

(apparently as rare as they are inexplicable) that she considers to have resulted from the incident. They should also know that the most remarkable of these traits is found in another of our 29 French cases (Case 6), which poses a problem...

The abduction happened on the night of the 10th to the 11th of April. Rose C. was 24 years old. Divorced for several months, she was the mother of a four-year-old daughter who was staying for 15 days with her paternal grandparents.

Rose, who lived with her father, had come on a bicycle accompanied by her two dogs, to spend the night in a *mazet* (an outbuilding made of stone that can shelter one or two people and is primitively furnished). The *mazet* was fairly isolated and Rose was planning to do some work there the next day. She was awakened in the middle of the night by the dogs who were growling, but not barking. Worried, she went out and followed the dogs in the direction of another, smaller *mazet* which also belonged to her father.

It was thus that she found herself in the presence of four strangers: one of normal size and three "giants" measuring about 2.30 or 2.40 meters tall. The one she called a "normal man" spoke perfect French and played the role of translator between Rose and the three giants, whom he introduced as coming from a faraway world.

Aside from their extraordinary height, these giants could have passed for Hindus. Two of them looked athletic and spoke very little. The third, who seemed older, was apparently the chief. He had something like a black half marble in the middle of his forehead. He wore around his neck a strap holding some kind of box with buttons.

The "normal man" explained that he himself had had a close encounter of the third kind 20 years earlier at the age of 25 and that he had been a teacher. Not having any family ties and being alone in the world, he had accepted the invitation of these extraterrestrials and lived since then with them. He had no regrets about his choice. When Rose was amazed that he looked so young for someone who should be 45, he explained that he was not that old, because "up there time passes much less quickly."

As soon as he had explained that she had nothing to fear, the "normal man" told her that they would very much like, if possible, to take some books. Rose took them to the little *mazet* and gave them an old copy of *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas, as well as very old copies of a military medals magazine and a fashion magazine that she had bought that day.

The former teacher explained to Rose that the Earth had been set up for use by its inhabitants by these extraterrestrials who had even put the Moon, reputedly a natural satellite, in place. But this human colony

on Earth had been something of a penal colony for banished individuals of whom we are the descendants.

You must know, to appreciate this story fully, that Rose is a warm and voluble person. Very quickly, in spite of her initial fright, she felt very confident. When the strangers suggested taking her with them, however, she withdrew and declined the invitation, explaining that she had a family and particularly a young child. It seems, moreover, that the chief, with the black marble on his forehead, had divined this even before Rose said anything, for he asked (always via the translator) "Who is the old man, and who is the child?" During the rest of the encounter, this "man" gave Rose the impression of having great wisdom and great physical power, and a strong feeling of affection grew rapidly between them.

They showed her, practically invisible in a dark nook, the vehicle that they came in. It was enormous and had a shape like a straw hat. It was slate grey, parked about a meter above the ground and had no support between it and the ground, which amazed Rose.

The visitors gave Rose a demonstration of their ability to levitate and teletransport objects. When they were inside the little *mazet*, the chief used the buttons on the little box he wore to dematerialize a rock. The rock reappeared outside the hut without the door having been opened. In addition, he raised up from a distance some large rocks that floated in the air like balloons.

But the words that the chief gave to Rose are much more interesting than the anti-gravity parlor tricks. Concerning a family of rats that had taken up house among the books in the *mazet*, he said that they should be allowed to live. These words and the quiet, gentle smile of the stranger reassured Rose. She said she would give bread to the rats tomorrow, but the giant told her that it was not good to do that either, because then they would become dependent on man. "Don't kill the rats. And don't feed them."

A little later, the teacher brought the conversation around to moral questions. He explained that they were there to take vegetation and mineral samples to evaluate the consequences of atomic explosions. It was an occasion for him to denounce the destructive and unthinking behavior of humans, their senseless acts toward not only their contemporaries, but also future generations. He made some remarks about certain "great men" whose greatness was based on immense massacres and infinite miseries inflicted. He told Rose that because of Man, a cataclysm ravaged the planet 11,357 years before (9405 B.C.). He displayed great emotion in speaking of the beauty of the Earth and the foolish destruction of its inhabitants. Rose immediately shared this emotion. When she asked why the extraterrestrials did not intervene