

HOW SOME OF THE SAUCERS FLY

by

Dino Kraspedon

This is the fourth extract from the book *Contato com os Discos voadores*, which first appeared in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in 1957, and will shortly be published in an English edition by Neville Spearman Ltd., London. This book gives a summary, largely in the form of questions and answers, of conversations the author had in 1952, and subsequently, with the captain of a flying saucer. It is possible that Mr. Kraspedon may visit England in 1959.

Q. Have you any objection to telling us about the problems of navigation in flying saucers?

A. None at all. It is obvious that interplanetary voyages will not be possible for people of earth for some time to come, but we will give them a helping hand by showing you what takes place.

The atmospheric pressure on earth is 1.033 kg. per sq. cm. If a sheet of paper is placed over the mouth of a glass full of water and turned upside down, the atmospheric pressure on the paper will prevent the water from being subject to the force of gravity and spilling out of the glass.

We use this natural atmospheric pressure in the flying saucer. It is this which gives us the necessary propulsive force.

If we maintain this pressure underneath the saucer and bring about a decompression on top, the craft will be given a terrific upward thrust which no known force can match.¹

Q. Please be more explicit, I do not quite understand the system you describe.

A. It is quite simple, my friend. We create a vacuum in the direction of travel. If we have low pressure on one side, the other side is subject to the full atmospheric pressure. Any object, whatever its nature, can only be moved if some difference of energy potential is created. For example, with a saucer of 20 metres diameter, we get $\pi r^2 = 3,141,600$ sq. cm. as the surface of the saucer. With an atmospheric pressure of 1.033 kg. per sq. cm. we can calculate that the force operating on a saucer of 20 metres diameter is equal to 3,278,272.8 kgs.

This gives you some idea of what is involved; even the smallest type of saucer develops a thrust of approximately 3 million kgs., whereas even your most powerful aeroplanes cannot develop more than a few thousand kilogrammes of thrust.

In a standard transport saucer this pressure would be much greater. With a craft of 100 metres diameter we would get a thrust of 78,540,000 kgs. and with one of 200 metres diameter the thrust would be 314,160,000 kgs.

There is no limit to the size or capacity of these craft. We construct big cargo carriers up to 600 metres diameter with a payload of almost 300 million kilogrammes.

This is more or less theoretical because we never use the whole cargo carrying capacity of these giant freighters. If we did so, we would not have sufficient force available to develop high speeds.

When we undertake any interplanetary journey we use a low capacity craft. The size depends on the object of the visit. Generally saucers with a diameter of 20 metres are the handiest. These craft, fully equipped weigh 250,000 kgs. The total capacity of this craft would be 3 million kilos, but we use this margin of power to enable us to operate at high speeds.

A ship could never develop energy on this scale; not even atomic energy can compare with the forces of nature. And nature does it without poisoning the atmosphere! Is it clear to you now?

Q. I understand. What an extraordinarily simple process!

A. Yes, it is simplicity itself. It is just a question of knowing how. But it would not be complete unless I told you how we set about creating a vacuum externally. First I will explain to you how the saucer is steered. We can move this vacuum in any direction. Course is set by operating an ordinary lever on a hemispherical mounting which moves the vacuum in the required direction. If we wish it to go in a particular direction, we produce a vacuum on that side of the saucer, and immediately the atmosphere pro-

duces a pressure on the opposite side pushing us in the direction of the vacuum. Let us imagine that we are moving in level horizontal flight; if we wish to make a right-angled turn, all we have to do is move the vacuum to the top, or to one of the other sides, and we shall move at the same speed in the new direction. We can change direction abruptly and do not need to describe curves. Do you understand now?

Q. Yes, I see the whole import of it. This can revolutionise all our concepts of aerial navigation. It is a diabolical piece of machinery.

A. It depends on the use to which it is put. I still have faith in humanity and promise that if one day you can agree to abolish war, I will personally come and help you achieve these results, and other more important ones. I shall teach you how to make life a paradise.

But, as I was saying, we create a vacuum and, to use your words, a "diabolical" thrust. Friction, however, does not arise as we are always moving into a vacuum. And without friction the craft does not heat up. We often need extra heating to keep ourselves warm, because the vacuum causes a drop in temperature.

External Vacuum

There are no technical difficulties involved in producing an external vacuum. You know that cathode rays have the strange property of decomposing the atmosphere through which they pass. Under the action of these rays, the elements of the atmosphere revert to their etheric state. In addition to this we make cathode rays intersect the anode rays at an angle of 45° . This we achieve by using high voltage current.

Q. Where is the cathode ray apparatus situated?

A. All over the peripheral area. That is to say, the whole of the outer edge of the craft acts as a cathode ray emitter. These rays are deadly and can only be projected outwards. If a human being were to be exposed to rays as powerful as the ones we use, his cells would be destroyed, and he would suffer lethal burns. But inside the craft there is less radio-activity than in the air that is breathed on earth.

The coloration that saucers appear to give off in flight is caused by these rays; the same thing happens in a Crookes or Geissler tube. They are a result of the low pressure or vacuum that we create. If we wish to go very fast, we use an absolute vacuum and move through space in a flash. At other times, we use a semi-vacuum and we move more slowly. The intensity of the vacuum is proportional to the current used and is controlled by a rheostat. If we want to follow an

undulating course we use a pulsing current.

When we are using a semi-vacuum, you observe a luminosity around us at night; but if we are using an absolute vacuum we become invisible because light does not exist in a vacuum.² This is always the reason why people say that we appear to be stationary and suddenly vanish and appear in another spot.

I must admit that other methods are also used, such as the bismuth system, which is still used on some craft to set up a difference of energy potential; in fact, this was the system we used to use at first. (The Captain described this other process to us; as it was a complex one we would rather not repeat it here.) After having travelled around for some time in these bismuth crates, someone from another planet explained to us how to use a simpler method. Now they are only used for space travel by enthusiasts as a kind of sport, just as you still use sailing boats.

That, my friend, is how you can make a craft as fast as, or even faster than, a flash of lightning.

Getting Away From Earth

Q. I fully accept the explanation you have given. Of course, a craft which could create an external vacuum should have great manoeuvrability, motive power and payload. It appears to me, however, that this system would not be very good for getting away from the earth. It is easy to manoeuvre as long as there is atmospheric pressure. But at a certain height, unless our calculations are basically wrong, this pressure goes down to nothing. I would like you to talk frankly about the method you use to escape from the earth, because what you have told us so far is only part of the answer.

A. You are forcing me to elucidate a vital point, which I would have preferred not to tell you. Once you know this, we shall no longer have any security and would run serious risks due to man's innate love of conquest. But no one can refuse to tell the truth when he is asked out of the blue. I will tell you everything, but you must promise to keep secret the means by which we produce this force.

Q. Does this mean that I am not to tell it to other people?

A. Of course. If there were nothing in what I have to tell you I would not be imposing conditions. But you must use your own judgment. I cannot forbid you passing on to others information which could contribute to the wellbeing of the community. But I insist that the information that I give you concerning means of destruction must be kept for yourself only. What I want to tell you could bring destruction even to us, as it

would make it possible for you to reach our homeland. The menace that hangs over the world as a result of human technological development would be upon us, and it might turn men into devils. If you approve of the other things I tell you, you may talk about them and carry them out. And if at any time any technical difficulties should arise, I shall be ready to help you solve them. It is sufficient for you to call upon me in thought and I shall know, even at a distance.

Friendship does not impose conditions, and generosity ought to be our universal motto.

I also ask you that, if one day you should want to make use of this information for the good of the world, you should first tell your own people, as the Brazilians are not aggressive and abhor war. Do not try to explain the problem to anyone who could make one of these craft into a weapon of mass destruction. However, if your people do not attach any importance to the information, you should publish it as you see fit. You should do this without any restrictions, so that all men know it and no one nation can gain an advantage over another.

Now I will satisfy your curiosity, but first please pay special attention to certain details which I have told you.

Etheric Fluid

Around every inhabited globe in space there is an etheric fluid which envelops it and creates suitable conditions for life.

It is a temporary habitat, not only for men but also for spirits. No-one can escape from it unless he knows how to produce another for his use.

Q. Are spirits also caught within this etheric envelope?

A. Yes. A spirit inhabiting a planet has a fluid body surrounding it. A spirit who is still bound by matter to any extent cannot live without it. If it attempts to escape from its particular world, its spirit body leaves it and is re-assimilated into the etheric envelope of the planet. Thus, even spirits are prisoners for as long as they are unable to reject evil, and remain ignorant.

Many people call this fluid "ether," but the label is of little importance. That is a question of words, which does not affect the problem. What is important is to know what it is made of.

We could well call it "electric fluid," which would be nearer the truth. In electricity there is a negative charge and a positive charge. In physics we have protons and anti-protons, mesons and anti-mesons, electrons and anti-electrons, matter and anti-matter. On earth we only find matter, yet it is possible to create anti-matter.

A body made of anti-matter would be expelled

from matter. The force of repulsion would be unbelievable. There are interplanetary vessels which are composed entirely of anti-matter, but the force-field created by this means has a terrifying effect on the physical properties of the people travelling in them. For this reason our space ships are made of matter.

Further, we make our own etheric fluid inside the saucer, and by changing its polarity so as to oppose that of the earth we are repelled from the planet at a speed corresponding to the difference in polarity between the saucer and the earth.

A knowledge of magnetic fields is required. You on earth do not yet define them correctly, but we know that the magnetic field is made up of the "electric fluid" of the planet. If we "manufacture" an electric fluid which differs from the terrestrial etheric envelope, the magnetic field of the earth no longer affects us, and we enjoy complete freedom of movement. We can change direction in a way that amazes you, we can move at the speed of light and suffer no ill-effects. It is a complete breaking of the shackles which bind man.

Mars in a Few Minutes

Within the earth's atmosphere we always use a vacuum system, but when we leave this atmosphere we put the anti-electron producing machinery into action, and our escape velocity is then phenomenal. Without wishing to terrify you, I can tell you that normally we can reach Mars in a matter of minutes, unless there is a breakdown, and then the trip becomes tedious.

When you entered our craft I called your attention to the different kind of light inside which did not emanate from any particular piece of machinery, but was caused by the air itself being luminous. You also noticed an agreeable, almost spiritual feeling of lightness, a state of near levitation, as well as a feeling of great well-being. At that time you were in an artificial etheric atmosphere and not the ordinary earth atmosphere. When one's eyes are accustomed to seeing the terrestrial ether, the artificial ether appears luminous.

Without this artificial ether no interplanetary voyage is possible. If you tried to make a journey without this precaution, you would face certain death. The fluid which binds you to your bodies would leave you, and your bodies would instantly be crystallised. This is the mystery of the crystallised bodies which reach the earth in the form of meteorites; any body in space without ether undergoes this process, whether it be made of carbon, calcium, iron, nickel, or any other element.

After passing out of the magnetic field of the earth, all we need to do is to create an ether similar to that of the planet to which we are travelling, and we will then be attracted by it. We can create this ether of another planet even on earth, so that we will be repelled from earth and attracted to the other planet whose ether is contained within the saucer. On reaching that planet, we need only to change the ether again to propel ourselves once more into space.

By this means life can be maintained inside the craft whatever its construction, and at the same time it provides us with a means of locomotion.

Q. I think I understand the system, it is rational enough, but the difficulty would appear to lie in making and changing this "electric fluid" as required.

A. You are wrong there. In nature nothing is difficult. Things are only difficult for those who make them so. Let us go back to what I told you about an electron being a wave and not a particle. One of your physicists said, correctly, that an electron is an integration of electro-magnetic waves. But an electro-magnetic wave can be of positive or negative polarity. If we were to send electro-magnetic pulses between magnets, the waves thus produced would create an ether different from that on earth. A variation in the distance between the plates would bring about a modification in the ether produced. That is what you wanted to know in clear and simple terms. I cannot tell you more clearly than that.

Electrical Energy

Q. Is very much electrical energy required to bring about this effect?

A. Everything is relative. On our saucer, the voltage and current are very high indeed. On a small craft used for research, very little current would be needed.

Q. Where do you get this energy from to achieve these results?

A. There are various means of making it. It can be obtained by turning hydrogen into helium at lower temperature and bombarding deuterium with heavier mesons, releasing a fabulous amount of energy; or by using ultra rays in an acid solution saturated with helium nuclei. The latter process is the most usual.

Q. How does the transformation of ultra rays into usable energy take place?

A. If you allow radioactivity to pass through a magnetic field you will get alpha, beta and gamma rays. The first are helium nuclei, the second are electrons and the third are gamma rays which are similar to ultra rays in their electro-magnetic content. These three compo-

nents of radioactivity are related. The ultra rays, or gamma rays, on passing close to helium nuclei, bring about a deformation of space and give birth to electrons until their wave energy is expended. Thus when gamma rays pass through an acid solution saturated with helium nuclei, the newly-created electrons gyrate around the nuclei, but the acid prevents them from joining up with the nuclei and they are collected on plates at the bottom of the apparatus. This provides an inexhaustible supply of energy which requires nothing more than a little acid solution and some helium nuclei.

Solar Energy

There are, however, other means. On an inter-planetary journey something might go wrong with the apparatus we use for transforming hydrogen into helium and the gamma ray collecting apparatus. If this should happen we would turn to solar energy. We would pass it through a tube of coal-gas. This gas, with a suitable catalyst, unites with water, turning it into formaldehyde. This product is then oxidised, giving us coal-gas and water again. In this second process solar energy is turned into usable electric current, which is quite sufficient to meet our immediate requirements, as on interplanetary voyages there is no lack of propulsive energy for the craft. The laws of inertia provide us with the necessary acceleration to reach the planet that is our objective.

Q. So that explains the whole operation of the saucer?

A. Yes, that is how it moves. We have, however, several navigational instruments, as you were able to see. Supposing you had to explain to somebody how a jet plane moves, you would naturally say that a backward thrust is exerted which impells the craft in a forward direction. That would be true, but inside the plane there are many navigational instruments.

If I were begin to talk to you about the equipment we use for detecting the etheric covering of planets, that alone would take us some three hours. The instrument we use for interplanetary communication is also complex; it is based on principles that you already know of, but have not put into practice.

The most important scientific discoveries are still to be made in the simplest things. The secret lies in concentrating on the main issue without going into abstract formulæ. With a formula you can explain a phenomenon but you cannot discover it. In science we have to try and discover things, even though everything may already ap-

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Have spacemen come to save us?

This report on **Dr. G. H. Williamson's** lecture at London's Caxton Hall is reproduced by permission in full from the "Psychic News" of September 27. The reporter is JOHN PITT.

THE FLYING SAUCERS are not going home; like girls, they're here to stay.

That is the firm opinion of George Hunt Williamson, one of America's foremost "saucerers" now lecturing in this country.

With a pack-jammed, hushed audience in the Caxton Hall last Thursday, I listened to this slightly-built, extremely young-looking doctor of anthropology as he stated in all seriousness that he believed flying saucers had come back after thousands of years and were using ancient landing bases in the "green hell" of the Upper Amazon.

Candidly, it took a lot of believing.

But George Williamson is a spellbinder. A polished lecturer with certainly the most convincing air of sincerity, he told how from his childhood he had been deeply interested in the legendary lost cities of the unexplored Peruvian hinterland.

At the age of seven, as young Schlemann had dreamed of Homer's Troy, he dreamed of the El Dorado of the Conquistadores.

In later life he had studied in universities the myths and customs of the Amerindians.

Somewhere in the back of his mind lay the idea that he might succeed in finding those hidden cities sought so long by Col. Fawcett, in that "Lost World" so vividly described by Conan Doyle.

Coming of the Saucers

Then came 1947 and the first mass reports of unidentified flying objects. They tallied with many of the legends he had heard during his Indian studies. Another interest grew.

In August, 1952, he claimed he began to contact the crews of these strange craft by radio.

In November that year he participated in George Adamski's memorable Arizona Desert "contact" with the much-discussed Venusian.

But he never forgot in the present the compelling call of the ancient past.

In 1957 he went exploring in Peru, hoping to

find evidence there that connected the UFOs, Indian mythology and those legendary cities still undiscovered by man.

When he arrived in Eastern Peru he learned that saucers had been seen, singly and in formations, heading to and from the "lost world." He felt he was on the right track.

There were, too, several signs depicting Quetzalcoatl—the feathered serpent. This sign had, in his experience, always been connected with some form of seismic catastrophe.

Another petroglyph he saw in considerable numbers was a plumed tiger's head.

Road to the Sky

To him this pointed towards a connection with the Paytiti of Indian legend, the ancient "empire of the Tiger King" that ante-dated any known pre-Columbian culture in South America.

These statements, too, were a little hard to believe—even though Williamson fought with considerable good humour a dogged losing battle with an episcopo showing coloured slides of these inscriptions.

Paytiti. The empire which according to the Machiguenga Indians had direct contact with men who flew in from other worlds. The Paytitians, a giant fair-skinned people, had, according to local legend, a "road to the sky."

The combination of local legend, evidence from mammoth solar temples perched high on mountain tops—suggesting that those who built them were men at least ten feet tall—and the recurring theme of saucers past and present; these factors seemed to add to only one possible conclusion—to George Williamson.

Had perhaps the same people arrived, after thousands of years, to warn man again that there would be another world upheaval?

Was it possible, he asked, that they had chosen to visit these ancient places because of their earlier association with the terrain and, further, might they not have mapped the area and even returned to their former refuelling bases?

Nothing, of course, is impossible.

What, too, of those huge dressed stones he had seen, way up in those temples almost touching the sky? Some, he said, must have weighed over two hundred tons and could not have been quarried nearer than as many hundred miles away.

No modern construction gang could, for all our mechanical knowledge, emulate this achievement. By whom, how and when were they built?

Williamson painted an almost frightening picture of an infinitesimally wise race of beings who, and only who, could have directed the human beings who constructed such buildings.

The workers themselves, whose architecture is vastly superior to those of the later people who overlaid their massive stonework with puny crude structures of their own, what happened to them?

Legend told again that they had perished after what appears to be a prolonged meteor-shower.

Was it to warn them of this calamity that the flying saucermen had come before?

Legend of Space People

The same legends told how for many years before the catastrophe this race of gods had come and gone, to and from their home on some other planet.

It seemed certain—to George Williamson—that their purpose must have been to awaken the people of Paytiti in advance and, possibly to evacuate them to other worlds when the cosmic upheaval began.

Was this happening again, he wondered?

No, he did not believe they had come to warn us not to play with atom bombs, though certainly we had been unwise to explode them in places on earth where her crust was most fragile.

But he did think it possible there was a danger, possibly in a few hundred thousand years, that we might collide with the sun.

Already there had been noted an alarming increase in cosmic radiation and, he claimed, he and others thought this might be an indication that the sun was undergoing a change for the worse—for us.

The sun, only an insignificant star, is, in astronomical terms, a yellow dwarf.

Yellow dwarfs have a tendency to burn—as all science-fiction readers know—for just so long. Then they explode, becoming super-nova—infernos of burning gases, shooting out masses of solid matter into space.

Was it stretching too long a bow, wondered George Williamson, to suggest that the purpose of the saucers' arrival was to prepare mankind gently for a mass evacuation into some other, safer pocket in outer space? Had they come to

draw us into an inter-stellar union?

Subtly they had come; preparing earth gradually for their invasion by showing themselves peacefully but persistently over the past eighty years.

Then, in 1947, they had begun to arrive in greater number, gradually stepping up their activity, making their presence felt to those they had chosen to contact physically and by other means.

Over the past eighty years, other changes had taken place on earth. There had been a renaissance of spiritual rather than religious awakening, he explained. Humanitarian movements had been started and man had been swept along on a tide of general social improvement.

This he connected directly with the early advent of the strange sky phenomena reported in the 1880s.

Seismic Changes

Would earth come suddenly to an end? No, he did not think so. But possibly there would be further seismic changes such as have been going on continually since the world was first formed.

Some might die, but, and this he stressed, death was nothing to be feared—whatever happened. It did not separate us from those we love and it set men free. Life for those who survived would continue, if not here, then on some other planet.

I was impressed by this philosophy—and not without good reason. Unknown to the audience, he had learned soon after he arrived in England that his wife, ill when he left to lecture in Italy on his way here, had passed while he was in that country.

It took not only sincerity, I thought, but courage to lecture that evening on the expedition on which she had accompanied him only last year.

Yes, whatever happened, he continued, the people who were watching us from the sky would help mankind. They would give us the choice whether to stay or leave with them when the time came.

"They are here to invade and conquer us," he said of the people he claimed to have contacted.

"But with a slight difference—with love."

Dr. Williamson comments: Mr. Pitt has written a brilliant report. However there are one or two points I would like to correct. (a) The "Green Hell" refers to the jungles of South America and not only to the Upper Amazon, (b) Paititi is the correct spelling, not Paytiti, (c) the people of Paititi were "giants" as he reported, (d) I did not suggest that the people of ancient Paititi had been evacuated by UFOs when their Empire was destroyed by natural catastrophes, (e) Mr. Pitt reported I thought it possible we might eventually collide with the Sun. That was not what I said—we are being drawn toward a new embryonic sun which is not in our system, and (f) our Sun is not a "yellow" dwarf, but orange.

SON OF THE SUN

by

“Alexander Blade”

This article originally appeared in the November, 1947, issue of *Fantastic Stories*, and is reproduced here from the August-September, 1958, issue of *Round Robin*, published by the Borderland Science Research Associates (BSRA).

WE ARE ALREADY here, among you. Some of us have always been here, with you, yet apart from, watching, and occasionally guiding you whenever the opportunity arose. Now, however, our numbers have been increased in preparation for a further step in the development of your planet: a step of which you are not yet aware, although it has been hinted at frequently enough in the parables of your prophets, who have garbled whatever inspiration they have been able to receive. Sometimes they were ignorant. Sometimes they were unable to translate clearly the concepts implanted in their minds. Sometimes they were cautious, and to insure the preservation of the information they wished to place upon the record in the world, they spoke in metaphors and symbols.

Space People's Landmarks

We have been confused with the gods of many world-religions, although we are not gods, but your own fellow creatures, as you will learn directly before many more years have passed. You will find records of our presence in the mysterious symbols of ancient Egypt, where we made ourselves known in order to accomplish certain ends. Our principal symbol appears in the religious art of your present civilisation and occupies a position of importance upon the great seal of your country (the United States of America—Ed.). It has been preserved in certain secret societies founded originally to keep alive the knowledge of our existence and our intentions toward mankind.

We have left you certain landmarks, placed carefully in different parts of the globe, but most prominently in Egypt where we established our

headquarters upon the occasion of our last overt, or, as you would say, public, appearance. At that time the foundations of your present civilisation were “laid in the earth,” and the most ancient of your known landmarks established by means that would appear as miraculous to you now as they did to the pre-Egyptians, so many thousands of years ago. Since that time the whole art of building in stone has become symbolic, to many of you, of the work in hand—the building of the human race towards its perfection.

Your ancestors knew us in those days as preceptors and as friends. Now, through your own efforts, you have almost reached, in your majority, a new step on the long ladder of your liberation. You have been constantly aided by our watchful “inspiration,” and hindered only by the difficulties natural to your processes of physical and moral development, for the so-called “forces of evil and darkness” have always been recruited from among the ranks of your own humanity—a circumstance for which you would be exceedingly grateful if you possessed full knowledge of conditions in the universe.

It has Happened Before

You have lately achieved the means of destroying yourselves. Do not be hasty in your self-congratulation. Yours is not the first civilisation to have achieved—and used—such means. Yours will not be the first civilisation to be offered the means of preventing that destruction and proceeding, in the full glory of its accumulated knowledge, to establish an era of enlightenment upon the earth.

However, if you do accept the means offered you, and if you do establish such a “millenium”

upon the basis of your present accomplishments, yours will be the first civilisation to do so. Always, before, the knowledge, the techniques, the instructions, have become the possessions of a chosen few: a few chose themselves by their own open-minded and clear-sighted realisation of "the shapes of things to come." They endeavoured to pass on their knowledge in the best possible form, and by the most enduring means at their command. In a sense they succeeded, but in another sense their failure equalled their success. Human acceptance is, to a very large extent, measurable by human experience. Succeeding generations, who never knew our actual presence, translated the teachings of their elders in the terms of their own experience. For instance, a cross-sectional drawing, much simplified and stylised by many copyings, of one of our travelling machines became the "Eye of Horus," and then other eyes of other gods. Finally, the ancient symbol that was once an accurate representation of an important mechanical device has been given surprising connotations by the modern priesthood of psychology.

The important fact is, however, that we are here, among you, and that you, as a world-race, will know it before very much longer! The time is almost ripe but, as with all ripening things, the process may not be hurried artificially without danger of damaging the fruit. There is a right time for every action, and the right time for our revelation of ourselves to your era is approaching.

Some Have Seen Our Ships

Some of you have seen our "advance guard" already. You have met us often in the streets of your cities, and you have not noticed us. But when we flash through your skies in the ancient traditional vehicles you are amazed, and those of you who open your mouths and tell of what you have seen are accounted dupes and fools. Actually you are prophets, seers in the true sense of the word. You in Kansas and Oklahoma, you in Oregon and in California, and Idaho, you know what you have seen: do not be dismayed by meteorologists. Their business is the weather. One of you says "I saw a torpedo-shaped object." Others report "disc-like objects," some of you says "spherical objects," or "platter-like objects." You are all reporting correctly and accurately what you saw, and in most cases you are describing the same sort of vehicle.

The "golden disc"—now confused with the solar disc and made a part and parcel of religion—even in your own times. The "discus," hurled sunward by the Grecian—and your own—athletes. The "eye of Horus," and the other eyes

of symbology, alchemical and otherwise. These are our mechanical means of transport.

Now that the art of manufacturing plastic materials has reached a certain perfection among you, perhaps you can imagine a material, almost transparent to the rays of ordinary visible light, yet strong enough to endure the stresses of extremely rapid flight. Look again at the great nebulae, and think of the construction of your own galaxy, and behold the universal examples of what we have found to be the perfect shape for an object which is to travel through what you still fondly refer to as "empty" space.

In the centre of the discus, gyroscopically controlled within a central sphere of the same transparent material, our control rooms revolve freely, accommodating themselves and us to flat or edge-wise flight. Both methods are suited to your atmosphere, and when we convert abruptly from one to the other, as we are sometimes obliged to do, and you are watching, our machines seem suddenly to appear—or to disappear. At our possible speeds your eyes, untrained and unprepared for the manœuvre, do make mistakes—but not the mistakes your scientists so often accuse them of making.

We Can Remain Invisible

We pass over your hilltops in horizontal flight. You see and report a torpedo-shaped object. We pass over, in formation, flying vertically "edge-on," and you report a series of disc-shaped, platter-like objects, or perhaps a sphere. Or we go over at night, jet-slits glowing, and you see an orange disc. In any event you see us, and in any event we do not care. If we chose to remain invisible, we could do so, easily, and, in fact, we have done so almost without exception for hundreds of years. But you must become accustomed to our shapes in your skies, for one day they will be familiar, friendly, and reassuring sights.

This time, it is to be hoped that the memory of them, passed on to your children and their children, will be clear and precise. That you will not cause them to forget, as your ancestors forgot, the meaning of the diagrams and the instructions we will leave with you. If you do fail, as other civilisations have failed, we will see your descendants wearing wiring-diagrams for simple machines as amulets, expecting the diagrams to do what their forefathers were taught the completed article would accomplish. Then their children, forgetting even that much—or little—would preserve the amulet as a general protective device—or as an intellectual curiosity—or perhaps as a religious symbol. Such is the cycle of forgetfulness!