tales, from my earliest years, I was drawn to something else entirely. Before I even knew how to read, I would ask my mother to tell me about the mysteries of the Universe, about distant planets, about space, and the laws of nature.

Stories about Earth fascinated me most of all — about this planet whose depths hold the memory of billions of

years, where forgotten epochs slumber beneath layers of rock, and where every stone is a letter from the distant past. I loved to hear how the secrets of ancient continents are preserved in the planet's depths, how mountains were born and volcanoes raged, why the ground suddenly trembles, and how the silent witnesses of vanished worlds can be read in the fossilized remains of once-living creatures.

I needed precise answers that could explain everything, and the unresolved questions of science would not let me rest. Even as a child, nothing stirred my sense of wonder more than two kinds of people: geophysicists, who could perceive processes unfolding deep beneath our feet, down to the very core of the Earth; and astronomers, who could see objects scattered across the boundless expanse of the Universe.

From an early age, I dreamed that one day I would grow up and uncover every mystery — from the nature of gravity to the structure of black holes, and most of all, the secrets of our planet.

That is why my path into science was neither the result of a difficult choice nor a chance turn of events. It was as inevitable as a mighty river seeking its course, always finding its way, and eventually pouring into the sea.

Science, for me, was not merely a vocation but a destiny — an honest road one cannot walk half-heartedly.

When I became a geologist and geophysicist by profession, I immersed myself entirely in a world of immutable laws and indisputable facts, and my natural bent for observation only grew stronger. As a graduate student in geology, I placed deep trust only in what

could be measured, calculated, and plotted on a graph. It seemed that everything in existence could be explained through the language of numbers and the laws of physics. The world appeared to me as a perfectly constructed system, where chaos reigned on the surface, but beneath it lay a strict, almost musical harmony.

The language of seismograms, gravimagnetic anomalies, and borehole data was clearer and closer to me than the evasive speeches of politicians, the solemn promises, or the ornate sermons of priests I occasionally happened to hear. In the Earth's depths, in the movements of lithospheric plates, in the breath of volcanoes, I did not see chaos but a complex, harmonious dance of forces governed by mathematical logic. That logic gave me a sense of stability, meaning, and the unshakable order of the Universe.

It was my genuine pursuit of truth, which had driven me since childhood and remained the foundation of my scientific journey, together with a desire to serve something greater than personal interests, that eventually led me to the international volunteer community known as ALLATRA.

The origins of this unique movement go back to the mid-1990s. At that time, a group of scientists — representing fields as diverse as physics, medicine, geology, and cosmology — joined their efforts to respond to the new challenges of the era. Already then, they were conducting comprehensive interdisciplinary research covering a wide range of issues, including the study of climatic and geodynamic changes on the planet.

The uniqueness of this scientific collective lay in its remarkable innovation and foresight — in its ability to

perceive and begin exploring processes that only decades later would draw the attention of the global scientific community and be recognized as significant. They were not merely ahead of their time; they seemed to see the future of science itself, discerning which questions would become critically important for humanity twenty or thirty years later. Their approach to climate change, geodynamics, ecology, and the interconnections within natural systems held insights that could only have been reached through a fundamentally different perspective on science — one that was not confined within the boundaries of narrow specializations.

The understanding of science among the ALLATRA scientists was never superficial or formal: for them, science was always evidence-based, never speculative. They did more than exchange data across disciplines — they created fundamentally new research methods that made it possible to study phenomena in their fullness and complexity. Mathematical models were combined with field observations; laboratory experiments were linked with demonstrations of theoretical principles under controlled conditions; and ancient chronicles, which preserved vital knowledge of the past, were integrated with the discovery of new principles and possibilities in physics. It was precisely this multifaceted approach and the open, egalitarian format of dialogue that allowed them to discern hidden patterns invisible at first glance within the seeming chaos of fragmented data split apart by narrow specializations. This kind of scientific approach enabled them to construct the most complete and objective picture of the phenomena under analysis.

They came to understand that processes in the Earth's crust are connected with cosmic cycles; that changes in the intensity of the Earth's magnetic field pose threats to the biosphere; that plastic particles exert a destructive influence on the electromagnetic field; and that everything in nature is far more interconnected than conventional academic science usually acknowledges.

Most importantly, their work was imbued with the conviction that science must serve life, not careers or prestige. Every study, every conclusion, was viewed through the lens of two questions: "How will this help people? How will this protect future generations?" They did not work for scientific journals, grants, or titles — they worked for the survival of humanity on this planet.

It was this very motivation that allowed them to see further and deeper. When your task is not to publish an article but to discover the truth that may save lives, you begin to ask the right questions. When you understand that your conclusions may determine your own fate and the fate of your children and grandchildren, you cannot permit yourself superficiality or conformity.

Hypotheses were marked honestly — whether they were experimental results, working versions, or bold conjectures — yet the direction always remained the same: to find answers to humanity's fundamental questions of survival and to understand the natural processes that may hold the key to overcoming global challenges.

When I first learned about the work of this scientific collective, I was struck not only by the insight of these people but also by their moral stance. They chose the

path of genuine service — not to power, not to money, not to fame, but to humanity itself. And perhaps it was precisely this purity of intent that gave them that exceptional clarity of vision, enabling them to look so far ahead in science and to advance beyond their time.

Gradually, people who cared about these challenges — volunteers and like-minded individuals from dozens of countries — began joining this initiative. In this way, the broad International Volunteer Movement ALLATRA was born. And one day, I too found myself among them.

Here, no one asked where you came from, what nationality you were, what political views you held, or what you believed in. Only one thing mattered — our shared determination to unite our efforts in the face of global challenges, the foremost of which, even then, was the rapidly escalating geodynamic crisis threatening life on Earth.

It was a completely unique spirit of cooperation, where people were joined not by career or fame, but by a sincere resolve to help one another for the sake of a common future, by a willingness to work toward a shared goal, where each person contributed what they could to the future of all humanity.

Within this community, I found my place. My knowledge proved essential for analytical work connected to the international study of Earth's climatic and geodynamic changes.

My role as head of the Information and Analytics Department on Global Climate Change did not imply hierarchical superiority, but rather a greater responsibility for coordinating the work of an international team of volunteer analysts.

Our work focused on global monitoring of natural disasters, analyzing seismic and volcanic activity, conducting comprehensive studies of changes in Earth's geodynamics, and informing people about the true scale of intensifying natural catastrophes.

We worked as a single organism: streams of data from all over the world — reports from seismic stations, bulletins from volcanological observatories, maps of ocean temperature anomalies — became our shared field of analysis. The monitors before us were windows into the beating, restless heart of the planet.

I saw my task as being that of an impartial analyst, someone who gathered scattered fragments of a vast mosaic — from an earthquake in Chile to the eruption of a volcano in Indonesia, from the anomalous drift of the magnetic poles to amplitude variations in the Schumann resonance — and pieced them together into one coherent picture. I systematized, compared, and searched for correlations and patterns so that the overall panorama of threats would become clear to everyone.

This was work filled with a quiet yet profound faith in knowledge as the driving force of science directed toward the good of humanity. That faith was grounded in the conviction that once we recognized and fully comprehended the danger looming over our common home, we no longer had the right to remain silent. Both professional and human duty required that we speak openly about it, bringing into the search for solutions not only the scientific community but all those who care about the future of humankind.

Facts presented honestly and openly seemed to us a force capable of awakening people's consciousness and

uniting them in the search for solutions. I believed there was nothing more convincing than numbers and graphs, nothing more important than warning humanity in time.

Back then, I still believed that truth carried its own power, that truth needed no protection and would always prevail.

At that time, I did not yet know that in the human world, there are forces for which truth is more dangerous than any element, and that the wall they erect in its path can prove stronger than the Earth's own crust.

Chapter 2

For most people, Siberia is synonymous with endless taiga, harsh frosts, and immense natural wealth. For us, geologists and geophysicists of the Movement, it is first and foremost a place of colossal geological tension — a ticking magmatic bomb deep within the planet.

In the Analytical Department of ALLATRA, my colleagues from different countries and I kept our fingers on the pulse of this vast region for years. One of the epicenters of our research, and our most significant concern, was the territory where, approximately 250 million years ago, one of the greatest catastrophes in the planet's history took place. At the boundary of the Permian and Triassic periods, when the Paleozoic era gave way to the Mesozoic, massive eruptions of the Siberian Traps unfolded — countless basalt flows. The very crust of the Earth split open, covering an area comparable in size to Europe with lava. In the geological record, this boundary is marked by a dark line — evidence of the greatest mass extinction Earth has ever endured.

The cause of those catastrophic outpourings was the Siberian magma plume — a so-called superplume that rose toward the surface around 250 million years ago and burned through the crust. It was in this

part of the planet that the research of the ALLATRA scientific collective in the early 2000s detected unusual geophysical and magmatic activity. The conclusions were shocking: the Siberian magma plume is still alive within the Earth's depths.

When we hear about lava eruptions, the imagination usually conjures up the classic cone of a volcano — Vesuvius, Etna, or Fuji. But what lies beneath Siberia cannot be compared to these phenomena, formidable though they are, yet still local in scale. Suppose an ordinary volcano is like a pinprick in the body of the planet. In that case, the Siberian superplume is a gaping wound capable of striking entire continents.

This is not a volcano in the usual sense, but a colossal, ascending stream of molten magma rising from the Earth's deepest layers toward the surface and spreading beneath Siberia like an immense underground river. The scale of its influence is of an entirely different order — if the eruption of Vesuvius destroyed several cities, the activity of a superplume could poison the atmosphere and oceans, wipe entire ecosystems from the face of the Earth, and trigger a volcanic hyper-winter.

Imagine a region in Siberia the size of Australia, where energy seethes with the potential to burn straight through a lithospheric plate and unleash a planetary-scale catastrophe. This very territory, which holds within its depths the memory of an ancient apocalypse and the potential for a new one, became one of the central focuses of our research and our greatest concern. We understood: what once happened at the boundary of the Paleozoic and Mesozoic eras could happen again. The eruptions that could occur here in Siberia are

comparable in their volume of volcanic emissions to the simultaneous salvo of one thousand of the most powerful Yellowstone eruptions.

We knew what was neither printed in newspapers nor spoken of on the evening news. We were aware of the awakening of the Siberian superplume. This was not a guess or a hypothesis. Thanks to the unprecedented unification of scientists from different countries, we possessed a comprehensive picture based on the analysis of an immense volume of data. But what had triggered the awakening of the Siberian magmatic giant?

It all began in 1995, when the planet started to show signs of a deep systemic breakdown. Anomalies in the Earth's fundamental parameters — from its rotation to its magnetic field — all pointed to one thing: something had changed dramatically at the very heart of the planet. Scientists recorded a sudden destabilization of the Earth's core — an event so vast that its consequences reverberated throughout the entire planetary system.

Imagine the core of our planet as a giant reactor that has been operating in a stable mode for the last 12,000 years. Suddenly, that reactor begins receiving additional energy — as if someone abruptly increased the fuel supply. That is precisely what we were observing: a sharp rise in the energetic activity of the Earth's outer core, which set off a cascade of changes across all the geospheres of the planet.

An interdisciplinary analysis of ancient deposits — the stone chronicles that preserve the memory of past catastrophes — revealed a striking pattern. Such

energy surges within the Earth do not occur randomly. They follow a strict astronomical cycle, repeating every 12,000 years, like a vast cosmic clock counting down to planetary disasters.

The cause of this cyclicity is of an astronomical nature. Some external cosmic process “recharges” the planet’s core every 12,000 years, directing colossal amounts of energy toward it. The hypothesis that the source of this energy lies beyond the Earth was convincingly supported by synchronous anomalies recorded on Mars and other planets of the Solar System, as though our entire stellar neighborhood had come under the influence of the same cosmic process.

For the Earth, the critical point of this cycle occurred in 1997–1998, when the planet’s inner solid core literally shifted within, making a physical leap, akin to a giant iron sphere losing its balance within its molten shell. This physical displacement of the planet’s solid iron heart, comparable in size to the Moon, became a turning point in the modern history of the Earth.

The activation of the Siberian magma plume occurred after the Earth’s core shifted abruptly in 1998 toward the Taymyr Peninsula, a region in the Siberian Arctic. This shift provoked a powerful upwelling of magma in that direction. As a result of these processes, an area comparable in size to an entire continent began to heat near the surface several times faster than the rest of the planet.

Another factor further aggravated the situation: in the course of our research, it became clear that the Earth’s natural cooling mechanisms had been disrupted. The cause lay in the pollution of the ocean and atmosphere with micro- and nanoplastics.

Nanoplastics, in particular, have become an anthropogenic factor that drastically reduces the thermal conductivity of ocean water. Heat that was once efficiently carried away from lithospheric plates by cold ocean currents was now accumulating in the planet's interior. In the atmosphere, nanoplastics — possessing electret properties — created a kind of “blanket,” trapping excess energy in its lower layers.

The disruption of the Earth's thermal balance, caused by human interference in its finely tuned energy systems — at a time when the planet was already operating at its limits during the 12,000-year cycle — triggered intense magma melting. It was as though the ventilation of a giant furnace had suddenly been cut off: magma in the Earth's depths began to melt with unprecedented intensity.

And here emerged the great, inexplicable paradox that for many years was the subject of our silent, almost agonizing analysis. Scientific models predicted a natural inferno for the Siberian region as a result of the activation of the magmatic superplume, yet reality revealed the opposite.

By every law of physics, the region should have seen a dramatic increase in natural disasters, since air temperatures there were rising 2.5 to 3 times faster than the global average. Yet contrary to all projections, destructive events were scarcely recorded — the region maintained what could only be described as anomalous stability.

As analysts, we observed this anomaly in our daily data reports. It seemed as if some force was acting as a colossal shock absorber, smoothing out the most dangerous processes and keeping the system from

slipping out of control. As it later became clear, this paradox did have an explanation. An explanation that for a long time was left unspoken — until the fateful year of 2023.

In August 2023, the Russian authorities declared the international public movement ALLATRA an undesirable organization, effectively banning its activities within the country.

On September 3, 2023, an event occurred that put everything into perspective. The brilliant scientist Igor Mikhailovich Danilov made a public statement on behalf of ALLATRA's inner scientific core, whose existence I had not been aware of until then. It was during this address that, for the first time, the essence of the so-called "Siberian miracle" was revealed.

He reported that because of the persecution and the direct threat of criminal prosecution against ALLATRA's scientists and volunteers, the operation of unique experimental equipment that had been functioning in Russia since 2013 was forcibly halted, and the equipment itself was dismantled and removed from the country.

This technology had, for ten years, temporarily disrupted the electromagnetic connections between the Earth's interior and the atmosphere in Siberia, preventing destructive energy from being released at the surface.

Later, it became clear to me that the contribution of the scientist Igor Danilov was truly colossal. His idea, brought to life through the efforts of an international research group, was the very factor that for an entire decade had held back destructive processes on a planetary scale.

Although the equipment was located directly in the plume's active zone, its influence extended far beyond

the region, protecting billions of people and actively stabilizing the climate not only in Russia but also in Eastern Europe, China, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine. Its indirect effects were felt even on other continents, including the United States.

It was an invisible shield that restrained not only local but also global climatic and geodynamic processes, exerting a stabilizing influence on the entire planet.

And then the shield was forcibly removed.

The scientists of ALLATRA's inner scientific core were forced to suspend their research and shut down the equipment in Siberia, because once the organization was declared undesirable, any further work risked placing critically important technologies under the control of forces working against humanity's interests.

The consequences were not long in coming. As Igor Danilov had warned, beginning in the autumn of 2023, the world witnessed bitter yet undeniable proof of this technology's effectiveness.

After the shutdown of the "damper," extreme natural events began to strike the regions: the "Storm of the Century" on the Black Sea coast, ice storms and snowfalls of abnormal intensity in Moscow, record frosts and catastrophic floods in Siberia and the Far East. Each month brought new climate records, turning the calendar into a chronicle of natural disasters — as if nature, once deprived of its restraining factor, had begun releasing its accumulated destructive energy. All of this was accompanied by a sharp rise in economic losses caused by the aftermath of these disasters. And the damage was borne not only by Russia, but also by other countries, including the

states of Eastern Europe and regions of Asia, among them China.

This cascade of disasters was no accident. It was physics — the direct and tragic consequence of shutting down a system that, for ten years, had quietly served as a climate shield for the entire world.

For me, as an analyst, everything that unfolded became the most terrifying confirmation of the correctness of Igor Danilov and the ALLATRA scientific group. We were now witnessing the situation develop rapidly along the very model and scenario we had calculated earlier.

Each new bulletin of a flood, each report of a hurricane, was a reminder of a missed chance. And now we all stood as witnesses to how the political will of only a handful of people condemned all of humanity — billions of lives — to suffering in the future. The whisper that once rose from the planet's depths had turned into the roar of nature, which, like a wounded beast, lashed out with sudden catastrophic disasters across different regions of the Earth.

Chapter 3

This all-pervading roar and thunder of catastrophes shaking the planet echoes within me as a sharp, piercing pain. And it is not only about the fateful events of 2023, after which the geodynamical crisis became visibly more intense.

It is about an entire chain of events — a procession of unheard voices, underestimated threats, and wasted time. It all began more than a decade ago with the collision of two worlds: one in which irrefutable scientific facts and an ethical imperative prevail, and another in which truth serves merely as small change for the greater Lie in the struggle for money and power.

The tectonic shift, after which reality would never again be the same for many ALLATRA scientists, came in 2014. That was when a group of researchers, after many years of gathering and interdisciplinary analysis of data, prepared the report *On the Progression of Climatic Disasters on Earth and Their Catastrophic Consequences*, which became the quintessence of their work. The report was divided into two parts: a public edition, intended for a broad audience, and a confidential version, prepared for a select group of decision-makers.

It was in the confidential section of the report that the most alarming findings were presented — calculations indicating the activation of the magma plume in Siberia and the threat of its uncontrolled eruption. The scientists warned that these processes could lead to a global catastrophe, leaving humanity with almost no chance of survival. Their warnings were not exaggerations — they were supported by verified data and calculations obtained through comprehensive research. Aware of the magnitude of the potential threat, the authors of the report devoted particular attention to identifying practical ways of preventing it, including concrete engineering solutions that could avert disaster.

Foremost among these was the concept of controlled degassing—a program of planned and managed reduction of excess pressure, as well as the venting of gases and lava from secondary magma chambers of the Siberian plume to prevent an uncontrolled explosion. With a sound approach, the risks of implementing such a project would have been minimal, while the potential benefit would have been extraordinarily significant. Planned degassing and pressure reduction in the Siberian plume could have become a lifesaving valve for the entire planet. It would not only have prevented a destructive eruption of the plume itself but also released tension across the whole planetary system, halting the avalanche of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and climate catastrophes associated with the 12,000-year cycle.

Controlled degassing was seen by the group of scientists not only as a reliable, effective, and necessary measure to prevent catastrophe, but also as a way to gain time to search for fundamental solutions aimed at

eliminating the root causes of the climate and geodynamic crisis — one of which was stripping nanoplastic of its electret properties. This measure was crucial in initiating the removal of excess thermal energy from the Earth's interior and restoring the planet's energy balance.

In presenting their findings to decision-makers, the scientists were convinced that if they provided a complete and maximally objective picture, supported by thousands of hours of analysis and cross-checking, the response would be rational and proportionate to the existing risks.

All the more so because they had not only identified the problem but also proposed ways to solve it. With this rescue plan, they moved forward, holding their breath, hoping for common sense and for the mobilization of all resources to prevent disaster for the sake of humanity's survival.

They sincerely believed that truth — especially when it concerned the survival of the entire biosphere — was a universal value, an absolute before which any private interests would retreat. As it turned out, they were wrong. Their hopes for reason and prudence were not fulfilled. They had not taken into account that alongside their world of rigorous analysis, scientific integrity, and moral duty existed a parallel universe governed by different rules — a place where two plus two did not equal four but whatever suited the interests of the powerful.

And when these two worlds collided, all of us volunteers at ALLATRA were forced to realize with bitterness that the financial interests of a few private individuals outweighed the future of all humanity. In the proposed solution, the influential circles saw not a lifeline for people (including themselves and their

loved ones) but a real threat to their own well-being, long-term plans, and forthcoming super-profits.

The reaction came swiftly. Since the scientific arguments were irrefutable and there was nothing they could rebut on substance, they chose a different path — to destroy the source of information that threatened their financial interests. Soon after, the scientists and all who dared to speak this truth openly were subjected to pressure, sustained discrediting, and persecution. We were slandered, trampled, and our reputations attacked so that none of our words would ever again be taken seriously.

Thus, instead of a scientific discussion about the future and the search for solutions to save the planet, we were branded as insane sectarian conspiracy theorists who believed in aliens and an impending apocalypse. We were punished for daring to place the life of humanity above someone's profits.

In this way, the scientific discussion was silenced before it had even begun, and the language of facts was replaced by the language of force, lies, and hatred.

The report that ALLATRA scientists delivered in the hope that measures would be taken to save people fell straight into the furnace of hostile interests. Truth had entered a place where it was clearly unwelcome — offices where destinies were ruled by cold calculation, and our voice was an intrusion.

Very soon, we felt this in full measure.

No scientific rebuttals followed. Instead, in 2015, a coordinated campaign of discrediting was launched against ALLATRA through the Russian Association of Centers for Religious and Sect Studies (RACIRS). For

the first time, we were branded a “sect,” and overnight turned into heretics of the twenty-first century. This label became the starting point for a systematic campaign of persecution and total defamation.

For me, as a scientist accustomed to operating with data, facts, and evidence, encountering this phenomenon was like confronting an unknown, irrational force. It was bewildering. The publications that appeared online were filled with absurd, baseless accusations that contradicted not only the facts of our work but also common sense. They were constructed according to a single template: a flashy headline, the derogatory label “sect,” and a set of clichés with no real foundation.

Their goal was cynical and transparent: to cast the global community of scientists and volunteers in a false light and to destroy the source of scientifically verified information.

What was especially bitter to realize was that representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church took part in spreading slander about ALLATRA and in portraying us as “enemies of society” — even though, in my deepest conviction, it was they who should have stood on the side of truth and compassion for people.

I will not go into a detailed discussion of the ethical side of their involvement here. I will only note that the participation of Russian Orthodox Church officials in this persecution can largely be explained by their integration into RACIRS. This organization, calling itself secular, in fact unites nearly all the missionary centers of dioceses and affiliated structures, serving as the primary vehicle of the anti-cult agenda under the patronage of the Russian Orthodox Church and Russian security services.

The president of RACIRS is Russia’s “chief cult expert,” Alexander Dvorkin — a man with powerful administrative and media resources, closely tied to both state and church structures. Its vice-presidents are Russian Orthodox priests: Archpriest Alexander Novopashin and Archpriest Alexander Shabanov. On the website of the missionary department of the Novosibirsk diocese, headed by Alexander Novopashin, materials systematically appear that slander ALLATRA and its volunteers.

As for RACIRS itself, websites affiliated with the Russian Orthodox Church note that the association operates across the post-Soviet space. It is engaged not only in shaping “public opinion” — including through its own electronic and print media — but also in advising federal, regional, and municipal authorities, media outlets, and law enforcement agencies on issues of “sectarianism,” as well as conducting so-called “independent” expert reviews.

The best illustration of just how “impartial” RACIRS’s approach is, of the breadth of its list of “undesirables,” and of the real attitude toward Alexander Dvorkin’s ideas and his merciless campaign against “sects,” came from former RACIRS member, journalist Valery Otstavnykh, who knows the association’s inner workings well:

“Whatever organization you look at — it’s either a classic sect, or a destructive one, or a commercial cult. The approach lacked scientific rigor. And we began to tire of this rigid stance that everyone is bad, while we alone are pure and righteous.

Because people kept coming to us and asking: Please tell us, who in our country is NOT a sect? And

then you start going through the list, maybe recall the Orthodox Old Believers... And that's where the imagination ends" [1].

What more can be said — a truly universal tool for discrediting and suppressing any organization deemed undesirable, or any expression of dissent. And we experienced the full weight of this mechanism ourselves. The machine of discrediting, honed over decades on others, was turned against us at full force.

Through its network of controlled online portals and media outlets, a torrent of filth and lies poured down on us, without limit or restraint. Our names, professions, and even our very humanity were systematically erased, replaced with a poisonous label — “sectarian.”

Over the course of more than ten years of aggressive information campaigns against ALLATRA’s scientists and volunteers, thousands of publications and dozens of television segments were released in Russia, Ukraine, European countries, and even the United States — in other words, everywhere the tentacles of this transnational anti-cult network could reach.

Looking at this avalanche of lies and the scale of the smear campaign against honest scientists and volunteers, I cannot help but think: how many good deeds could have been done, how many people could have been helped, how much benefit could have been brought to society with the colossal resources and years that were instead spent on making us into enemies, on destroying human lives and destinies, on pushing the entire world — themselves and their own families included — to the brink of survival in the face of unprecedented climate threats. Yet they continued to

invest in the torrent of lies, which only grew, becoming ever more aggressive and coordinated.

My fellow volunteers and I often noted how the same false clichés and narratives appeared in unison, as if on command — first in Russian media, then in Ukrainian, and later in European outlets.

I will never forget the shock and bewilderment I felt when I opened yet another article in a European publication and saw a word-for-word translation of slander once conceived in the offices of RACIRS: the exact words, the same epithets, the same lies... Russia, Ukraine — and now Europe. All their supposed “objectivity” proved to be a farce. This was not journalism but a perfectly tuned and coordinated attack, where a template of falsehood was reproduced again and again, leaving no room for truth.

Perhaps the most grotesque example of the European media’s campaign against ALLATRA was the BBC article published on April 26, 2022. To my astonishment, I discovered that the BBC presented the opinion of the Chelyabinsk Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church as an authoritative source, directly quoting its missionary department, which is controlled by RACIRS. One of the authors of the defamatory article was revealed to be a journalist affiliated with the anti-cult “expert” Alexandra Stein, who, in turn, maintains close ties with Alexander Dvorkin. That BBC article effectively became the catalyst for a new, even more extensive wave of discrediting ALLATRA in democratic countries.

By the end of 2023, the wave of information attacks in Europe had intensified. Czech media took up the baton, with journalist Kristina Cirokova at the center,

and Italian outlets followed, featuring commentary from Luigi Corvaglia, Alexander Dvorkin's associate and close friend.

All of them tirelessly repeated narratives crafted in Russia — like broken records, glassy-eyed, reciting their memorized script about a “sect.” They stubbornly turned away from the very essence and depth of ALLATRA's work.

The real scale of the organization's activity was deliberately ignored by anti-cult journalists and “experts.” It seemed that the very possibility of society seeing another reality frightened them far more than their own narrowness.

None of them even attempted to tell the world that, in addition to deep scientific research in climate, geodynamic, and environmental risks, as well as studies on the growing threat of micro- and nanoplastic to the biosphere, ALLATRA's core directions include educational initiatives, public lectures and international forums, and the creation of documentary films that help millions of people see global problems in a new light. It also involves civic diplomacy, human rights work, and open, honest dialogue at the level of organizations such as the UN, UNESCO, leading universities worldwide (the Bolivian Catholic University of San Pablo, Bay Atlantic University, GPI), as well as religious centers, including the Vatican itself, and even governmental institutions.

A vivid acknowledgment of our mission came in the apostolic blessing of His Holiness Pope Francis, received in 2024, as well as the blessing of Pope Leo XIV, given in 2025 to the movement's president, Maryna Ovtsynova, and to all the volunteers.

None of the anti-cult actors ever attempted to discuss the true motivation of ALLATRA's volunteers — the genuine moral and scientific responsibility to humanity, where the highest priority is always the human being, their life, and their rights.

The limit of the persecutors' "talent" amounted to crude labeling with words like "sect" and "cult," while facts were ignored and truth deliberately concealed. And truth, which time and again disproved their accusations, was far too inconvenient for them.

As for the situation in Ukraine and Russia, the absurdity there reached its peak — producing a paradox worthy of the classics of literary nonsense. In two countries at war, standing on opposite sides of the barricades, volunteers of the organization faced mutually exclusive accusations at the very same time.

A truly paradoxical synergy! We were accused of state treason in favor of each other, using the same false clichés, with only the details adjusted to fit political circumstances: in Russia, the movement was brutally persecuted as "pro-Ukrainian" and "pro-Western," while in Ukraine and in the West, ALLATRA was accused of being a "pro-Russian sect."

My analytical mind resisted taking it seriously for a long time. What was happening seemed like an absurd misunderstanding, a cruel prank. Everything changed when I stumbled upon a new batch of disturbing facts. It turned out that alongside the public discrediting, there was a synchronized and targeted fabrication of criminal cases against ALLATRA scientists and volunteers in both Russia and Ukraine — and in both countries, this was happening with the direct involvement of local anti-cult operatives.

Their method was monstrous and straightforward: first, an enemy image is created by branding people in the media, and then, once public opinion has been prepared, law enforcement steps in.

On both sides of the geopolitical divide, the same forces were at work. They spoke Russian with Moscow security officials and Ukrainian with Kyiv authorities just as easily. They operated from different positions, hid under different names, but their true nature remained unchanged: they all had the same heart — and it beat in rhythm with the obscurantism born in the shadowed offices of Russian “sectologists.”

Ultimately, the activities of these forces led to an unprecedented operation carried out by the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) in November 2023: more than 70 searches across the country, raids on offices — all this the result of a criminal case initiated on fabricated charges based on pseudo-expert evaluations by anti-cult activist Iryna Kremenovska, who had repeatedly and publicly declared her involvement in this process.

In parallel, in Russia, the same campaign first resulted in the organization being declared undesirable in August 2023 and then escalated into a wave of inspections, searches, interrogations accompanied by torture and falsification of evidence, and the opening of cases on fabricated charges. I myself became one of the victims of this campaign. The peak of this persecution came in June 2025, when ALLATRA was officially designated an extremist organization in Russia. This decision effectively outlawed the movement altogether, paving the way for even harsher and more total repression against volunteers.

Looking back to 2015, at the first smear articles and the early attempts to brand ALLATRA's scientists and volunteers as a "sect," I admit: at the time, I treated these attacks with irony — all their activity seemed to me like empty noise and sheer stupidity, carried out by rather mediocre people. To me, a scientist whose world is built on logic, causality, and verifiable data, this stream of incoherent, irrational malice looked like feverish ravings and the product of someone's diseased imagination.

Yet very soon came a cold, sobering realization. Setting emotions aside, we did what we do best (I remind you, in ALLATRA I worked with some of the world's finest analysts): we applied our analytical tools and began to study the directors of this hatred, their structure, identifying the networks, channels of influence, and pathways by which this poisonous falsehood spread.

And then, with bitter clarity, we understood: behind what at first seemed like a chaotic outburst of spontaneous hatred lay a vast, merciless repressive machine for which human life, honor, and freedom held no value at all.

Chapter 4

The deeper one delves into studying the anti-cult network, the clearer the contours of a ruthless repressive machine emerge—one that has been methodically constructed over more than thirty years.

Its objectives were not limited to discrediting individual people or organizations. The agenda was far broader, intrinsically linked to destabilizing society, fueling intolerance and aggression, and undermining rights and freedoms.

At first glance, all their activities might appear to be a patchwork of scattered initiatives, a colorful mosaic of “experts,” foundations, and organizations dispersed across different countries. Yet step by step, a hidden architectonic structure began to reveal itself. This was not a random assortment of fragments but a unified network with the hallmarks of a well-coordinated system: a hierarchy, a central coordinating hub, standardized methods, and synchronized operations.

Its construction unfolded gradually, one stage after another. It began in 1993, when Alexander Dvorkin founded the “Information and Consultation Center in the Name of Saint Irenaeus of Lyons” in Russia. The next step came in 2006 with the establishment of the Russian

Association of Centers for Religious and Sect Studies (RACIRS). Under Dvorkin’s leadership, this organization became the propagandist and ideological core of the entire anti-cult network.

Thus, at the very top of this transnational structure today stands RACIRS, headed by Alexander Dvorkin. His figure is the key to understanding the operation of this entire mechanism. Without him, the network would not have achieved such scale or stability.

The next tier of the anti-cult network became its European hub, FECRIS, the European Federation of Centres for Research and Information on Sectarianism. From 2009 to 2022, Dvorkin served as its vice president, which allowed him to directly export the Russian anti-cult agenda into Europe. The irony was that this was done at the expense of European taxpayers: about 90 percent of FECRIS’s budget was funded by the French government, giving the network an appearance of legitimacy and respectability.

Using its consultative status with the Council of Europe and the United Nations, FECRIS legitimized Russian anti-cult ideas on the international stage, lobbied for repressive laws in EU countries, organized conferences to coordinate actions, and provided an “expert platform” for discrediting targeted groups.

Through structures like FECRIS, the Russian anti-cult agenda infiltrated Europe and America without obstruction. It acquired a European façade and began to sound no longer like the private initiative of Dvorkin or RACIRS but like an “international expert opinion.”

At the bottom of this pyramid operated an army of national agents—“experts,” journalists, and activists

working on the ground. In Ukraine—Iryna Kremenovska and Oleksii Sviatohor; in the Czech Republic—Jakub Jahl and Kristina Cirokova; in the United States—Steven Hassan and Dave Troy; in Italy—Luigi Corvaglia.

What was especially striking was how the network managed to harness resources from vastly different sources, including, paradoxically, those of geopolitical rivals. It drew on funds from Russian state structures, money from the French government (through FECRIS), and even resources from Western foundations such as USAID and the Open Society Foundations.

Dvorkin's collaboration with USAID dated back many years. In one of his early interviews, he openly stated that in Russia, he had served as the project director of International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), an organization that had been an official implementing partner of USAID for decades [2].

We, the volunteers of ALLATRA, experienced firsthand the absolute synchronicity and coordination of this network's work. Anti-cult activists, living in different countries, speaking different languages, and funded from various sources, yet operated as a single entity: they employed identical rhetoric and methods, including the practice of cross-citing one another in the media. Each actor played their own part, but the entire script came from the same source.

The primary weapon of the anti-cult network was, without question, media exposure. Every campaign was designed to generate maximum resonance—whether through a “revelatory” article or news of a newly launched criminal case. This was a calculated manipulation of public consciousness: synchronized waves of

disinformation rolled in again and again, like a tsunami striking the same point.

The network's arsenal consistently employed the same markers: "sect," "cult," "psychocult," "brainwashing." The moment these labels appeared in the information space, an individual or group instantly became the target of public hatred.

Among these labels, a special place was reserved for the term "totalitarian sect." Dvorkin himself coined the term. Across the post-Soviet space, it became a universal tool for excluding any unwanted group from the legal and ethical sphere without trial or investigation. This could mean a social or commercial organization, an educational project, a new religious movement, priests within the Russian Orthodox Church, or any political or ideological opponent.

The choice of this phrase was no accident. Dvorkin skillfully played on two deep-seated fears of Russian society in the early 1990s: the fear of a Stalinist revival and the dread of chaos in the new reality.

This mechanism was most precisely described in a report by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF):

"At a seminar in 1993, he allegedly coined the term 'totalitarian sect,' a concept which effectively merged Western anti-cult ideas with the post-Soviet context, where anxiety about the return to the Stalinist past competed with fears about an unstable present. Totalitarian sects, Dvorkin explained, were 'authoritarian organizations whose leaders strive to dominate and exploit their followers' through various deceitful 'masks.' He has compared such leaders to Hitler and Lenin, equated

religious communities with the Stalinist Gulag, and said that NRMs had more in common with totalitarian political regimes than ‘real’ religions like the ROC” [3].

What hypocrisy — to frighten people by comparing sect leaders to dictators like Hitler, while at the same time relying in his own activities on a methodology born in Nazi Germany. For today, the anti-cult network reproduces the very practices that once led to the tragedy of the Holocaust.

When I first learned about the origins of the anti-cult movement, a chill ran through me — it was the touch of something truly dark. I discovered that the rhetoric, operational methods, and instruments of the anti-cult network mirror Nazi practices of stigmatizing Jews and other minorities. Modern anti-cult centers are, in fact, institutional heirs of those structures that in Hitler’s era supplied the Gestapo with information about religious minorities and dissidents. Then it led to concentration camps and mass executions; today, it has reemerged under a new façade, reviving the same mechanisms once again.

This continuity can be clearly traced. The chain extends from Pastor Walter Künneth, who headed the “Apologetic Center” and collaborated with the Gestapo, to his successor, Friedrich-Wilhelm Haack, in postwar Germany; from Haack to Johannes Aagaard, founder of the “Dialogue Center” in Denmark; and finally to his student, Alexander Dvorkin.

This lineage is terrifying in its continuity — from Nazi methodologists to modern anti-cultists. As a student of Aagaard and the official representative of his center in Russia, Dvorkin directly imported these technologies of

Vážení čtenáři, právě jste dočetli ukázkou z knihy **PASTOR MARK BURNS THE MAN WHO RESTORED MY FAITH.**

Pokud se Vám ukáзка líbila, na našem webu si můžete zakoupit celou knihu.