

# A HUMANOID WAS SEEN AT IMJÄRVI

More about the Finnish encounter in the snow

*Sven-Olof Fredrickson*

Our contributor, a student of physics, is a member of a Swedish group of investigators, GICOFF, whose aim is to conduct follow-up investigations, usually by letter, of incidents reported briefly in newspapers. Earlier reports of this remarkable case from Finland were published in our last two issues.

SINCE the appearance of my first two reports in *Flying Saucer Review*, "on-the-spot" investigations in Finland have shown that in their letters to us Messrs Heinonen and Viljo did not tell us the whole story. There were two reasons for this. First, Heinonen, who gave us most of the information, appears to have been suffering from a partial loss of memory. This means that, until recently, he had recalled only parts of the incident. Now that personal interviews have taken place, we believe that most of the story has been told. Secondly, Viljo and Heinonen have not spoken to each other about the incident, at least not in any detail [In *Finnish encounter in the snow* in *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* for July-August, 1970, Heinonen's growing fear of Viljo, and how he hadn't the courage to visit him, was described—Ed.]. As a result, Heinonen thought he had seen a grotesquely distorted image of Viljo when he looked through the mist, whereas Viljo considered he had seen something 'that does not exist', and did not speak about it as he did not wish to have people laughing at him about it.

Early in June this year, a Swedish reporter from a weekly magazine went to Finland to investigate the case and to write an article. We have been in contact with him for about six months, during which time he has become very interested in the subject. Together with a photographer, he met an interpreter when he was in Finland. The two witnesses were located and interviewed (we have a tape of this). Photographs were taken at the scene, the doctor was interviewed, and a discussion was had with a professor of electro-physics. The two men also signed a drawing of the object.

It was not until Heinonen and Viljo were confronted with the reporter's questions that they began to tell the whole story, not only to the reporter, but for the first time to each other.

After comparing the material we obtained from the reporter with the contents of our letters from the two Finns, and after studying reports of the physiological effects which were claimed to have resulted from the encounter, we compiled a case report in Swedish. A translation of this now follows.

## The case report

The incident occurred on Wednesday, January 7, 1970, at 4.45 p.m., in a forest outside the village of

Imjärvi, 16 km. NNE of the town of Heinola in southern Finland. Heinola is 130 km. NE of Helsinki. The two witnesses, forester Aarno Heinonen, 36 years of age, and farmer Esko Viljo, 38, were out skiing. Both men have been active ski-runners, and also runners in athletics, and they still take part in smaller competitions. They are both total abstainers and non-smokers.

They were descending from a little hill, and halted in a glade where they usually take a pause. It was sunset, and a few stars were visible. It was very cold, —17° Celsius, with no wind.

They had been standing in the glade for about five minutes when they heard a buzzing sound. They moving through the sky (page 17). It approached from the north, made a vast curve, and came towards looked up and caught sight of a very strong light them from the south. At the same time it descended. The weak buzzing sound became louder. The light halted, and then they could see that a luminous cloud rotated around it. It was like a red-grey mist pulsating with a strange light. At the same time puffs of smoke were thrown up from the top of the cloud. The two men were standing still, staring upwards. Neither of them uttered a word.

The cloud was soon as low as 15 metres, and it was then that they could see, inside it, a round object, flat at the bottom, and metallic-like. They estimate that it was about three metres in diameter. On its under-side there were three hemispheres, and in the centre a tube, some 25 cms. in diameter, which extended about 20 cms. (see page 16).

The object hung in the air a short while, and the buzzing sound continued. Then the sound became louder, and the object descended slowly. At the same time the red-grey mist slowly disappeared. The object stopped moving when it was 3 or 4 metres above the ground, and the buzzing also ceased. Heinonen said it was so close that he could have touched it with his ski-stick.

A bright light-beam was suddenly emitted by the tube. This beam moved around a couple of times before stopping, creating a bright illuminated circle over the snow. This circle was about one metre in diameter, while around it there was a black edge, about 1 cm. wide (see page 16). The two men were standing quite still while a red-grey mist descended over the place.



**Springtime in the forest. Aarno Heinonen (left) and Esko Viljo return to the site of their remarkable experience**

Said Heinonen: "Suddenly I felt as if somebody had seized my waist from behind and pulled me backwards. I think I took a step backwards, and in the same second I caught sight of the creature. It was standing in the middle of the light-beam with a black box in its hands. Out of a round opening in the box there came a yellow light, which was pulsating. The creature was about 90 cms. tall, with very thin arms and legs. Its face was pale like wax. I didn't notice the eyes, but the nose was very strange. It was a hook rather than a nose. The ears were very small, and narrowed towards the head. The creature wore some kind of overall in a light green material. On its feet were boots of a darker green colour, which stretched above the knees. There were also white gauntlets going up to the elbows, and the fingers were bent like claws around the black box."

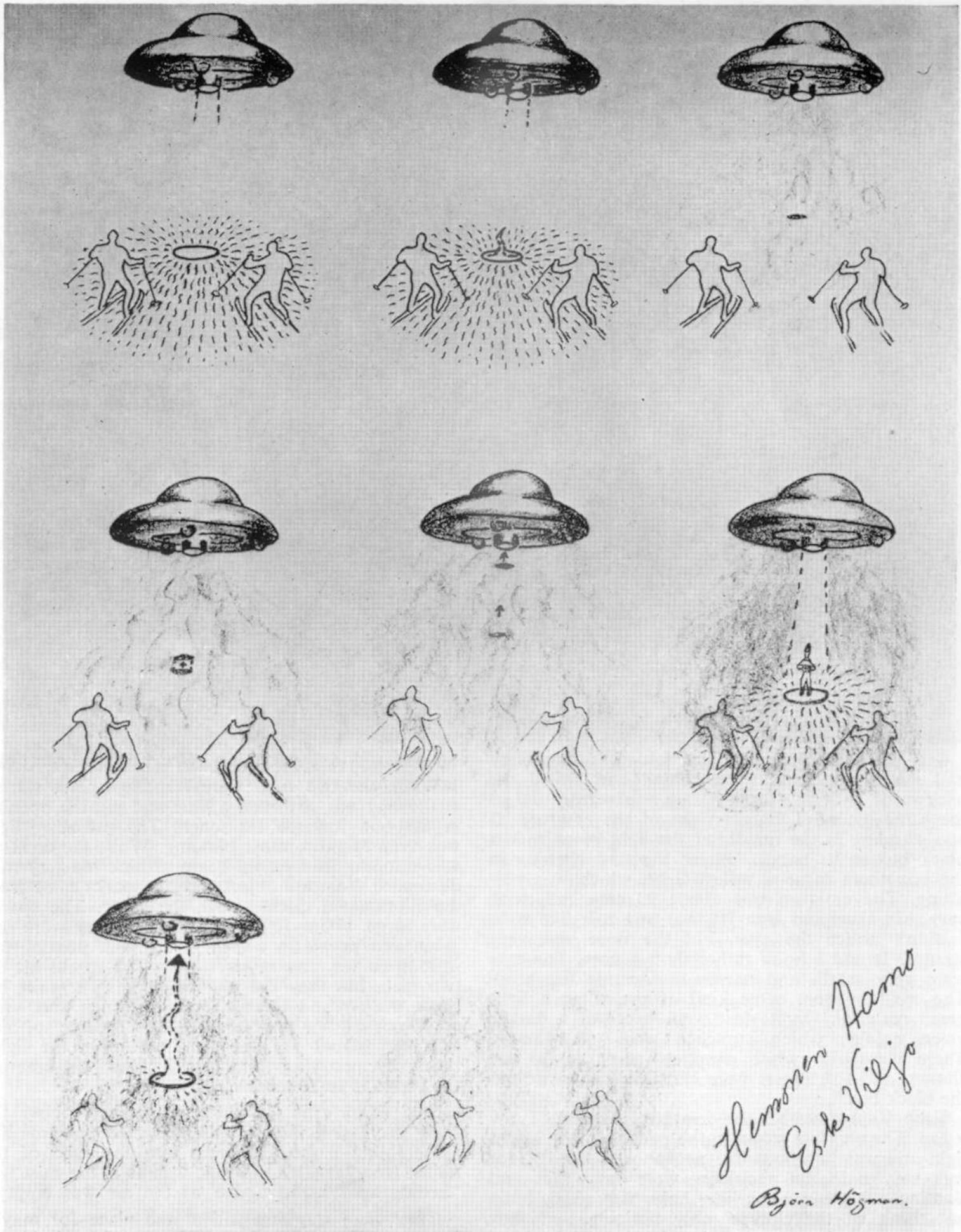
Esko Viljo describes the creature like this: "I saw it too. The creature stood in the middle of the bright light and was luminous like phosphorus, but its face was very pale. Its shoulders were very thin and slanting, with thin arms like those of a child. I did not think of the clothes, only noticing that they were greenish in colour. On its head was a conical helmet shining like metal. The creature was less than

1 metre tall, and very thin" (see Cover illustration).

While the two men were standing there, staring at the creature, it turned a little and put the opening in the box towards Heinonen. The pulsating light was very bright, almost blinding. While the creature was standing in the light-beam a thick red-grey mist descended from the object and big sparks came from the illuminated circle above the snow. The sparks were large, about 10 cms. in length. They were red, green and purple in colour. They were floating out in long curves, and rather slowly. The sparks hit the two men, but they did not feel them. The mist became thicker and thicker, and Heinonen and Viljo could not see one another. At last it became so thick that they could not see the creature in the light-beam. By then, they think they had seen the creature for about 15 to 20 seconds.

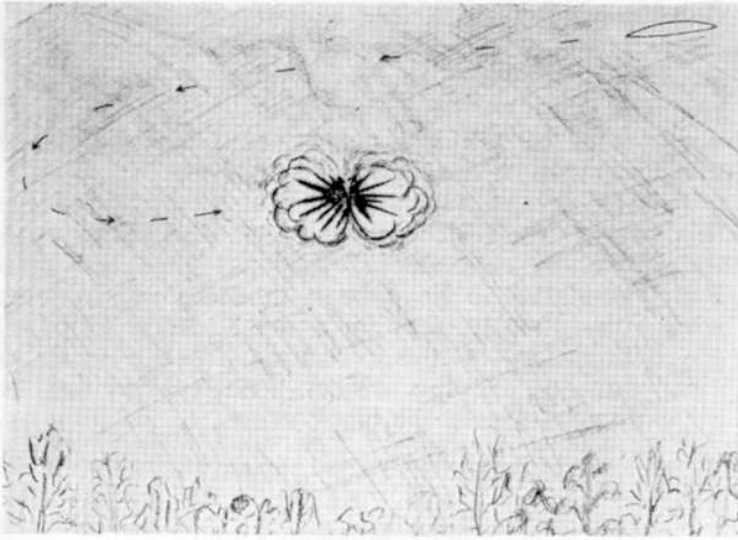
Said Esko Viljo: "Suddenly the circle above the snow decreased, the light-beam floated upwards like a trembling flame and went into the tube of the object (see page 16). Then it was as if the mist was 'thrown apart', and above us the air was empty."

They were standing still at the place for maybe 3 minutes. Said Heinonen: "We were not afraid and we did not talk; we did nothing."



*Hemmon Hamo  
Ester Vilejo  
Björn Höjman.*

The January 7th, 1970 event, in strip form, approved by the witnesses



**The approaching light and cloud  
Physiological effects**

**Aarno Heinonen.** Two minutes after the mist had dispersed, Heinonen felt that his right side had become insensitive, and when taking a step forward with his ski, he fell to the ground.

"I had had my right side towards the light: my right leg hurt and I could not feel anything from my right foot upwards. I could not raise myself although I tried several times".

He had to leave his skis at the place, and Viljo helped him. It took an hour for them to move 2 km. When they reached their village and the cottage belonging to Heinonen's parents, he did not feel at all well. He had pains in his back and in all his limbs. He had a headache and after a while he vomited. When he later passed water, his urine was black like coffee. (This symptom continued for a couple of months.) He also had problems with his breathing.

At 8.00 p.m. the same day, he went to Doctor Pauli Kajanoja in Heinola. The doctor took his blood pressure and found it to be much lower than normal, which indicated shock. Heinonen was given some sleeping pills. On January 8 he visited the same doctor who then prescribed a sedative. The symptoms continued, his limbs were sore and he had problems with his balance. He felt cold but had no fever.

On January 14 he went to the doctor for the third time, and was given medicine for the blood-circulation. The symptoms continued and he could not work. In the middle of May he told us in a letter: "I am still sick. I have a headache and I have pains in the back of my neck, as well as in my stomach and my back. My right hand feels very heavy. I cannot work. I have not improved much since winter. The doctors in Heinola cannot help me. Is the government so poor that it cannot help us? I have tried to get contributions from the authorities but have received nothing. I think they ought to pay me, because I do not know why I am sick. I have been to the place where we saw the object, and after this became even more sick."

Heinonen has had bouts of loss of memory. He did not remember the occurrence in full until some time after the incident. In the beginning of June he was still very weak. He has eaten very little since January. Before January 7 his physical condition was excellent, but now he becomes tired when he is doing even the easiest work.

**Esko Viljo.** Viljo did not feel anything abnormal immediately after the occurrence, but one hour later his face became swollen and reddish in colour, and he walked in an unbalanced way. Doctor Kajanoja prescribed and provided 2 sleeping-pills. The next morning Viljo had difficulties with his balance, with a feeling of lightness, particularly in his legs. His hands and chest became red. On January 9, 1970, he went to the doctor and got a sedative. He suffered from a headache for a couple of days.

On January 12, he visited an eye-specialist in Lahtis, because he had a pain in his eyes. They were swollen. He obtained eye-drops.

On January 14 he went to the doctor in Heinola and got medicine for the blood-circulation.

On January 17 he went to the same doctor who could find nothing wrong with him. When having his sauna, his body became reddish in colour.

In a letter to us in the middle of May he wrote: "Some people visited the site of the occurrence, and they were sick a couple of days later. Could it be some kind of infection?"

Dr. Kajanoja who examined the two men says: "I think the men have suffered a great shock. Esko Viljo was very red in the face, and seemed to be a little swollen. They both seemed to be absent-minded. They talked quickly and incoherently. I could not find anything clinically wrong with Heinonen. He did not feel well, but that could have been his stomach reacting to the shock. The symptoms he described are like those after being exposed to radioactivity. Unfortunately I had no instrument to measure that. As to the black urine, it seems inexplicable. Possibly it could have been blood in it, but this cannot go on for several months. It was impossible to diagnose. Therefore I could not prescribe any particular medicine."

When a friend of ours who is a reporter for a weekly magazine in Sweden, visited the place with a photographer in the beginning of June—together with Viljo and Heinonen—the following happened: after standing a short while at the place, the hands of Viljo, Heinonen and an interpreter became red in colour. Heinonen had to leave the place because of a headache.

### **Other matters**

On the day of the incident, January 7, and at the same time, two other witnesses saw a strange, strong light in the sky. One of them was Elna Siitari, in Paistjärvi village, about 15 km from Imjärvi. The wife of a farmer, she was on her way to the cow-house when she saw the strange light toward Imjärvi.

The same happened in the village Paaso, 10 km

north of Imjärvi, where a man saw the light-phenomenon. The time was then 4.45 p.m.

Matti Haapaniemi, 46 years old, is a farmer and a close neighbour of the Heinonens. He is a member of the communal council in Heinola rural commune. He says: "Several persons in the neighbourhood have laughed at this story, but I do not think they should do that. I have known both Aarno and Esko since they were boys. I trust them. They are both calm persons, and they are also total abstainers. I am sure their story is true."

A year ago, a 16 years-old-boy, Matti Kontulainen from Imjärvi, saw a strange light only a hundred metres from the glade where Viljo and Heinonen saw the object. He says: "It was about 11.0 p.m. in the evening. It was in February, and no stars were visible. I came skiing through the forest after having been to a friend's. I was on my way home. It was dark, but suddenly the forest was lit up by a very bright light going above the tree-tops. It was like a gigantic welding-flame. It disappeared very fast. I have never before seen such a strong light. It came from the south and went to the north. I did not hear any sound, so it could not have been an airplane."

Matti Tuuri, professor in electro-physics at the University of Helsinki, is interested in this case. He says: "The two men say the light was blinding, and white or yellow. This means that it could not have been ultra-violet radiation, which does not go through the clothes. It ought to have been radiation with a higher frequency, for instance X-rays." Professor Tuuri believes that the flying saucers are travelling along the magnetic power-lines around the earth. "There is a lot more to learn in electro-physics. For instance about the fire-ball. According to all physical laws it ought to explode at once, but it does not."

Stig Lundquist, professor at the Institute for Research in High Tension, University of Uppsala, Sweden, has studied some of the accounts. He says in a letter to us: "As far as I can say the phenomenon does not have any connection with any known thunder or electricity. Although I have a great interest in fire-balls, I do not think I can explain the phenomenon as being one."

We at GICOFF have had an earth-sample, together with melted snow, and branches from the place. At the Chalmers Institute of Technology in Gothenburg they have done an analysis of the earth-sample to see if there was any radio-activity. The result: negative.

\* \* \*

I and my colleagues are impressed with the authenticity of this case. Of course one cannot ignore the possibility of a hoax, or even of a delusion, but when one considers the way of writing of the two witnesses, their background in society, the opinion of the reporter who interviewed them, the opinion of the photographer, the doctor and the close neighbour, hoax seems to be ruled out. Then, of course, there is the persisting evidence of their post-incident illness. There are also many details in the descrip-

tions given by them that are commonly-known to many UFO researchers, and I feel these could not have been known to the two witnesses. Among other things I refer to the sound, the descriptions of the object and of the black box; also the manner of disappearance of the object.

Among details which I consider of importance in this report are (i) the rotation of the cloud when the object descended, (ii) the fact that the black box was stated to have been pointing at Heinonen who, subsequently, was far more ill than Viljo, (iii) the description of the creature, (iv) the mode of disappearance of the object, and (v) among the physiological effects, the black urine.

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# OF MEN, CATS AND MAGONIA

*Aimé Michel*

A letter to the Editor of *Flying Saucer Review* which in the author's own words, is really a "little article." Translated by Gordon Creighton.

SIR; I read Luis Schönher's article *Observations of a Sceptical Believer* (FSR Vol. XVI, No. 3, p. 16) to my cat. He liked it very much.

"Excellently reasoned," said the cat, "and the proof of this is that I myself reason in the same manner. I too have reflected and I too have found three possible reasons. I have reflected on the incomprehensible behaviour of mankind, and I have found three reasons to explain it."

"And what are those reasons?" I enquired, my interest aroused.

1) "Miew; 2) Miaw; 3) Miow."

We had a long discussion. I did my best to enlighten his poor cat brain. I asked him whether he accepted that cats are more intelligent than molluscs. He replied "Miew," which means "of course." Then I asked him whether he accepted that, around about the Precambrian Period, the ancestor of the cats was a sort of mollusc. "Miew", he agreed, "But man's ancestor too." Then I enquired whether he accepted that evolution had never ceased, from the time of the molluscs up to himself." "Of course," he agreed again. And then finally I asked whether he accepted that evolution had continued on beyond the cat to man.

"What nonsense!" he exclaimed. "What the devil do you mean by 'beyond the cat'?"

"What I mean," I replied, "is that for me, *miew*, *miaw* and *miow* are merely three stupid noises, and that I have hundreds of millions of ideas that I can express, and that I am as superior to you as you are superior to the slug—indeed even more so."

He gazed at me for a moment, then turned his back on me in noble fashion and went off to give the neighbour's cat a hiding. Then he returned and sat down in front of me and continued the discussion from where we had left it.

He next asked me whether I accepted that my ancestor in Pre-Cambrian times would have been a sort of mollusc. I replied: "Miew." Then he asked whether I accepted that evolution had continued on from the mollusc as far as me without a break. I replied: "Of course." Then he enquired whether I could give him a convincing reason to prove that universal evolution had halted suddenly at the birth of Aimé Michel (there was a sly look in his eyes as he watched me). I replied: "Of course not." Then he yawned, and went on:

"Is the world of the flying saucers (let us call it Magonia) present here, on earth?"

"Obviously it is," I said. "People are seeing them every day."

"Are men present on Magonia?" he asked.

"Of course not," I replied. "How could they be? Apparently, in order to come here from Magonia and get back there again, it is necessary to transcend time and space. Not only do we not know how to do it, but our minds are even incapable of conceiving of it."

"What!" cried my cat. "You can't conceive of what Magonia is doing before your eyes, and you have the nerve to say that you can understand why Magonia is doing it? If you can understand Magonia, then I can understand you, and understand

what you do: your mathematical formulae, your philosophical speculations, the theory of numbers, Maupertuis' principle, and the principle of transmogrification. And if you refuse to grant me the intelligence to know all this, then admit that your speculations on the why and the how of Magonia are *miew*, *miaw*, and *miow*. It's just a lot of yapping and braying. It's as if I explained the behaviour of Anderson and Borman, of Einstein, of Joan of Arc, and of Socrates, by the desire to eat goldfish. How do you know that the concepts of "motive", and "wish" and "aim" mean any more to Magonia than *Miaw* means to you? How do you know even that Magonia *thinks in concepts*? How can you talk about *hostility* or *friendliness* in relation to Magonia? The lamb that you protect against the wolf and that you feed and care for, he imagines, in his lamb concepts (if concepts they be) that you love him. He will go on thinking it right up to when he gets to the butcher. The little child that you abandon to the surgeon, it thinks that you want to cause it suffering. The lamb will never understand what a butcher is. The little child will only learn what a surgeon is by becoming a man, that is to say, by passing in a few years from the beginning of the Tertiary Period (in which the most evolved of the animals were thinking already like our fifteen-month-old children) to the Quaternary Period. You, without knowing it, are perhaps in the slaughterhouse. Or in the hospital. If you are led there by ways that are not the ways of your human reason, you will never know it."