It is said that in Ulthar, which lies beyond the river Skai, no man may kill a cat; and this I can verily elieve as I gaze upon him who sitteth purring before the fire. Fot the cat is cryptic, and close to strange things which men cannot see. He is the soul of antique Aegyptus, and bearer of t ales from forgotten cities in Meroe and Ophir. He is the kin of the jungles lords, and heir to the secrets of hoary and sinister Africa. The Sphink is his cousin, and he speaks her language; but he is more ancient than the Sphinx, and remembers that which she hath forgottem.

In Ulthar, before ever the burgesses forbade the killing of the cats, there dwelt am old cotter and his wife who delighted to trap and slay the cats of their neighbors. Why did this I know not