



Derinkuyu, Underground City

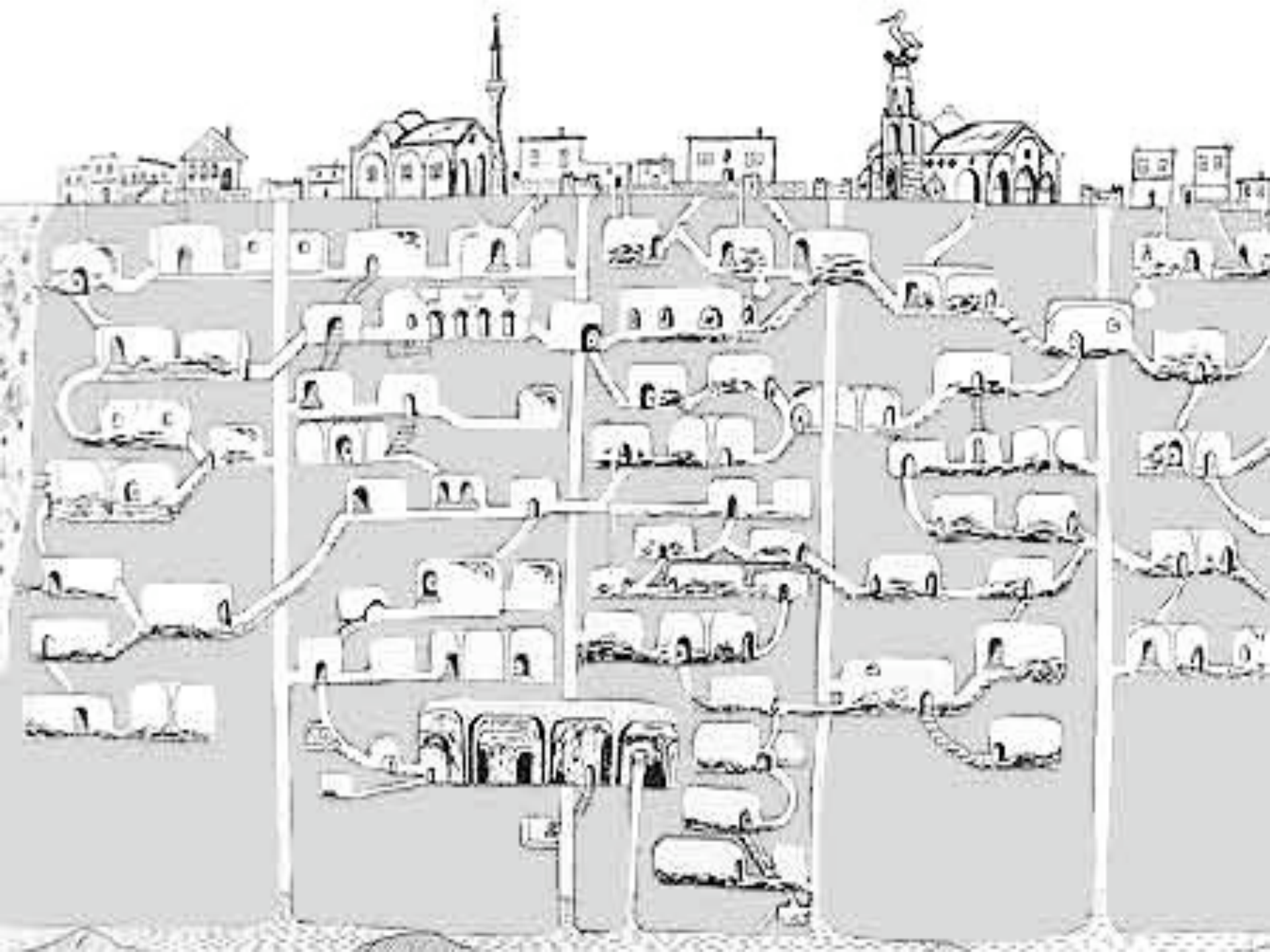
In 1963, an inhabitant of Derinkuyu (in the region of Capadocia, central Anatolia, Turkey), was demolishing a wall of his house-cave, and discovered astonished that behind the wall was a mysterious room that never had been seen; this room took to another one, and this one to another one and another one...

By chance the underground city of Derinkuyu was discovered, whose first level could be excavated by hititas around year 1400 a.C.



- **The archaeologists began to study this fascinating underground city. They were able to arrive at forty meters of depth, although guesses are that the bottom is as far down as 85 meters!**
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- **At present 20 underground levels have been discovered. Only eight levels can be visited however; the others are partially obstructed or reserved for the archaeologists and anthropologists, who study Derinkuyu.**







- **The city was used for shelter by thousands of people who lived in the caves to protect themselves for the frequent invasions that Capadocia underwent, at the diverse times of their occupation, and also by the first Christians.**
- **The enemies, conscious of the dangers that lie hidden inside the city, generally tried to flush the people to the surface by poisoning their wells.**





- **The interior is amazing: the underground passages of Derinkuyu (in which there is space for at least 10,000 people) could be blocked in three strategically important points by moving circular stone doors.**
- **These heavy rocks that closed the corridor prevented the entrance of the enemies. They were 1 to 1.5 meters in height, about 50 centimeters in width and a weight of up to 500 Kilos.**



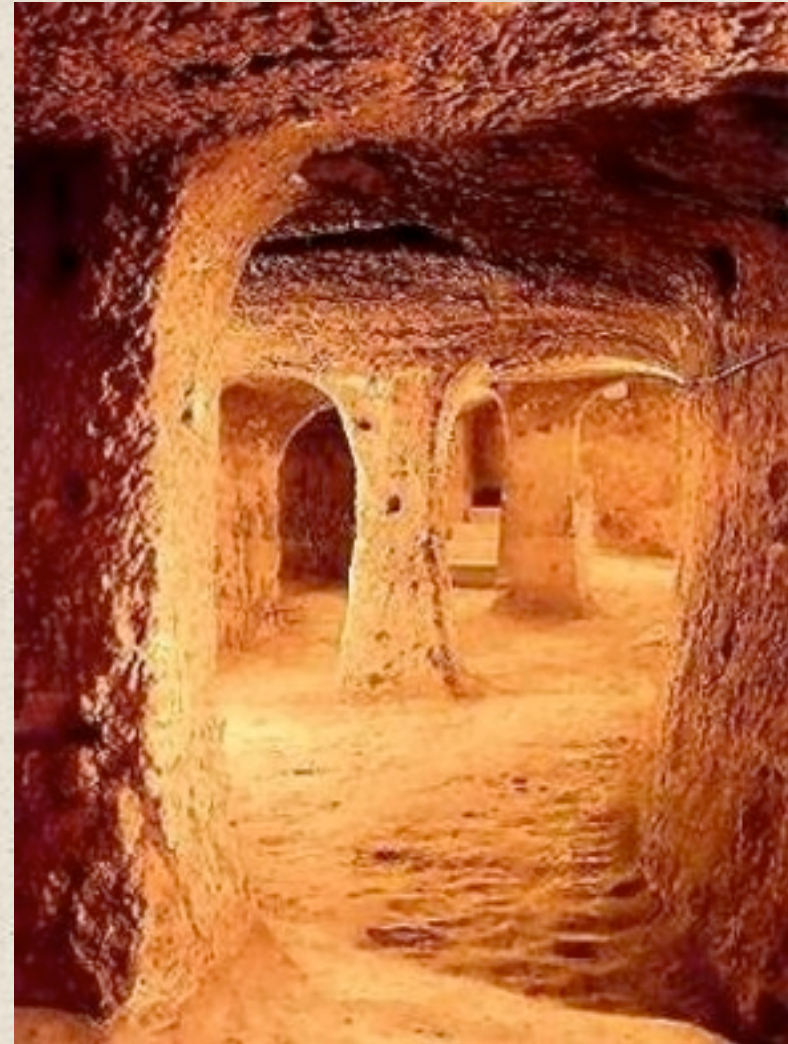
- **In the image it is shown how the circular stone door closed the corridor, having isolated the inhabitants solidly.**

- In addition, Derinkuyu has a tunnel of almost 8 kilometers in length that leads to another underground city of Capadocia, Kaymakli.





- **Of the underground cities of this zone, the Greek historian Jenofonte spoke. In his work Anabasis. He explained that the people who lived in Anatolia had excavated their houses under the earth and lived sufficiently in great lodgings for the entire family, his domestic animals and the food provisions that were stored.**





- **In the reclaimed levels stables have been located, dining rooms, a church (of 20 by 9 meters, with a ceiling of more than three meters of height), kitchens (still blackened by the soot of bonfires that ignited to cook), presses for the wine and the oil, warehouses, places of feeding, a school, numerous rooms and even a bar.**



- **The city benefitted from the existence of an underground river; it had water wells and a magnificent exhaust fan (52 wells of ventilation were discovered) that astonishes engineers of the present time.**

**Translation:
Prema**

The End

