

## DREAM FOUR

(ONSCREEN: 26 April 1905)

(Third Dreamteller appears.)

## THIRD DREAMTELLER

(continuing)

In this world, it is instantly obvious that something is odd. No houses can be seen in the valleys or plains. Everyone lives in the mountains.

(ONSCREEN: An image of snow-capped peaks.)

(The Second Dreamteller enters, carrying a chair. As he speaks, he places the chair and stands on it.)

## SECOND DREAMTELLER

At some time in the past, scientists discovered that time flows more slowly the farther from the center of earth. The effect is miniscule, but it can be measured with extremely sensitive instruments.

(Noticing what Second has done, Third exits.)

## SECOND DREAMTELLER

(--U U(continuing)

Once the phenomenon was known, a few people, anxious to stay young, moved to the mountains. Now all houses are built on high ground. It is impossible to sell living quarters elsewhere.

(Third re-enters, moving a desk which he proceeds to stand on.)

## THIRD DREAMTELLER

Many are not content simply to locate their homes on a mountain. To get the maximum effect, they have constructed their houses on stilts.

(Second notices Third, and fetches a desk. He places his chair on it.)

## THIRD DREAMTELLER

(continuing)

The mountaintops all over the world are nested with such houses, which from a distance look like a flock of fat birds squatting on long skinny legs. Indeed, some houses rise half a mile high on their spindly wooden legs.

(Second climbs up and stands in his chair.)

## SECOND DREAMTELLER

(smug)

Height has become status.

(Disgruntled, Third gets down, fetches a block, and places it on his desk. he places the chair on that.)

## SECOND DREAMTELLER

(continuing)

A person looking down on another house dismisses its occupants as spent, weak, and shortsighted.

(Third climbs up to stand in his chair.

## THIRD DREAMTELLER

(to Second)

Some boast that they have lived their whole lives high up...

(Second climbs down, fetches a book as well as a block, and stacks it and the chair as Third did.)

## THIRD DREAMTELLER

(continuing)

...that they were born in the highest house on the highest mountain peak and have never descended.

## SECOND DREAMTELLER

(climbing up and standing on the book)

Some celebrate their youth in their mirrors

(Third tries to stand on the arms of his chair.)

## FIRST DREAMTELLER (C.S.)

In time, people have forgotten the reason why higher is better.

(Second and Third stop and look up.)

(The First Dreamteller is illuminated high above them on the catwalk. Second and Third look at each other, sullen and defeated.)

## FIRST DREAMTELLER

Nonetheless, they continue to live in the mountains, to avoid sunken regions as much as they can, to teach their children to shun other children from low elevations. They tolerate the cold of the mountains as part of their breeding.

**end**