TheoldermatterswhichhadmadethesculptorsdreamandbasreliefsosignificanttomyuncleformedthesubjectofthesecondhalfofhislongmanuscriptOncebeforeitappearsProfessorAngellhadseenthehellishoutlinesofthenamelessmonstrositypuzzledovertheunknownhieroglyphicsandheardtheominoussyllableswhichcanberenderedonlyasCthulhuandallthisinsostirringandhorribleaconnexionthatitissmallwonderhepursuedyoungWilcoxwithqueriesanddemandsfordata

TheearlierexperiencehadcomeinseventeenyearsbeforewhentheAmericanArchaeologicalSocietyhelditsannualmeetinginStLouisProfessorAngellasbefittedoneofhisauthorityandattainmentshadhadaprominentpartinallthedeliberationsandwasoneofthefirsttobeapproachedbytheseveraloutsiderswhotookadvantageoftheconvocationtoofferquestionsforcorrectansweringandproblemsforexpertsolution

ThechiefoftheseoutsidersandinashorttimethefocusofinterestfortheentiremeetingwasacommonplacelookingmiddleagedmanwhohadtravelledallthewayfromNewOrleansforcertainspecialinformationunobtainablefromanylocalsourceHisnamewasJohnRaymondLegrasseandhewasbyprofessionanInspectorofPoliceWithhimheborethesubjectofhisvisitagrotesquerepulsiveandapparentlyveryancientstonestatuettewhoseoriginhewasatalosstodetermineItmustnotbefanciedthatInspectorLegrassehadtheleastinterestinarchaeologyOnthecontraryhiswishforenlightenmentwaspromptedbypurelyprofessionalconsiderationsThestatuetteidolfetishorwhateveritwashadbeencapturedsomemonthsbeforeinthewoodedswampssouthofNewOrleansduringaraidonasupposedvoodoomeetingandsosingularandhideousweretheritesconnectedwithitthatthepolicecouldnotbutrealisethattheyhadstumbledonadarkculttotallyunknowntothemandinfinitelymorediabolicthaneventheblackestoftheAfricanvoodoocirclesOfitsoriginapartfromtheerraticandunbelievabletalesextortedfromthecapturedmembersabsolutelynothingwastobediscoveredhencetheanxietyofthepoliceforanyantiquarianlorewhichmighthelpthemtoplacethefrightfulsymbolandthroughittrackdowntheculttoitsfountainhead

InspectorLegrassewasscarcelypreparedforthesensationwhichhisofferingcreatedOnesightofthethinghadbeenenoughtothrowtheassembledmenofscienceintoastateoftenseexcitementandtheylostnotimeincrowdingaroundhimtogazeatthediminutivefigurewhoseutterstrangenessandairofgenuinelyabysmalantiquityhintedsopotentlyatunopenedandarchaicvistasNorecognisedschoolofsculpturehadanimatedthisterribleobjectyetcenturiesandeventhousandsofyearsseemedrecordedinitsdimandgreenishsurfaceofunplaceablestone

ThefigurewhichwasfinallypassedslowlyfrommantomanforcloseandcarefulstudywasbetweensevenandeightinchesinheightandofexquisitelyartisticworkmanshipItrepresentedamonsterofvaguelyanthropoidoutlinebutwithanoctopuslikeheadwhosefacewasamassoffeelersascalyrubberylookingbodyprodigiousclawsonhindandforefeetandlongnarrowwingsbehindThisthingwhichseemedinstinctwithafearsomeandunnaturalmalignancywasofasomewhatbloatedcorpulenceandsquattedevillyonarectangularblockorpedestalcoveredwithundecipherablecharactersThetipsofthewingstouchedthebackedgeoftheblocktheseatoccupiedthecentrewhilstthelongcurvedclawsofthedoubledupcrouchinghindlegsgrippedthefrontedgeandextendedaquarterofthewaydowntowardthebottomofthepedestalThecephalopodheadwasbentforwardsothattheendsofthefacialfeelersbrushedthebacksofhugeforepawswhichclaspedthecroucherselevatedkneesTheaspectofthewholewasabnormallylifelikeandthemoresubtlyfearfulbecauseitssourcewassototallyunknownItsvastawesomeandincalculableagewasunmistakableyetnotonelinkdiditshewwithanyknowntypeofartbelongingtocivilisationsyouthorindeedtoanyothertimeTotallyseparateandapartitsverymaterialwasamysteryforthesoapygreenishblackstonewithitsgoldenoriridescentflecksandstriationsresemblednothingfamiliartogeologyormineralogyThecharactersalongthebasewereequallybafflingandnomemberpresentdespitearepresentationofhalftheworldsexpertlearninginthisfieldcouldformtheleastnotionofeventheirremotestlinguistickinshipTheylikethesubjectandmaterialbelongedtosomethinghorriblyremoteanddistinctfrommankindasweknowitsomethingfrightfullysuggestiveofoldandunhallowedcyclesoflifeinwhichourworldandourconceptionshavenopart

AndyetasthemembersseverallyshooktheirheadsandconfesseddefeatattheInspectorsproblemtherewasonemaninthatgatheringwhosuspectedatouchofbizarrefamiliarityinthemonstrousshapeandwritingandwhopresentlytoldwithsomediffidenceoftheoddtrifleheknewThispersonwasthelateWilliamChanningWebbProfessorofAnthropologyinPrincetonUniversityandanexplorerofnoslightnoteProfessorWebbhadbeenengagedfortyeightyearsbeforeinatourofGreenlandandIcelandinsearchofsomeRunicinscriptionswhichhefailedtounearthandwhilsthighupontheWestGreenlandcoasthadencounteredasingulartribeorcultofdegenerateEsquimauxwhosereligionacuriousformofdevilworshipchilledhimwithitsdeliberatebloodthirstinessandrepulsivenessItwasafaithofwhichotherEsquimauxknewlittleandwhichtheymentionedonlywithshudderssayingthatithadcomedownfromhorriblyancientaeonsbeforeevertheworldwasmadeBesidesnamelessritesandhumansacrificestherewerecertainqueerhereditaryritualsaddressedtoasupremeelderdevilortornasukandofthisProfessorWebbhadtakenacarefulphoneticcopyfromanagedangekokorwizardpriestexpressingthesoundsinRomanlettersasbestheknewhowButjustnowofprimesignificancewasthefetishwhichthisculthadcherishedandaroundwhichtheydancedwhentheauroraleapedhighovertheicecliffsItwastheprofessorstatedaverycrudebasreliefofstonecomprisingahideouspictureandsomecrypticwritingAndsofarashecouldtellitwasaroughparallelinallessentialfeaturesofthebestialthingnowlyingbeforethemeeting

ThisdatareceivedwithsuspenseandastonishmentbytheassembledmembersproveddoublyexcitingtoInspectorLegrasseandhebeganatoncetoplyhisinformantwithquestionsHavingnotedandcopiedanoralritualamongtheswampcultworshippershismenhadarrestedhebesoughttheprofessortorememberasbesthemightthesyllablestakendownamongstthediabolistEsquimauxTherethenfollowedanexhaustivecomparisonofdetailsandamomentofreallyawedsilencewhenbothdetectiveandscientistagreedonthevirtualidentityofthephrasecommontotwohellishritualssomanyworldsofdistanceapartWhatinsubstanceboththeEsquimauwizardsandtheLouisianaswamppriestshadchantedtotheirkindredidolswassomethingverylikethistheworddivisionsbeingguessedatfromtraditionalbreaksinthephraseaschantedaloud

PhngluimglwnafhCthulhuRlyehwgahnaglfhtagn

LegrassehadonepointinadvanceofProfessorWebbforseveralamonghismongrelprisonershadrepeatedtohimwhatoldercelebrantshadtoldthemthewordsmeantThistextasgivenransomethinglikethis

InhishouseatRlyehdeadCthulhuwaitsdreaming

AndnowinresponsetoageneralandurgentdemandInspectorLegrasserelatedasfullyaspossiblehisexperiencewiththeswampworshipperstellingastorytowhichIcouldseemyuncleattachedprofoundsignificanceItsavouredofthewildestdreamsofmythmakerandtheosophistanddisclosedanastonishingdegreeofcosmicimaginationamongsuchhalfcastesandpariahsasmightbeleastexpectedtopossessit

OnNovembersttherehadcometotheNewOrleanspoliceafranticsummonsfromtheswampandlagooncountrytothesouthThesquatterstheremostlyprimitivebutgoodnatureddescendantsofLafittesmenwereinthegripofstarkterrorfromanunknownthingwhichhadstolenupontheminthenightItwasvoodooapparentlybutvoodooofamoreterriblesortthantheyhadeverknownandsomeoftheirwomenandchildrenhaddisappearedsincethemalevolenttomtomhadbegunitsincessantbeatingfarwithintheblackhauntedwoodswherenodwellerventuredTherewereinsaneshoutsandharrowingscreamssoulchillingchantsanddancingdevilflamesandthefrightenedmessengeraddedthepeoplecouldstanditnomore

SoabodyoftwentypolicefillingtwocarriagesandanautomobilehadsetoutinthelateafternoonwiththeshiveringsquatterasaguideAttheendofthepassableroadtheyalightedandformilessplashedoninsilencethroughtheterriblecypresswoodswheredaynevercameUglyrootsandmalignanthangingnoosesofSpanishmossbesetthemandnowandthenapileofdankstonesorfragmentofarottingwallintensifiedbyitshintofmorbidhabitationadepressionwhicheverymalformedtreeandeveryfungousisletcombinedtocreateAtlengththesquattersettlementamiserablehuddleofhutshoveinsightandhystericaldwellersranouttoclusteraroundthegroupofbobbinglanternsThemuffledbeatoftomtomswasnowfaintlyaudiblefarfaraheadandacurdlingshriekcameatinfrequentintervalswhenthewindshiftedAreddishglaretooseemedtofilterthroughthepaleundergrowthbeyondendlessavenuesofforestnightReluctanteventobeleftaloneagaineachoneofthecowedsquattersrefusedpointblanktoadvanceanotherinchtowardthesceneofunholyworshipsoInspectorLegrasseandhisnineteencolleaguesplungedonunguidedintoblackarcadesofhorrorthatnoneofthemhadevertrodbefore

TheregionnowenteredbythepolicewasoneoftraditionallyevilreputesubstantiallyunknownanduntraversedbywhitemenTherewerelegendsofahiddenlakeunglimpsedbymortalsightinwhichdweltahugeformlesswhitepolypousthingwithluminouseyesandsquatterswhisperedthatbatwingeddevilsflewupoutofcavernsininnerearthtoworshipitatmidnightTheysaidithadbeentherebeforeDIbervillebeforeLaSallebeforetheIndiansandbeforeeventhewholesomebeastsandbirdsofthewoodsItwasnightmareitselfandtoseeitwastodieButitmademendreamandsotheyknewenoughtokeepawayThepresentvoodooorgywasindeedonthemerestfringeofthisabhorredareabutthatlocationwasbadenoughhenceperhapstheveryplaceoftheworshiphadterrifiedthesquattersmorethantheshockingsoundsandincidents

OnlypoetryormadnesscoulddojusticetothenoisesheardbyLegrassesmenastheyploughedonthroughtheblackmorasstowardtheredglareandthemuffledtomtomsTherearevocalqualitiespeculiartomenandvocalqualitiespeculiartobeastsanditisterribletoheartheonewhenthesourceshouldyieldtheotherAnimalfuryandorgiasticlicenceherewhippedthemselvestodaemoniacheightsbyhowlsandsquawkingecstasiesthattoreandreverberatedthroughthosenightedwoodslikepestilentialtempestsfromthegulfsofhellNowandthenthelessorganisedululationwouldceaseandfromwhatseemedawelldrilledchorusofhoarsevoiceswouldriseinsingsongchantthathideousphraseorritual

PhngluimglwnafhCthulhuRlyehwgahnaglfhtagn

ThenthemenhavingreachedaspotwherethetreeswerethinnercamesuddenlyinsightofthespectacleitselfFourofthemreeledonefaintedandtwowereshakenintoafranticcrywhichthemadcacophonyoftheorgyfortunatelydeadenedLegrassedashedswampwateronthefaceofthefaintingmanandallstoodtremblingandnearlyhypnotisedwithhorror

InanaturalgladeoftheswampstoodagrassyislandofperhapsanacresextentclearoftreesandtolerablydryOnthisnowleapedandtwistedamoreindescribablehordeofhumanabnormalitythananybutaSimeoranAngarolacouldpaintVoidofclothingthishybridspawnwerebrayingbellowingandwrithingaboutamonstrousringshapedbonfireinthecentreofwhichrevealedbyoccasionalriftsinthecurtainofflamestoodagreatgranitemonolithsomeeightfeetinheightontopofwhichincongruouswithitsdiminutivenessrestedthenoxiouscarvenstatuetteFromawidecircleoftenscaffoldssetupatregularintervalswiththeflamegirtmonolithasacentrehungheaddownwardtheoddlymarredbodiesofthehelplesssquatterswhohaddisappearedItwasinsidethiscirclethattheringofworshippersjumpedandroaredthegeneraldirectionofthemassmotionbeingfromlefttorightinendlessBacchanalbetweentheringofbodiesandtheringoffire

ItmayhavebeenonlyimaginationanditmayhavebeenonlyechoeswhichinducedoneofthemenanexcitableSpaniardtofancyheheardantiphonalresponsestotheritualfromsomefarandunilluminedspotdeeperwithinthewoodofancientlegendryandhorrorThismanJosephDGalvezIlatermetandquestionedandheproveddistractinglyimaginativeHeindeedwentsofarastohintofthefaintbeatingofgreatwingsandofaglimpseofshiningeyesandamountainouswhitebulkbeyondtheremotesttreesbutIsupposehehadbeenhearingtoomuchnativesuperstition

ActuallythehorrifiedpauseofthemenwasofcomparativelybriefdurationDutycamefirstandalthoughtheremusthavebeennearlyahundredmongrelcelebrantsinthethrongthepolicereliedontheirfirearmsandplungeddeterminedlyintothenauseousroutForfiveminutestheresultantdinandchaoswerebeyonddescriptionWildblowswerestruckshotswerefiredandescapesweremadebutintheendLegrassewasabletocountsomefortysevensullenprisonerswhomheforcedtodressinhasteandfallintolinebetweentworowsofpolicemenFiveoftheworshipperslaydeadandtwoseverelywoundedoneswerecarriedawayonimprovisedstretchersbytheirfellowprisonersTheimageonthemonolithofcoursewascarefullyremovedandcarriedbackbyLegrasse

ExaminedatheadquartersafteratripofintensestrainandwearinesstheprisonersallprovedtobemenofaverylowmixedbloodedandmentallyaberranttypeMostwereseamenandasprinklingofnegroesandmulattoeslargelyWestIndiansorBravaPortuguesefromtheCapeVerdeIslandsgaveacolouringofvoodooismtotheheterogeneouscultButbeforemanyquestionswereaskeditbecamemanifestthatsomethingfardeeperandolderthannegrofetichismwasinvolvedDegradedandignorantastheywerethecreaturesheldwithsurprisingconsistencytothecentralideaoftheirloathsomefaith

TheyworshippedsotheysaidtheGreatOldOneswholivedagesbeforetherewereanymenandwhocametotheyoungworldoutoftheskyThoseOldOnesweregonenowinsidetheearthandundertheseabuttheirdeadbodieshadtoldtheirsecretsindreamstothefirstmenwhoformedacultwhichhadneverdiedThiswasthatcultandtheprisonerssaidithadalwaysexistedandalwayswouldexisthiddenindistantwastesanddarkplacesallovertheworlduntilthetimewhenthegreatpriestCthulhufromhisdarkhouseinthemightycityofRlyehunderthewatersshouldriseandbringtheearthagainbeneathhisswaySomedayhewouldcallwhenthestarswerereadyandthesecretcultwouldalwaysbewaitingtoliberatehim

MeanwhilenomoremustbetoldTherewasasecretwhicheventorturecouldnotextractMankindwasnotabsolutelyaloneamongtheconsciousthingsofearthforshapescameoutofthedarktovisitthefaithfulfewButthesewerenottheGreatOldOnesNomanhadeverseentheOldOnesThecarvenidolwasgreatCthulhubutnonemightsaywhetherornottheotherswerepreciselylikehimNoonecouldreadtheoldwritingnowbutthingsweretoldbywordofmouthThechantedritualwasnotthesecretthatwasneverspokenaloudonlywhisperedThechantmeantonlythisInhishouseatRlyehdeadCthulhuwaitsdreaming

OnlytwooftheprisonerswerefoundsaneenoughtobehangedandtherestwerecommittedtovariousinstitutionsAlldeniedapartintheritualmurdersandaverredthatthekillinghadbeendonebyBlackWingedOneswhichhadcometothemfromtheirimmemorialmeetingplaceinthehauntedwoodButofthosemysteriousalliesnocoherentaccountcouldeverbegainedWhatthepolicedidextractcamemainlyfromanimmenselyagedmestizonamedCastrowhoclaimedtohavesailedtostrangeportsandtalkedwithundyingleadersofthecultinthemountainsofChina

OldCastrorememberedbitsofhideouslegendthatpaledthespeculationsoftheosophistsandmademanandtheworldseemrecentandtransientindeedTherehadbeenaeonswhenotherThingsruledontheearthandTheyhadhadgreatcitiesRemainsofThemhesaidthedeathlessChinamenhadtoldhimwerestilltobefoundasCyclopeanstonesonislandsinthePacificTheyalldiedvastepochsoftimebeforemencamebuttherewereartswhichcouldreviveThemwhenthestarshadcomeroundagaintotherightpositionsinthecycleofeternityTheyhadindeedcomethemselvesfromthestarsandbroughtTheirimageswithThem

TheseGreatOldOnesCastrocontinuedwerenotcomposedaltogetheroffleshandbloodTheyhadshapefordidnotthisstarfashionedimageproveit?butthatshapewasnotmadeofmatterWhenthestarswererightTheycouldplungefromworldtoworldthroughtheskybutwhenthestarswerewrongTheycouldnotliveButalthoughTheynolongerlivedTheywouldneverreallydieTheyalllayinstonehousesinTheirgreatcityofRlyehpreservedbythespellsofmightyCthulhuforagloriousresurrectionwhenthestarsandtheearthmightoncemorebereadyforThemButatthattimesomeforcefromoutsidemustservetoliberateTheirbodiesThespellsthatpreservedThemintactlikewisepreventedThemfrommakinganinitialmoveandTheycouldonlylieawakeinthedarkandthinkwhilstuncountedmillionsofyearsrolledbyTheyknewallthatwasoccurringintheuniversebutTheirmodeofspeechwastransmittedthoughtEvennowTheytalkedinTheirtombsWhenafterinfinitiesofchaosthefirstmencametheGreatOldOnesspoketothesensitiveamongthembymouldingtheirdreamsforonlythuscouldTheirlanguagereachthefleshlymindsofmammals

ThenwhisperedCastrothosefirstmenformedthecultaroundsmallidolswhichtheGreatOnesshewedthemidolsbroughtindimaerasfromdarkstarsThatcultwouldneverdietillthestarscamerightagainandthesecretpriestswouldtakegreatCthulhufromHistombtoreviveHissubjectsandresumeHisruleofearthThetimewouldbeeasytoknowforthenmankindwouldhavebecomeastheGreatOldOnesfreeandwildandbeyondgoodandevilwithlawsandmoralsthrownasideandallmenshoutingandkillingandrevellinginjoyThentheliberatedOldOneswouldteachthemnewwaystoshoutandkillandrevelandenjoythemselvesandalltheearthwouldflamewithaholocaustofecstasyandfreedomMeanwhilethecultbyappropriateritesmustkeepalivethememoryofthoseancientwaysandshadowforththeprophecyoftheirreturn

IntheeldertimechosenmenhadtalkedwiththeentombedOldOnesindreamsbutthensomethinghadhappenedThegreatstonecityRlyehwithitsmonolithsandsepulchreshadsunkbeneaththewavesandthedeepwatersfulloftheoneprimalmysterythroughwhichnoteventhoughtcanpasshadcutoffthespectralintercourseButmemoryneverdiedandhighpriestssaidthatthecitywouldriseagainwhenthestarswererightThencameoutoftheearththeblackspiritsofearthmouldyandshadowyandfullofdimrumourspickedupincavernsbeneathforgottenseabottomsButofthemoldCastrodarednotspeakmuchHecuthimselfoffhurriedlyandnoamountofpersuasionorsubtletycouldelicitmoreinthisdirectionThesizeoftheOldOnestoohecuriouslydeclinedtomentionOftheculthesaidthathethoughtthecentrelayamidthepathlessdesertsofArabiawhereIremtheCityofPillarsdreamshiddenanduntouchedItwasnotalliedtotheEuropeanwitchcultandwasvirtuallyunknownbeyonditsmembersNobookhadeverreallyhintedofitthoughthedeathlessChinamensaidthatthereweredoublemeaningsintheNecronomiconofthemadArabAbdulAlhazredwhichtheinitiatedmightreadastheychoseespeciallythemuchdiscussedcouplet

Thatisnotdeadwhichcaneternallie

Andwithstrangeaeonsevendeathmaydie

LegrassedeeplyimpressedandnotalittlebewilderedhadinquiredinvainconcerningthehistoricaffiliationsofthecultCastroapparentlyhadtoldthetruthwhenhesaidthatitwaswhollysecretTheauthoritiesatTulaneUniversitycouldshednolightuponeithercultorimageandnowthedetectivehadcometothehighestauthoritiesinthecountryandmetwithnomorethantheGreenlandtaleofProfessorWebb

ThefeverishinterestarousedatthemeetingbyLegrassestalecorroboratedasitwasbythestatuetteisechoedinthesubsequentcorrespondenceofthosewhoattendedalthoughscantmentionoccursintheformalpublicationsofthesocietyCautionisthefirstcareofthoseaccustomedtofaceoccasionalcharlatanryandimpostureLegrasseforsometimelenttheimagetoProfessorWebbbutatthelattersdeathitwasreturnedtohimandremainsinhispossessionwhereIvieweditnotlongagoItistrulyaterriblethingandunmistakablyakintothedreamsculptureofyoungWilcox

ThatmyunclewasexcitedbythetaleofthesculptorIdidnotwonderforwhatthoughtsmustariseuponhearingafteraknowledgeofwhatLegrassehadlearnedofthecultofasensitiveyoungmanwhohaddreamednotonlythefigureandexacthieroglyphicsoftheswampfoundimageandtheGreenlanddeviltabletbuthadcomeinhisdreamsuponatleastthreeoftheprecisewordsoftheformulautteredalikebyEsquimaudiabolistsandmongrelLouisianans?ProfessorAngellsinstantstartonaninvestigationoftheutmostthoroughnesswaseminentlynaturalthoughprivatelyIsuspectedyoungWilcoxofhavingheardofthecultinsomeindirectwayandofhavinginventedaseriesofdreamstoheightenandcontinuethemysteryatmyunclesexpenseThedreamnarrativesandcuttingscollectedbytheprofessorwereofcoursestrongcorroborationbuttherationalismofmymindandtheextravaganceofthewholesubjectledmetoadoptwhatIthoughtthemostsensibleconclusionsSoafterthoroughlystudyingthemanuscriptagainandcorrelatingthetheosophicalandanthropologicalnoteswiththecultnarrativeofLegrasseImadeatriptoProvidencetoseethesculptorandgivehimtherebukeIthoughtproperforsoboldlyimposinguponalearnedandagedman

WilcoxstilllivedaloneintheFleurdeLysBuildinginThomasStreetahideousVictorianimitationofseventeenthcenturyBretonarchitecturewhichflauntsitsstuccoedfrontamidstthelovelycolonialhousesontheancienthillandundertheveryshadowofthefinestGeorgiansteepleinAmericaIfoundhimatworkinhisroomsandatonceconcededfromthespecimensscatteredaboutthathisgeniusisindeedprofoundandauthenticHewillIbelievesometimebeheardfromasoneofthegreatdecadentsforhehascrystallisedinclayandwillonedaymirrorinmarblethosenightmaresandphantasieswhichArthurMachenevokesinproseandClarkAshtonSmithmakesvisibleinverseandinpainting

DarkfrailandsomewhatunkemptinaspectheturnedlanguidlyatmyknockandaskedmemybusinesswithoutrisingWhenItoldhimwhoIwashedisplayedsomeinterestformyunclehadexcitedhiscuriosityinprobinghisstrangedreamsyethadneverexplainedthereasonforthestudyIdidnotenlargehisknowledgeinthisregardbutsoughtwithsomesubtletytodrawhimoutInashorttimeIbecameconvincedofhisabsolutesincerityforhespokeofthedreamsinamannernonecouldmistakeTheyandtheirsubconsciousresiduumhadinfluencedhisartprofoundlyandheshewedmeamorbidstatuewhosecontoursalmostmademeshakewiththepotencyofitsblacksuggestionHecouldnotrecallhavingseentheoriginalofthisthingexceptinhisowndreambasreliefbuttheoutlineshadformedthemselvesinsensiblyunderhishandsItwasnodoubtthegiantshapehehadravedofindeliriumThathereallyknewnothingofthehiddencultsavefromwhatmyunclesrelentlesscatechismhadletfallhesoonmadeclearandagainIstrovetothinkofsomewayinwhichhecouldpossiblyhavereceivedtheweirdimpressions

HetalkedofhisdreamsinastrangelypoeticfashionmakingmeseewithterriblevividnessthedampCyclopeancityofslimygreenstonewhosegeometryheoddlysaidwasallwrongandhearwithfrightenedexpectancytheceaselesshalfmentalcallingfromundergroundCthulhufhtagnCthulhufhtagnThesewordshadformedpartofthatdreadritualwhichtoldofdeadCthulhusdreamvigilinhisstonevaultatRlyehandIfeltdeeplymoveddespitemyrationalbeliefsWilcoxIwassurehadheardofthecultinsomecasualwayandhadsoonforgottenitamidstthemassofhisequallyweirdreadingandimaginingLaterbyvirtueofitssheerimpressivenessithadfoundsubconsciousexpressionindreamsinthebasreliefandintheterriblestatueInowbeheldsothathisimpostureuponmyunclehadbeenaveryinnocentoneTheyouthwasofatypeatonceslightlyaffectedandslightlyillmanneredwhichIcouldneverlikebutIwaswillingenoughnowtoadmitbothhisgeniusandhishonestyItookleaveofhimamicablyandwishhimallthesuccesshistalentpromises

ThematterofthecultstillremainedtofascinatemeandattimesIhadvisionsofpersonalfamefromresearchesintoitsoriginandconnexionsIvisitedNewOrleanstalkedwithLegrasseandothersofthatoldtimeraidingpartysawthefrightfulimageandevenquestionedsuchofthemongrelprisonersasstillsurvivedOldCastrounfortunatelyhadbeendeadforsomeyearsWhatInowheardsographicallyatfirsthandthoughitwasreallynomorethanadetailedconfirmationofwhatmyunclehadwrittenexcitedmeafreshforIfeltsurethatIwasonthetrackofaveryrealverysecretandveryancientreligionwhosediscoverywouldmakemeananthropologistofnoteMyattitudewasstilloneofabsolutematerialismasIwishitstillwereandIdiscountedwithalmostinexplicableperversitythecoincidenceofthedreamnotesandoddcuttingscollectedbyProfessorAngell

OnethingIbegantosuspectandwhichInowfearIknowisthatmyunclesdeathwasfarfromnaturalHefellonanarrowhillstreetleadingupfromanancientwaterfrontswarmingwithforeignmongrelsafteracarelesspushfromanegrosailorIdidnotforgetthemixedbloodandmarinepursuitsofthecultmembersinLouisianaandwouldnotbesurprisedtolearnofsecretmethodsandpoisonneedlesasruthlessandasancientlyknownasthecrypticritesandbeliefsLegrasseandhismenitistruehavebeenletalonebutinNorwayacertainseamanwhosawthingsisdeadMightnotthedeeperinquiriesofmyuncleafterencounteringthesculptorsdatahavecometosinisterears?IthinkProfessorAngelldiedbecauseheknewtoomuchorbecausehewaslikelytolearntoomuchWhetherIshallgoashedidremainstobeseenforIhavelearnedmuchnow