

## **XII -At the earths core**

In Chapter XII of "At the Earth's Core," titled "Pursuit," the narrative delves into the intricate escape plan devised by the protagonist and his companions from the clutches of the Mahars and Sagoths in the underground world of Pellucidar. After successfully masquerading in the skins of the Mahars to evade detection, the group, consisting of the narrator, Perry, Ghak, and Hooja the Sly, proceeds with caution through the bustling corridors and out into the main avenue of Phutra, where their disguise faces its ultimate test amidst the suspicious gaze of their enemies.

As they navigate through the dense throngs of their adversaries and the suspicious eyes of the Sagoths, their evasion becomes a testament to their audacity and desperation for freedom. Their journey, fraught with trembling suspense and harrowing moments of near detection, ultimately leads them out of the immediate reach of danger as they traverse the city's confines and step into the relative safety of the surrounding environment. However, the peril of their situation does not wane as the looming threat of pursuit by the relentless Sagoths hangs over their heads with the grim promise of capture or death.

The narrative tension escalates as the group faces not only the geographical challenges of their escape but also the internal strife born from the necessity of survival against the odds. Among these is the debate over whether to abandon the ailing Perry for the sake of the group's overall chance of escape, a quandary resolved by Ghak's refusal to leave any companion behind and the subsequent decision to have Hooja race ahead to warn the Sarians of their imminent danger.

The chapter embodies a vivid account of camaraderie fraught with danger, tactical ingenuity in the face of adversity, and the primal will to survive against seemingly insurmountable odds. Through forests and mountains, pursued by formidable foes, the group's journey is a relentless test of endurance, loyalty, and the desperate pursuit of freedom within the heart of an unforgiving land.