

There is an enemy beneath our feet - an enemy more deadly for his complete impartiality. He recognizes no national boundaries, no political parties. Everyone in the world is threatened by him. The enemy is the earth itself. When an earthquake strikes, the world trembles. The power of a quake is greater than anything man himself can produce. But today scientists are directing a great deal of their effort into finding some way of combating earthquakes, and it is possible that at some time in the near future mankind will have discovered a means of protecting itself from earthquakes. When an earthquake strikes without warning, when it does, its power is immense. If it strikes a modern city, the damage it causes is as great as if it has struck a primitive village. Gas mains burst, explosions are caused and fires started. Underground railways are wrecked. Buildings collapse, bridges burst, dams burst, gaping crevices appear in busy streets. If the quake strikes at sea, huge tidal waves sweep inland. If it strikes in mountain regions,

Wrecked. havoc wrath - anger, rage.

avalanches roar down into the valley. Consider the terrifying statistics from the past 1755: Lisbon, capital of Portugal - the city destroyed entirely and 450 killed. 1970: Peru: 50,000 killed. In 1968 an earthquake struck Alaska. As this is a relatively unpopulated part, only a few people were killed. But it is likely that this was one of the most powerful quakes ever to have hit the world. Geologists estimate that during the tremors, the whole of the state moved over 80 feet farther west to the Pacific Ocean. Imagine the power of something that can move an entire subcontinent. This is the problem that the scientists face. They are dealing with forces so immense that man cannot hope to resist them. All that can be done is to try to pinpoint just where the earthquake will strike and work from there. At least some precautionary measures can then be taken to save lives and some of the property.

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Mother earth poses a great threat to mankind. Sometimes it produces ^{sudden} earthquakes of terrifying magnitudes causing massive destructions. Historically earthquakes have wrecked havoc across several cities and even subcontinents across the globe. Today a lot of research is being conducted to safeguard mankind from the wrath of earthquakes. However, the ^{real} challenge is to combat an enemy having unimaginable destructive capability. The answer lies in taking pre-emptive measures to save lives and properties. This can be done by identifying the possible centre of the seismic wave and thereby formulating a response plan.