Earthquakes are the outcome of sins committed by men.



DOWN TO EARTH SERIES ABSTRACT AND TRAIN OF THOUGHTS

Abstract and train of thoughts¹

Earthquakes are the outcome of the accumulated sins committed by men.

Seismic disturbance is the physical sign of disturbance in the moral, psychic, and mental fields.

Earthquakes, floods, and social upheavals presage a new order of things for the human race — the rule of the strong hand in the shape of bureaucratic despotism, and military intimidation with global reach.

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Earthquakes are dreadful but they can be avoided when their probable place is known. But social earthquakes and moral pestilence go with man where he goes, and cannot be averted by any alteration of place.

So, do your duty where you find yourself and, if from your goodness you are a favourite of gods, you will escape; if not, it is better to die and take another chance at building up your character in a future life.

As solid earth began as a ball of liquid fire, so did man.

At the beginning of every new Round, the earth casts off her old skins as the serpent does his skin to be born again. Her Seven Skins stand for the seven geological changes which accompany and correspond to the evolution of the Seven Root-Races of humanity.

The human races that succeed each other are separated by large-scale change in the earth's surface and rapid continental subsidence.

Violent minor cataclysms and colossal earthquakes are etched in the annals of most nations. Elevation and subsidence of continents continue as we speak. The Himalayas, the Alps, and the American Cordillera were depositions drifted to the bottom of the seas and then upheaved by Titanic forces to their present elevation.

Earth is convulsed each time that it reawakens for a new period of activity, like a field which has to be ploughed and furrowed before fresh seed for its new crop is thrown into it.

At last, the form of the gigantic Ape-Man of the former Round has been reproduced in this one by human bestiality and transfigured into the parent form in the modern Anthropoid. 10

¹ Title page illustration by Alector Fencer. Landscape on page 11 by Ivan Rabuzin.

DOWN TO EARTH SERIES ABSTRACT AND TRAIN OF THOUGHTS

 The old astrologers and mathematicians predicted natural disasters with far more precision and correctness, than their modern counterparts.
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 Modern buildings may tumble into the street, but much of the ancient monuments remain intact.
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 The "wonders" of our age are the nightmares of the times, where philosophicules pour out modern wisdom as milk, and curdle it like cheese.
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 Suggested reading for students.
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Earthquakes are the outcome of the accumulated sins committed by men.

From *The Theosophist*, (EARTHQUAKES) Vol. VI (12), September 1885, *p*. 285. Perhaps authored by Dāmodar K. Māvalankar.

The theories now put forth by the scientists as regards the cause of earthquakes are not satisfactory.

The Hindus have a superstition that the great snake *Vasuki* carries the earth on its head, and when the earth becomes heavy with sins, this snake moves its head and this is the cause of earthquakes.

If we try to go to the bottom of this superstition we may get a glimpse of what was believed by the ancients as the cause of earthquakes.

According to the Tāntrik yoga philosophy the earth is sustained by a force named Kundalini śakti, this force is the life of the earth. This force is symbolically represented by a snake entwined $3\frac{1}{2}$ coils round the *linga śarīra* of the earth. In the microcosm, this force is a state of strain producing a current that moves along a spiral path.

According to Professor Maxwell, electricity is a state of strain in the luminiferous ether, and all the phenomena of the magnetic force are observed when electricity flows along a spiral coil.

From these it may strike one's mind that what is called magnetism in modern science is one form of the *Kundalini śakti* of the Hindu yogis.

It is a fact proved by the scientists that this earth is a large magnet. And I think that the internal disturbance in the earth's magnetism is symbolically represented in the superstition above alluded to as regards to the cause of earthquakes.

Modern scientific men can see no connection between the cause of earthquakes and events on the mental plane of the earth. But when they understand that there is no such thing as accident in this universe, that every event which appears to us as accident, is the effect of a force on the mental plane, then they will be able to understand why the superstitious Hindus look upon earthquakes as the effect of accumulated sins committed by men.

The superstition of the Hindus properly understood means this: that the accumulated effect of the bad Karmas of men on the earth impressed in the astral fire, is to produce a change in the position of the centre of the force which is earth's life. This centre of force, known by the Hindus as *Padma* or *Chakra*, is the head of *Vāsuki*. When the earth, to sustain its own life, requires to change the position of the centre of its active life, a disturbance in the internal magnetism of the earth is produced, amongst other phenomena earthquakes occur, just as nervous tremors occur in a man's body.

Only one who is an adept in the knowledge of all departments of natural forces can say how far this view of the Hindus is correct. Let the reader seek the help of such a one to clear his doubts, and when I have said this I have nothing more to say.

K. D. M.

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Seismic disturbance is the physical sign of disturbance in the moral, psychic, and mental fields.

First published in: *The Path* (DIREFUL PROPHECIES), Vol. VIII, March 1894, *pp*. 372-74. Republished in: Dara Eklund. (*Comp.*) *Echoes of the Orient: The Writings of William Quan Judge*. 2nd ed. Pasadena: Theosophical University Press, 2009-11 [4-vols.]; Vol. I, *pp*. 422-24.

The whole mystic fraternity of Astrologers is now engaged in showing how the heavens portend great changes on this our earth. They agree with H.P.B.,¹ who said that her Eastern friends told her of coming cyclic changes now very near at hand. Beyond doubt there is some truth in all these sayings, although here and there the astrologers definitely prognosticating are not supported by fact. Sepharial,² for instance, staked his reputation on the death of the Prince of Wales, which did not come off, and now where is the reputation? Just as good as ever, for astrologers know that either the judgment of the astrologer may be at fault from sundry causes, or that the birth-hour may be wrong, or that some saving aspect of the stars has been overlooked. Great earthquakes like that of Zante³ or the one in Kuchan⁴ come up, and the astrologers, while they regularly in those years foresaw earthquakes, did not seem able to locate them for any spot. They were afraid to say Persia for fear it might be in London. But earthquakes were foretold. A steady prognostication of disturbance has been indulged in, and this general outlook would seem right. The disturbances were expected in the realm of mind, morals, and religion by those true astrologers who seldom speak, and the increase of crime like that of bomb-throwing justifies each month the general prediction. Seismic disturbance is the physical sign of disturbance in the moral, psychic, and mental fields. This is an old axiom in the East. In the record of the earthquake said to have taken place when Jesus died we have the Christian reflection of the same idea.

[[]H.P. Blavatsky]

² [Walter Gorn Old, 1864–1929, eminent English Theosophist and astrologer, also known under the nom-deplume Sepharial, after an angel in the apocryphal Book of Enoch.]

³ [Zante the other six Ionian Islands were integrated into the Greek State on 21st May 1864. In the aftermath of an earthquake on 17th April 1893, of 4,500 buildings on the island, 2,000 were completely destroyed.]

⁴ [Quchan is the capital of Quchan County, in Razavi Khorasan Province, Iran. On 17th January 1895 a major earthquake resulted in an estimated 1,000–11,000 casualties. This was last of a sequence of earthquakes that kept afflicting the area since 1851.]

Earthquakes, floods, and social upheavals presage a new order of things for the human race — the rule of the strong hand in the shape of bureaucratic despotism, and military intimidation with global reach.

That earthquakes, floods, and great social changes would go on increasing has been known to Theosophists since the day Tom Paine¹ saw psychically "a new order of things for the human race opening in the affairs of America," before the revolution. And ever since the increment of disaster has been great. The motto adopted by the makers of the Union — "A new order of ages" — was an echo from the realm of soul to the ears of men on earth. It marked a point in the cycle. The record of the disasters during the years since then would be found appalling. It takes in Asia and Europe, and would show millions of sudden deaths by violent earth-convulsions. And now in 1894 even Herbert Spencer, looking at the mental and social fields of human life, says in a magazine article:

A nation of which the legislators vote as they were bid, and of which the workers surrender their rights of selling their labour where they please, has neither the ideas nor the sentiments needed for the maintenance of liberty. . . . We are on the way back to the rule of the strong hand in the shape of the bureaucratic despotism of a socialist organization and then of the military despotism which must follow it; if, indeed, some social crash does not bring this last upon us more quickly.²

Earthquakes are dreadful but they can be avoided when their probable place is known. But social earthquakes and moral pestilence go with man where he goes, and cannot be averted by any alteration of place.

Evidently this deeply philosophical and statistical writer feels the pressure in the atmosphere of social and material life. There is much unconscious prophecy in what he says. Earthquakes and death from them are dreadful, but they can be avoided when their probable place is known. But social earthquakes, moral pestilence, mental change belong to man, go with him where he goes, and cannot be averted by any alteration of place.

In *The Illustrated American*³ a writer on astrology gives definite prophecy of disaster. He erects a figure of the heavens for noon of November 12th, 1894, showing a conjunction of Sun, Uranus, Venus, and Mercury in Scorpio, with Saturn only fifteen degrees away. Astrologically this is very bad. With the moon at the full in Taurus — the bull — it is ominous of floods and earthquakes. But we may add that in the psychic Zodiac it shows floods and heaving in the moral and social structure of the poor orphan man. Uranus and Saturn are bad planets anyway; they are erratic and heavy, subtle, dark, and menacing. This writer predicts ominously, but remains in-

¹ [English-born Thomas Pain, 1737–1809, was an American political activist, philosopher, political theorist, and revolutionary. He authored the two most influential pamphlets at the start of the American Revolution and inspired the patriots in 1776 to declare independence from Great Britain. His ideas reflected the transnational human rights. Historian Saul K. Padover described him as "a corsetmaker by trade, a journalist by profession, and a propagandist by inclination."]

² ["The Late Professor Tyndall," in: *McClure's Magazine*, Vol. II (4), March 1894, p. 405]

³ [Weekly American periodical published from 1890 until 1900.]

definite as to place. We will add that dying nations like those of Persia and China will feel most whatever physical effects shall be due; and in Europe, while there will be physical disturbance, the greater trouble will be in the social and governmental structures. [424]

The astrologer then runs forward to December 30th, 1901, when he says six planets will be in one sign and in a line, with a seventh opposite on the same line projected. This, it is said by such an ancient sage as Berosus, will bring a flood when it takes place in the zodiacal sign Capricornus, as is to be the case in 1901.

So, do your duty where you find yourself and, if from your goodness you are a favourite of gods, you will escape; if not, it is better to die and take another chance at building up your character in a future life.

Many Theosophists believe these prognostications, others deride them. The former ask what shall we do? Nothing. Stay where you are. If you remove, it is more than likely you will run into the jaws of a blacker fate. Do your duty where you find yourself, and if from your goodness you are a favourite of the gods you will escape, while if you are not their favourite it is better for you to die and take another chance at bettering your character. Death will come when it will, and why should we fear, since it is "a necessary end." Theosophists too often occupy themselves with these woeful lookings into the future, to the detriment of their present work. They should try to discover the fine line of duty and endeavour, leaving the astrologers of today, who are more at sea than any other mystics, to con over a zodiac that is out of place and calculate with tables which delude with the subtle power that figures have to lie when the basis of calculation is wrong.

WILLIAM Q. JUDGE

As solid earth began as a ball of liquid fire, so did man.

From The Secret Doctrine, I p. 191.

Stanza VI.5. AT THE FOURTH (*Round*, or revolution of life and being around "the seven smaller wheels") (a), THE SONS ARE TOLD TO CREATE THEIR IMAGES. ONE THIRD REFUSES — Two (thirds) OBEY.

THE CURSE IS PRONOUNCED (b): THEY WILL BE BORN IN THE FOURTH (Race), SUFFER AND CAUSE SUFFERING. THIS IS THE FIRST WAR (c).

The full meaning of this Śloka can be fully comprehended only after reading the detailed additional explanations in the "Anthropogenesis" and its commentaries, in Volume II. Between this Śloka and the last, Śloka 4 in this same Stanza, extend long ages; and there now gleams the dawn and sunrise of another aiōn. The drama enacted on our planet is at the beginning of its fourth act, but for a clearer comprehension of the whole play the reader will have to turn back before he can proceed onward. For this verse belongs to the general Cosmogony given in the archaic volumes, whereas Volume II will give a detailed account of the "Creation" or rather the formation, of the first human beings, followed by the second humanity, and then by the third; or, as they are called, "the first, second, and the third Root-Races." As the solid Earth began by being a ball of liquid fire, of fiery dust and its protoplasmic phantom, so did man.

At the beginning of every new Round,¹ the earth casts off her old skins as the serpent does his skin to be born again. Her Seven Skins stand for the seven geological changes which accompany and correspond to the evolution of the Seven Root-Races of humanity.

From The Secret Doctrine, II pp. 46-471; [on the transformation of the Earth].

Stanza 1.4. AND AFTER GREAT THROES SHE (*The Earth*) CAST OFF HER OLD THREE AND PUT ON HER NEW SEVEN SKINS, AND STOOD IN HER FIRST ONE (a).

(a) This refers to the growth of the Earth, whereas in the Stanza treating of the First Round it is said (given in the Commentary):

After the changeless (avikāra) immutable nature (Essence, sadaikarūpa) had awakened and changed (differentiated) into (a state of) causality (avyakta), and from cause (Kārana) had become its own discrete effect (vyakta), from invisible it became visible. The smallest of the small (the most atomic of [47] atoms, or aniyāmsam aniyasām) became one and the many (ekānekarūpa); and producing

¹ [Impulses of Spiritual Consciousness evolve wave-like in a 7-fold pattern along a chain of 7 man-bearing Globes (*i.e.*, Planets or Spheres) plus 5 arūpa-loka or unmanifested, re-visiting each one 7 times. A single passage through e-very Globe is termed Planetary Round or Ring, in the course of which 49 Root-Races of Humanity emerge, each one progressing through 7 Sub-Races. Every Round repeats on a higher scale the evolutionary work of the preceding Round. (Cf. Secret Doctrine, I p. 187). Consult "Drawing 1 - Our Planetary Chain of Seven Rounds," in our Planetary Rounds and Globes Series. — ED. PHIL.]

the Universe produced also the Fourth Loka (our Earth) in the garland of the seven lotuses. The Achyuta then became the Chyuta.¹

The Earth is said to cast off her old *three* skins, because this refers to the three preceding Rounds she has already passed through; the present being the *fourth* Round out of the seven. At the beginning of every new ROUND, after a period of "obscuration," the earth (as do also the other six "earths") casts off, or is supposed to cast off, her old skins as the Serpent does: therefore she is called in the *Aitareya-Brāhmana* the *Sarpa Rājñī*, the "Queen of the Serpents," and "the mother of all that moves."² The "Seven Skins," in the first of which she now stands, refer to the seven geological changes which accompany and correspond to the evolution of the Seven Root-Races of Humanity.

Stanza II,³ which speaks of this Round, begins with a few words of information concerning the age of our Earth. The chronology will be given in its place.⁴

The human races that succeed each other are separated by largescale change in the earth's surface and rapid continental subsidence.

From *Blavatsky Collected Writings*, (SOME INQUIRIES SUGGESTED BY MR. SINNETT'S ESOTERIC BUDDHISM) V, p. 140.

The different races which succeed each other on the earth are said to be separated by catastrophes, among which continental subsidences occupy a prominent place. Is it meant that these subsidences are so sudden and unforeseen as to sweep away great nations in an hour? Or, if not, how is it that no appreciable trace is left of such high civilizations as are described in the past? Is it supposed that our present European civilization, with its offshoots all over the globe, can be destroyed by any inundation or conflagration which leaves life still existing on the earth? Are our existing arts and languages doomed to perish? Or was it only the earlier races who were thus profoundly disjoined from one another?



¹ Achyuta is an almost untranslatable term. It means that which is not subject to fall or change for the worse: the Unfalling; and it is the reverse of chyuta, "the Fallen." The Dhyānis who incarnate in the human forms of the Third Root-Race and endow them with intellect (Manas) are called the chyuta, for they fall into generation.

⁴ [Consult "Atlantis' study - Esoteric Geochronology," in our Atlantean Reality Series. — ED. PHIL.]

² [Aitareya-Brāhmanam (Haug ed.), Bk. V, ch. iv, § 23]

³ [p. 52]

Violent minor cataclysms and colossal earthquakes are etched in the annals of most nations. Elevation and subsidence of continents continue as we speak. The Himalayas, the Alps, and the American Cordillera were depositions drifted to the bottom of the seas and then upheaved by Titanic forces to their present elevation.

From The Secret Doctrine, II p. 787 fn.

Violent minor cataclysms and colossal earthquakes are recorded in the annals of most nations — if not of all. Elevation and subsidence of continents is always in progress. The whole coast of South America has been raised up 10 to 15 feet and settled down again in an hour. Huxley has shown that the British islands have been four times depressed beneath the ocean and subsequently raised again and peopled. The Alps, Himalayas, and Cordilleras were all the result of depositions drifted on to seabottoms and upheaved by Titanic forces to their present elevation. The Sahara was the basin of a Miocene sea. Within the last five or six thousand years the shores of Sweden, Denmark, and Norway have risen from 200 to 600 feet; in Scotland there are raised beaches with outlying stacks and skerries surmounting the shore, now eroded by the hungry wave. The North of Europe is still rising from the sea and South America presents the phenomenon of raised beaches of over 1,000 miles in length, now at a height varying from 100 to 1,300 feet above the sea-level. On the other hand, the coast of Greenland is sinking fast, so much so that the Greenlander will not build by the shore. All these phenomena are certain. Why may not a gradual change have given place to a violent cataclysm in remote epochs? — such cataclysms occurring on a *minor scale* even now (e.g., the case of Sunda island¹ with 80,000 Malays).

Earth is convulsed each time that it reawakens for a new period of activity, like a field which has to be ploughed and furrowed before fresh seed for its new crop is thrown into it.

At last, the form of the gigantic Ape-Man of the former Round has been reproduced in this one by human bestiality and transfigured into the parent form in the modern Anthropoid.

From The Secret Doctrine, II p. 730.

Our globe being convulsed each time that it *reawakens* for a new period of activity, like a field which has to be ploughed and furrowed before fresh seed for its new crop is thrown into it — it does seem quite hopeless that fossils belonging to its previous Rounds should be found in the beds of either its oldest or its latest geological strata. Every new Manvantara brings along with it the renovation of forms, types and species; every type of the preceding organic forms — vegetable, animal and human — changes and is perfected in the next, even to the mineral, which has received in this Round its final opacity and hardness; its softer portions having formed the present vegetation; the astral relics of previous vegetation and fauna having been utilized in the formation of the lower animals, and determining the structure of the primeval

¹ [In the Malay Archipelago. See list of historical earthquakes, before 1901, in Wikipedia Article.]

Root-Types of the highest Mammalia. And, finally, the form of the gigantic Ape-Man of the former Round has been reproduced in this one by human bestiality and transfigured into the *parent* form in the modern Anthropoid.

The old astrologers and mathematicians predicted natural disasters with far more precision and correctness, than their modern counterparts.

From *Blavatsky Collected Writings*, (ELEMENTALS) VI p. 198. Full text under "Blavatsky on Elementals and Elementaries," in our Blavatsky Speaks Series.

If our royal astronomers are able, at times, to predict cataclysms, such as earthquakes and inundations, the Indian astrologers and mathematicians can do so, and have so done, with far more precision and correctness, though they act on lines which to the modern sceptic appear ridiculously absurd.



Modern buildings may tumble into the street, but much of the ancient monuments remain intact.

From *Blavatsky Collected Writings*, (A LAND OF MYSTERY) II *p*. 333. Full text under "Atlantean Credentials of the New World," in our Atlantean Realities Series.

Very pertinently enquires Dr. Heath:

Who, then were these people, cutting through sixty miles of granite, transporting blocks of hard porphyry, of Baalbec dimensions,¹ miles from the place where quarried, across valleys thousands of feet deep, over mountains, along plains, leaving no trace of how or where they carried them; people [said to be] ignorant of the use of iron, with the feeble llama their only beast of burden; who, after having brought these stones together and dressed them, fitted them into walls with mosaic precision; terracing thousands of miles of mountain side; building hills of adobes and earth, and huge cities; leaving works in clay, stone, copper, silver, gold and embroidery, many of which cannot be duplicated at the present age; people apparently vying with Dives² in riches, Hercules in strength and energy and the ant and bee in industry?

Callao was submerged in 1746 and entirely destroyed.³ Lima was ruined in 1687 - in 1746 only twenty houses out of three thousand were left standing⁴ . . . while the ancient cities in the Huatica and Lurín valleys still remain in a comparatively good state of preservation. San Miguel de Piura, founded by Pizarro in 1531, was entirely destroyed in 1855, while the old ruins nearby suffered little. Arequipa was thrown down in August, 1868, but the ruins near show no change.⁵

In engineering, at least, the present may learn from the past. We hope to show that it may in most things else.

[[]A variety of igneous purple rock esteemed as a royal colour. It was used by the Romans in the monolithic pillars of Baalbek's Temple of Heliopolis in Lebanon, and later for the columns of Hagia Sophia in Constantinople.]

² [*i.e.*, rich man. Cf. The parable of the rich man and Lazarus in the Gospel of Luke.]

³ [On 28th October 1746, a tsunami caused an earthquake destroyed the entire port of Callao.]

⁴ [The tsunami on 20th October 1687 in Ica, a department in Peru, destroyed most the buildings in Lima and became a turning point in the city's history as it coincided with a trade recession and growing economic competition with cities such as Buenos Aires. In 1746, another powerful earthquake severely damaged Lima and destroyed Callao, forcing a massive rebuilding effort under Viceroy José Antonio Manso de Velasco. On 24th May 1940 another earthquake destroyed most of the city, which at that time was mostly built of adobe and quincha. Seismic waves this region continue to this day with alarming regularity. For the chronology of earthquakes in Peru see Article in Wikipedia.]

⁵ [Dr. Edwin R. Heath, "Peruvian Antiquities," in: *Kansas City Review of Science and Industry*, November 1878, *pp*. 463-67.

Edwin Ruthven Heath, 1839–1932, explorer, archaeologist, humanist, meteorologist, botanist, adventurer, expeditionary, and businessman. The river that separates Peru from Bolivia (between the Manu National Park in Peru and the Madidi National Park in Bolivia) is named after him. The Heath River is one of the most extraordinary and biodiverse rivers within the Madidi Park. Heath travelled to Rurrenabaque, Bolivia, from the Mamore River which is on the border of Brazil and Bolivia. He also took part in the expedition of Lucio Perez Velasco, Vaca Diez and Antenor Vasquez in 1878. Courtesy of the archives of Elmwood Cemetery in Kansas City.]

The "wonders" of our age are the nightmares of the times, where philosophicules pour out modern wisdom as milk, and curdle it like cheese.

From *Blavatsky Collected Writings*, (THE EIGHT WONDER) XI *pp.* 356-57. Full text "Musings of an Unpopular Philosopher," in our Down to Earth Series.

For verily, all the wonders of our age are destined to become but the ephemera of the century that is slowly approaching us, while they remain but the dreams and often the nightmares of the present era. All this will surely pass away and be no more. A seismic breath in Egypt may occur tomorrow and the earth will then "open her mouth" and swallow the waters of the Canal of Suez, and it will become an impassable bog. A *terremotos*, or worse still a *succussatore*,¹ as they are called in South America, may lift the Long Island with its "Liberty" and toss them both a hundred feet high in the blue air, but to drop them down, covering their watery grave with the never-drying salt tears of the Atlantic Ocean. Who can tell? "Non deus prævidet tantum sed et divini ingenii viri" saith sly Cicero in his De divinatione,² treating of cosmic phenomena. And the same thing threatens Lutetia that was, or Paris that is, and our own British Isles. No; never has God predicted as much as has the divine intellect of man; surely not. Nor would Cicero's feelings change, had he ever read the War Cry in his day or entertained a couple of Adventists. And what would be [357] Cicero, after all, in the presence of a modern Materialist? How would he feel? I asked myself. Would he confess himself non-plussed, or would he remark — as Job did to the new philosopher, his persecutor — "hast thou not poured me [modern wisdom] out as milk and curdled me [it] like cheese,"³ enough to show us what it is?



¹ [Note to Students:

The *succussatore* are the shocks where there is considerable vertical motion. The terrible shock of Riobamba (February 4^{th} , 1797), which is said to have thrown corpses from their graves to a height of 100 feet, was an earthquake of this order.

The vorticosi are shocks which have a twisting or rotatory motion."

Note to Students: It appears that this passage is from a Dissertation by Cassius Maximus Tyrius, *i.e.*, "ου θεος οιδε μονος, αλλα και ανθρωπων." Thomas Taylor, in his translation of *The Dissertations of Maximus Tyrius*, London: C. Whittingham, 1804, renders this sentence as follows:

"Indeed, not only divinity foresees droughts, abundance of rain, earthquakes, eruptions of fire, hurricanes, and mutations of the air, but among men also such as are of a demoniacal genius."

Vol. I, Dissert. III, p. 34. — ED. PHIL.]

³ [*Job* x, 10; KJV]

[&]quot;Many words are used to distinguish different kinds of earthquakes from each other. All of these appear to be very indefinite and to depend upon the observer's feelings, which, in turn, depend upon his nervous temperament and his situation.

In South America small earthquakes, consisting of a series of rapidly recurring vibratory movements not sufficiently powerful to create damage, are spoken of as *trembelores*.

The *terremotos* of South America are earthquakes of a destructive nature, in which distinct shocks are perceptible. It may be observed that shocks which at one place would be described as *terremoto* would at another and more distant place probably be described as *trembelores*.

John Milne, Professor of Mining and Geology in the Imperial College of Engineering, Tokyo, Japan, *Earthquakes and other Earth Movements*. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1886; Ch. I, Introduction. [International Scientific Series, Vol. LV]

² [This passage has remained untraced in spite of thoroughgoing search through the text of this essay attributed to Cicero. Its translation would be: "Not a god alone, but men gifted with godlike ability can foresee." — *Boris de Zirkoff.*

Suggested reading for students.



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