

GREAT ILLUSTRATED CLASSICS

**A JOURNEY TO
THE CENTER OF
THE EARTH**

Jules Verne

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Professor Hardwig

CHAPTER 1

The Great Discovery

Looking back at all that has happened to me since that eventful day, I am hardly able to believe that my adventures were real. They were so wonderful that, even now, I am amazed when I think about them.

I was living with my uncle, a German, who was a professor of philosophy, chemistry, geology, mineralogy, and many other "ologies."

Professor Hardwigg, my uncle, had invited me to study under him, for I was greatly interested in learning as much as I could about

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the Earth and what lies under its surface.

Although my uncle was a most learned man, and could speak with the greats of the scientific world in almost any language, and could classify six hundred different geological specimens by their weight, hardness, sound, taste, and smell, he did not at all look the part.

He was fifty years old, tall, thin, and wiry. Large glasses hid his vast, round, bulging eyes. His nose was thin like a file and was constantly being attracted to tobacco. When he walked, he stepped a yard at a time, clenched his fists as if he were going to hit you, and then walked on. At most times, he was far from a pleasant companion.

But Professor Hardwigg is by no means a bad sort of man. However, to live with him means to obey him. So, when he came home one day and began to call, "Harry—Harry—Harry," I hastened to go at once, even though at the time I was more interested in finding out what was being prepared for dinner than



Hastening to the Professor's Call