

XV -At the earths core

In Chapter XV of "At the Earth's Core," entitled "Back to Earth," the narrator David Innes and Dian emerge onto a vast plain, devoid of familiar directional markers, after journeying through the subterranean world of Pellucidar. Their discoveries include encountering massive quadrupeds called lidis, ridden by people from a distant land, and forming alliances with various tribal leaders to combat common enemies—the Sagoths and their Mahar masters.

The chapter describes the strategic formation of an interspecies coalition to fend off the Sagoth slavers and their Mahar overlords. This unfolds against the backdrop of Pellucidar's unique geography and societal structures. Innes's engagement with this world deepens through personal connections, notably his reunion with his brother-in-law Dacor and the subsequent battle against a Sagoth army, highlighting the emerging human resistance's tactical innovations and the limitations of their adversaries.

In a turn of events, Perry, a key figure in these developments, proposes a return to the surface world to acquire knowledge and resources that could leapfrog Pellucidar's civilizations by millennia. The plan is almost thwarted by treachery, as Hooja the Sly One attempts to kidnap Dian, inadvertently leading to a Mahar being taken to the surface in her stead. This mishap underscores the ongoing challenges posed by internal deception amidst broader existential threats.

The chapter culminates with Innes's accidental return to the Sahara, instead of his intended destination, due to the prospector's malfunctioning. Stranded, he mulls over the improbability of reuniting with Dian, given the vast and uncharted expanses of Pellucidar. The narrative evokes a strong sense of dread and determination, painting a picture of a man caught between worlds, resolved to bridge them despite daunting odds.

This section of the book, rich with adventure, intrigue, and dynamics between different species and cultures, sets the stage for the overarching conflict of humanity's quest for autonomy against the backdrop of Pellucidar's dark and mysterious world. It illustrates the themes of exploration, the clash of civilizations, and the unyielding human spirit.