

CHAPTER TWO

Man takes to City Life

A. THE CITIES

OVER the years some of the smaller villages grew into large ones. The number of people living in them increased. New needs arose and new occupations were started. People in these large villages were prosperous because they were now producing more food than they required for their needs, so they could exchange this surplus food for other things such as cloth, pottery or ornaments. Now it was no longer necessary for every family to work in the fields and produce its own food. Those who were weavers, potters or carpenters exchanged the articles which they produced for food grown by other families. Gradually as trade increased, the craftsmen began to live together and such villages grew into towns.

The beginnings of city life introduced an advance in technology and a higher degree of civilization. Civilization is that stage of man's development when he looks for more than just the satisfaction of his material needs. He has enough food so that he can live in cities. He trades his produce with others. He has leisure to think, and to seek answers to the many questions which puzzle him about life. He has knowledge of writing so that he can record his thoughts. His community is governed by laws. Man is civilized when he attempts to satisfy the needs of his mind.

The houses in the cities were built of brick, the roads were carefully laid out and cleanliness in the city was maintained by efficiently kept drains to clear away the waste. Communications were improved and trade increased. Social life was no longer simple. Rules of various kinds became necessary as also a government to administer them. But the biggest advance was the invention of a script which, to start with, was used by the traders to keep a record of their trade.