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https://www.100test.com/kao_ti2020/227/2021_2022__E5_A4_A7_E5_AD_A6_E8_8B_B1_E8_c82_227605.htm TextWould you choose to live underground if you could gain many advantages from doing so? Weather would no longer trouble you. Temperature would remain the same all the year round. Artificial lighting could make the rhythm of our life uniform everywhere. And the ecology of the natural world above ground would be greatly improved. Still, the prospect of moving underground may not be appealing to many people.

THE NEW CAVESIsaac AsimovDuring the ice ages, human beings exposed to the colder temperatures of the time would often make their homes in caves. There they found greater comfort and security than they would have in the open. We still live in caves called houses, again for comfort and security. Virtually no one would willingly sleep on the ground under the stars. Is it possible that someday we may seek to add further to our comfort and security by building our houses underground -- in new, manmade caves?It may not seem a palatable suggestion, at first though. We have so many evil associations with the underground. In our myths and legends, the underground is the realm of evil spirits and of the dead, and is often the location of an afterlife of torment. (This may be because dead bodies are buried underground, and because volcanic eruptions make the underground appear to be a hellish place of fire and noxious gases.) Yet there are advantages to underground life, too, and something to be said for imagining whole cities, even

mankind generally, moving downward. of having the outermost mile of the Earth's crust honeycombed with passages and structures, like a gigantic ant hill. First, weather would no longer be important, since, it is primarily a phenomenon of the atmosphere. Rain, snow, sleet, fog would not trouble the underground world. Even temperature variations are limited to the open surface and would not exist underground. Whether day or night, summer or winter, temperatures in the underground world remain equable and nearly constant. The vast amounts of energy now expended in warming our surface surroundings when they are too cold, and cooling them when they are too warm, could be saved. The damage done to manmade structures and to human beings by weather would be gone. Transportation over local distances would be simplified. (Earthquakes would remain a danger, of course.) Second, local time would no longer be important. On the surface, the tyranny of day and night cannot be avoided, and when it is morning in one place, it is noon in another, evening in still another and midnight in yet another. The rhythm of human life therefore varies from place to place. Underground, where there is no externally produced day, but only perpetual darkness, it would be artificial lighting that produces the day and this could be adjusted to suit man's convenience. The whole world could be on eight-hour shifts, starting and ending on the stroke everywhere, at least as far as business and community endeavors were concerned. This could be important in a freely mobile world. Air transportation over long distances would no longer have entail "jet lag." Individuals landing on another coast or

another continent would find the society they reached geared to the same time of day as at home. Third, the ecological structure could be stabilized. To a certain extent, mankind encumbers the Earth. It is not only his enormous numbers that take up room. more so, it is all the structures he builds to house himself and his machines, to make possible his transportation and communication, to offer him rest and recreation. All these things distort the wild, depriving many species of plants and animals of their natural habitat -- and sometimes, involuntarily, favoring a few, such as rats and roaches. If the works of man were removed below ground -- and, mind you, below the level of the natural world of the burrowing animals man would still occupy the surface with his farms, his forestry, his observation towers, his air terminals and so on, but the extent of that occupation would be enormously decreased. Indeed, as one imagines the underground world to become increasingly elaborate, one can visualize much of the food supply eventually deriving from hydroponic growth in artificially illuminated areas underground. The Earth's surface might be increasingly turned over to park and to wilderness, maintained at ecological stability. Fourth, nature would be closer. It might seem that to withdraw underground is to withdraw from the natural world, but would that be so? Would the withdrawal be more complete than it is now, when so many people work in city buildings that are often windowless and artificially conditioned? Even where there are windows, what is the prospect one views (if one bothers to) but sun, sky, and buildings to the horizon -- plus some limited greenery? And to get away from the city

now? To reach the real countryside? One must travel horizontally for miles, first across city pavements and then across suburban sprawls. In an underworld culture, the countryside would be right there, a few hundred yards above the upper level of the cities -- wherever you are. The surface would have to be protected from too frequent, or too intense, or too careless visiting, but however carefully restricted the upward trips might be, the chances are that the dwellers of the new caves would see more greenery, under ecologically healthier conditions, than dwellers of surface cities to today. However odd and repulsive underground living may seem at first thought, there are things to be said for it -- and I haven't even said them all.

New Words

virtually ad. almost

someday ad. at some uncertain future time

有朝一日

underground a. below the surface of the earth.

秘密的 ; 秘密的

ad. under the earth's surface.

secretly

manmade a. produced by people. not existing in nature

palatable a. agreeable to the taster or (fig.) to the mind.

acceptable 可口的 ; 受欢迎的

association n. an idea or object connected with another idea in thought

联想

legend n. an old story handed down from the past, esp. one of doubtful truth

传说 ; 传奇

spirit jn. 神灵 ; 鬼怪

location n. a place or position

场所 , 位置

afterlife n. the life after death as is believed by some people

来世

torment n. severe pain or suffering in mind or body

痛苦 ; 折磨

volcanica. of, like, produced or caused by a volcano

eruption n. outbreak of a volcano. (an example of) the action of erupting (火山) 爆发

hellish a. like hell, horrible, devilish

noxious a. harmful to people, plants, or animals

有害的 , 有毒的

mankind n. the human

race 人类 downward ad. towards a lower level or position outermost a. farthest from the inside or center crust n. 地壳 honeycomb vt. fill with holes, tunnels, etc. 使成蜂窝状 gigantic a. huge, enormous. of or like a giant 巨大的, 庞大的 ant n. 蚂蚁 fog n. very thick mist variation n. the action of varying. an example or degree of varying 变化 equable a. steady. not changing much 稳定的 constant a. unchanging. fixed 永恒的 simplify vt. make simple. make easy to do or understand earthquake n. sudden and violent movements of the earth's surface 地震 tyranny n. the cruel or unjust use of power to rule a person or country 专制 vary v. (cause to) the different 变化 variable a. likely to vary. not steady 易变的 n. sth. which can vary in quantity or size 变量 external y ad. outside external a. artificial a. not natural or real. man-made ad just vt. set right. change slightly, esp. in order to make suitable for a particular job or new conditions 调整; 调节 convenience n. personal comfort or advantage. the quality of being convenient 便利, 方便 convenient a. stoken. sound made by a bell striking the hours 钟鸣声 community n. the people living in a particular area considered as a whole. the area itself 社区 (居民)

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