



## Underground Man

by Gabriel Tarde (1843-1904), trans. Cloudesley Brereton (1863-1937)

Read by Ruth Golding. Total running time: 02:55:33

This post-apocalyptic novella tells the story of the downfall of civilisation and mankind following a solar cataclysm in the late 20th century. To survive, the remnants of humanity had to build a new civilization underground in the complete absence of all species except mankind, choosing to base it only on love and beauty, the fine arts and intellectual pursuits.

In view of the sun's current inactivity, this frighteningly prophetic tale might have been written today, saving that the cultural references and the fluid prose might be beyond, if one dares say so, many modern writers.

Tarde was a French sociologist, criminologist and social psychologist. This novella was, as far as I know, his only venture into the writing of fiction, and is heavy with philosophical, sociological, scientific and even political concepts. It is an absorbing and thought-provoking work. (Summary by Ruth Golding)

This recording is in the public domain and may be reproduced, distributed, or modified without permission. For more information or to volunteer, visit [librivox.org](http://librivox.org).

Cover picture *Neales's Stopes, Burra Burra Mine, April 12th 1847* by S. T. Gill (1818 - 1880) . Copyright expired in U.S., Canada, EU. and all countries with author's life +70 yrs laws. Cover design by Ruth Golding. This design is in the public domain.