

ANTICHTHON UNIVERSALIS

Antichthon Universalis
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Release #1
http://triptico.com/artwork/antichthon_universalis.html

In loving memory of Ángel Ortega Rodríguez
(1939 – 2009)

This is exactly the book he would dislike

Foreword

First time I heard about *Antichthon Universalis* was in the summer of 2010, in an email from my friend Pavel Kolsinski. On it he told me about a newly discovered document, seemingly received from an anonymous source by a semiotic professor at the University of Salamanca which also prefers to remain anonymous. All the secrecy involved, though certainly suspicious of forgery, called for my immediate attention.

Before having the document in my hands, my friend Pavel described it very well: it's a rather short text, initially thought to be handwritten (but almost immediately after demonstrated to be an electronically-generated document) written in an unknown script and illustrated with bizarrely looking pictures. The text is some kind of encyclopedia for a strange world. This conclusion has been inferred from the very structure of the book, as no word of it has been translated yet.

When the document arrived to me, I fully agreed with my friend's description. It surely lacks interest for those initiated in famous cryptograms, but it's something curious to look at. After being asked what could be done with it, Pavel told me that the source had given to him full rights on the publication of the document; he immediately bounced these rights to me, and that's why I'm the editor.

The name of the book, given by Pavel himself, comes from one of the illustrations found in the first pages, showing a rather symbolic diagram of what seems to be a central solar system with two planets orbiting in completely opposite positions, not unlike some ancient representations of what the philosopher Philolaus thought to be the Counter-Earth (or, in greek, Antichthon), a twin planet for our Earth that was always behind the Sun (so, obviously, invisible to us). In the illustration, the planet with the small crescent Moon is assumed to be Earth, and the other, more remarked, the object of the text. I wasn't sure if the *Universalis* part in the title is grammatically correct and suggested *Encyclopedias* or *Tractatus*, but Pavel preferred the original name and I kept it.

As said above, the book seems to be structured (based in the nature of the illustrations) in a very similar way to other universal treatises with common sections about cosmogony, fauna, flora and geography.

It contains no recognizable page numbers, titles, headings nor punctuation. The text is structured in paragraphs and seems to flow from left to right and from top to bottom.

The script resembles the characters used in the Rohonc Codex and the glyphs are separated from each other, with no visible ligatures between them nor joined characters, as in oriental scripting systems like Chinese or Hangul (Pavel has seen similarities to these Korean symbols in some of the glyphs). There are a total of 34 different characters (not counting the blanks between them), all uniformly spaced and with a similar statistic ratio, giving the hint that it's more like an encoding than an alphabet or syllabary. Anyway, I'm no language expert and cannot give a definitive answer to this.

The book has been edited in an almost facsimile way to help experiencing it as I did on first arrive. I added page numbers to easily annotate or reference it. Apart from this, no additional modification was done to the original.

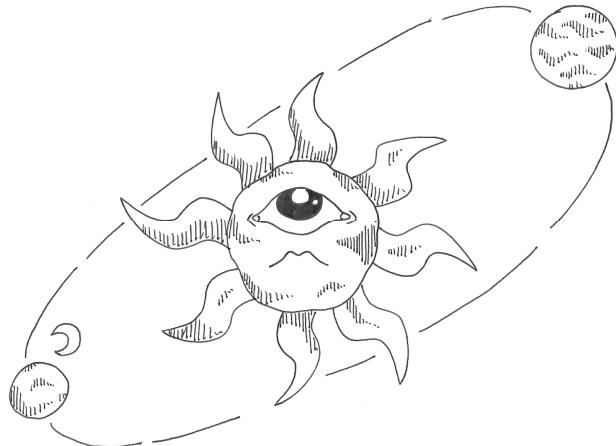
It has been said that this text is a joke or game (like the Codex Seraphinianus) or a perverse mischief (like the Oera Linda) forged by somebody with too much time. My opinion is that the script itself is not intrinsically artistic in any way, so it should contain a hidden message using some kind of coding system. Given that the illustrations are rather simple and crudely drawn, and expecting that the writer and the illustrator are the same individual, I guess the algorithm to decrypt the text won't be too difficult to crack by an average amateur (I'm also no cryptology specialist in any way, so maybe I'm mistaken).

There is nothing more to be said about this document. Just in case someone finds a way to decode it or wants to add any light to this little mystery, please email Pavel Kolsinski (pavel.kolsinski@gmail.com) or me (angel@triptico.com).

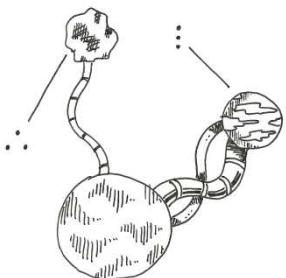
Ángel Ortega

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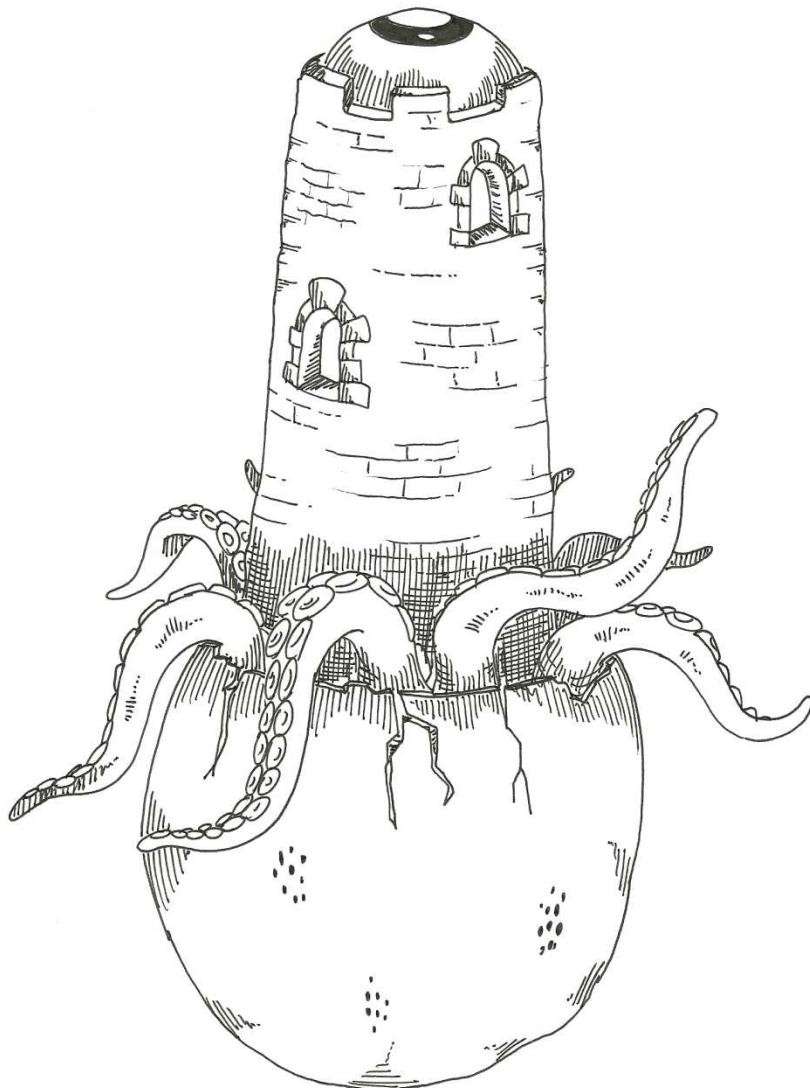


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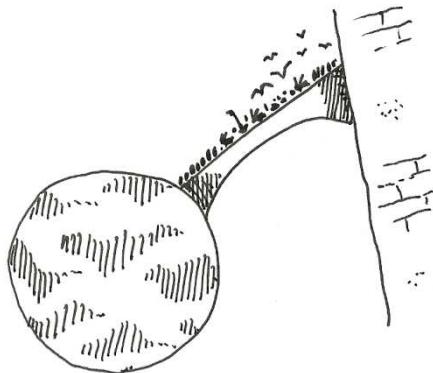
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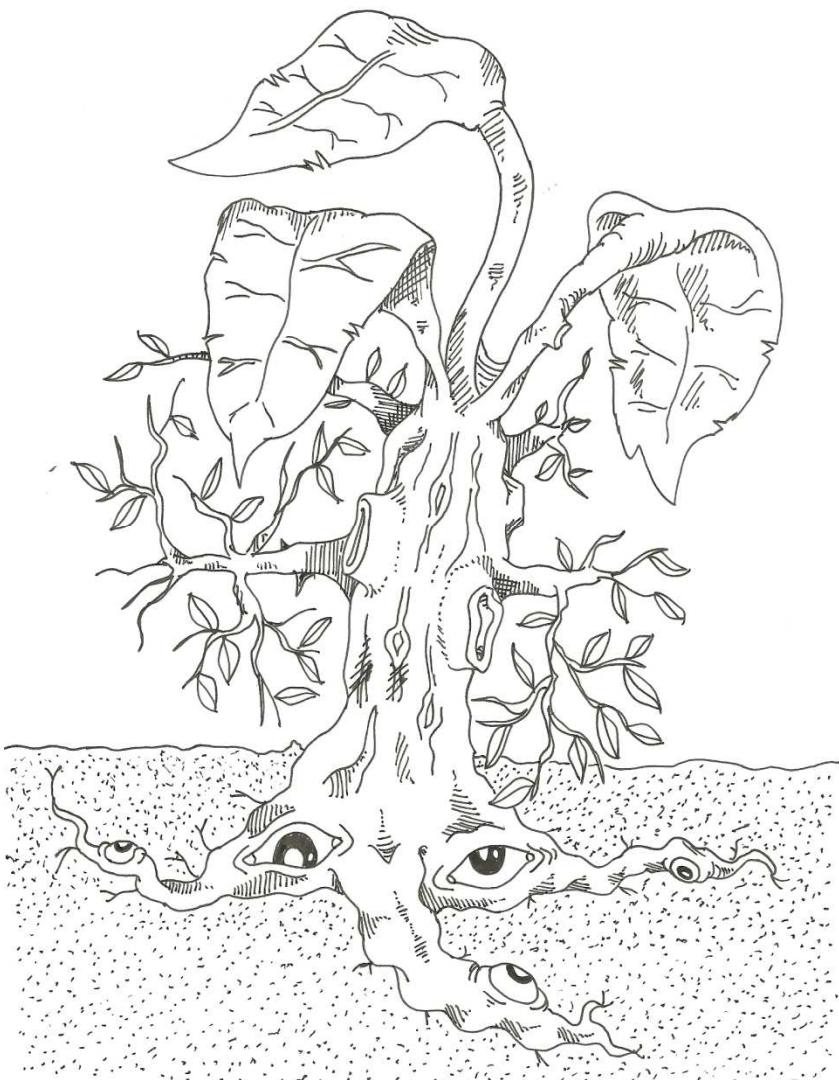
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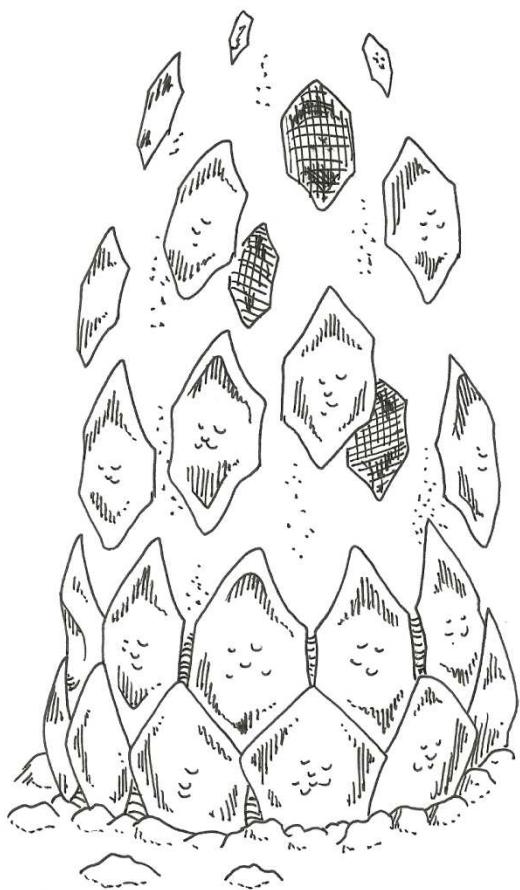
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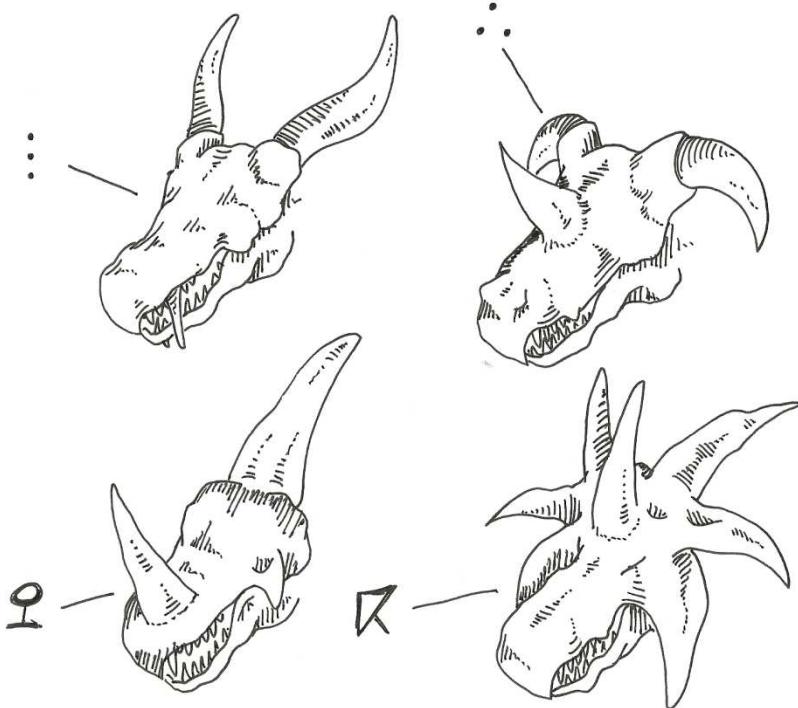
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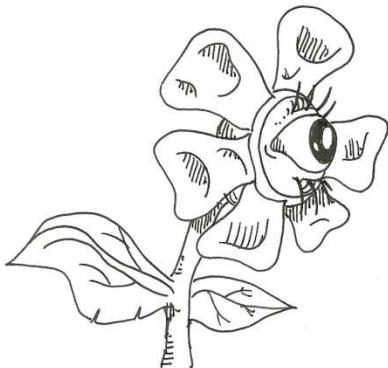
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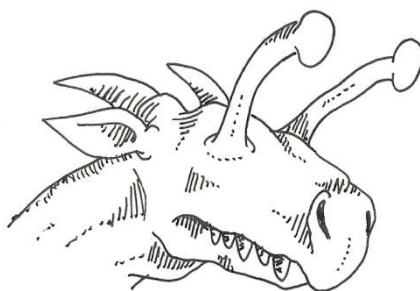


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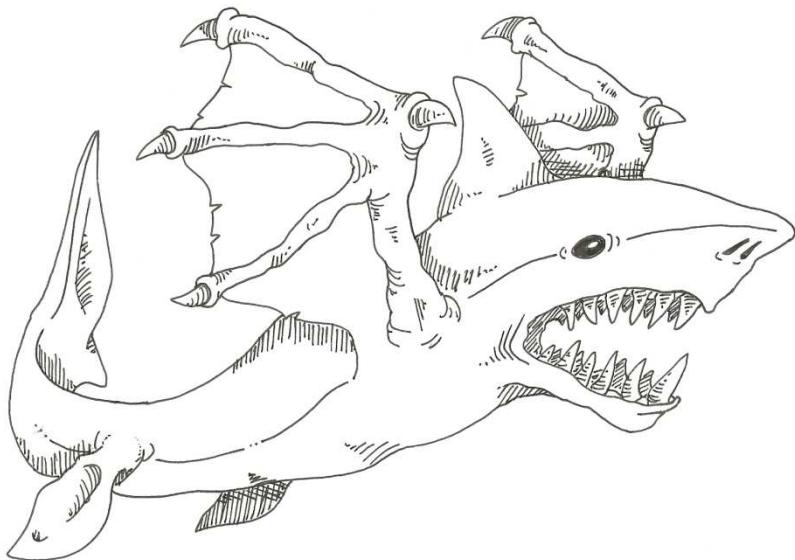
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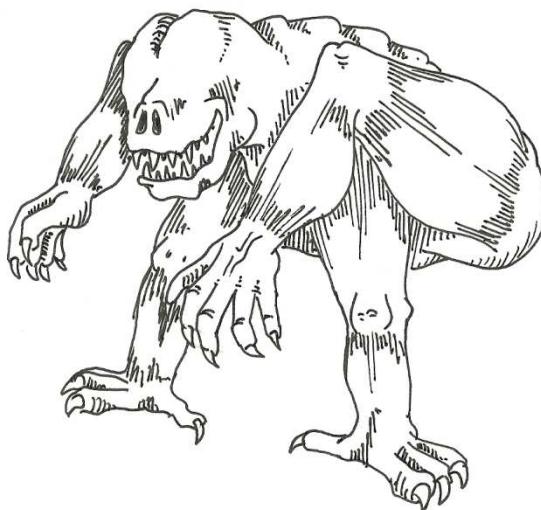
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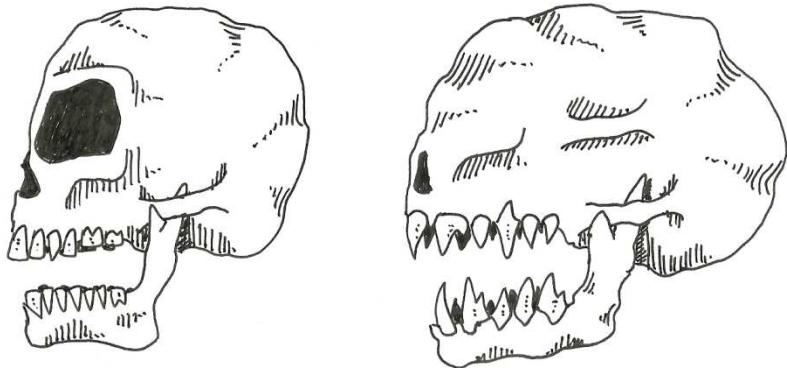
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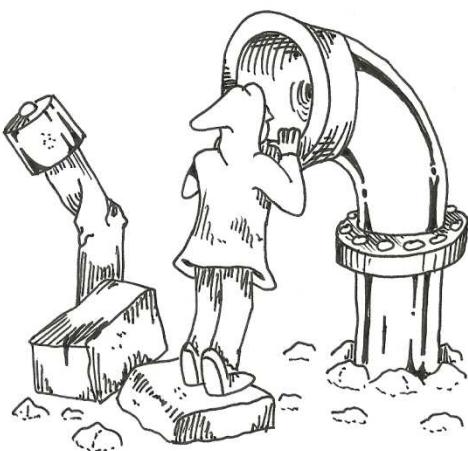
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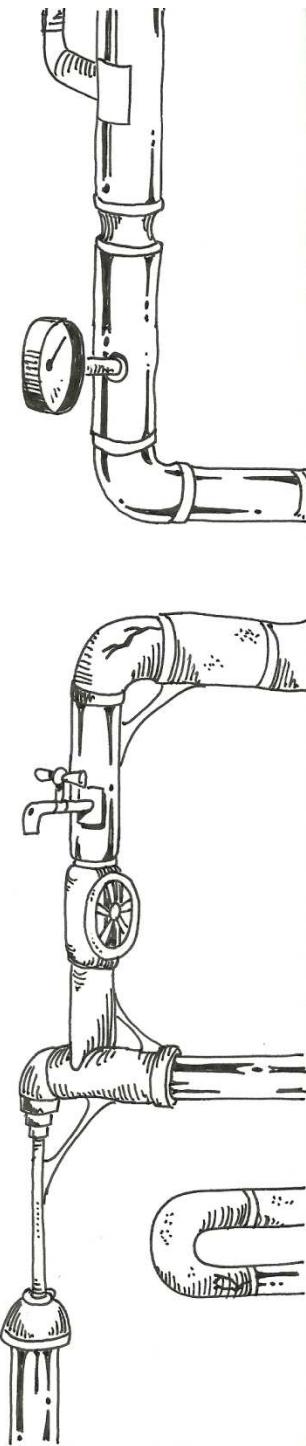


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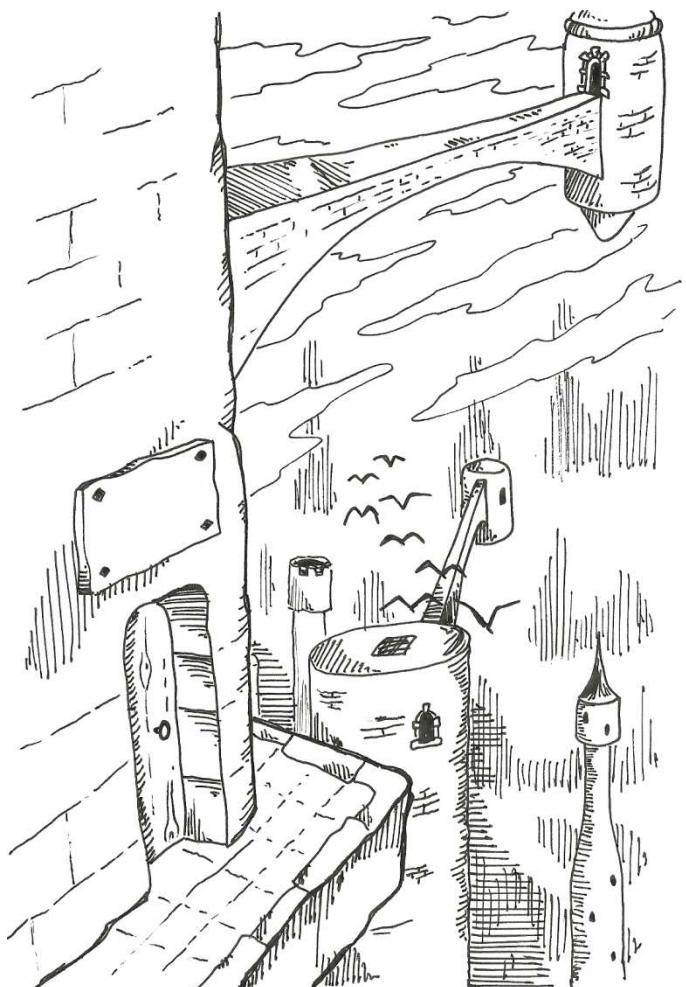
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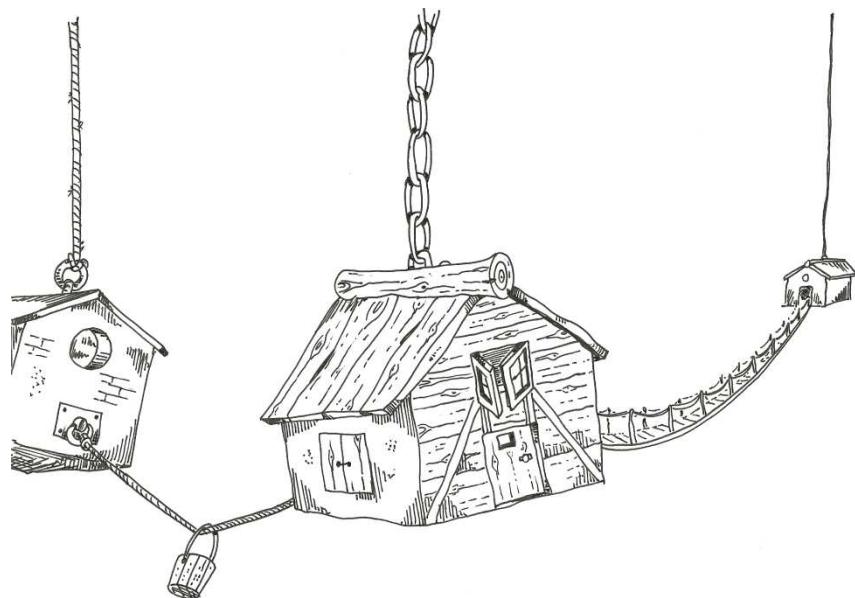
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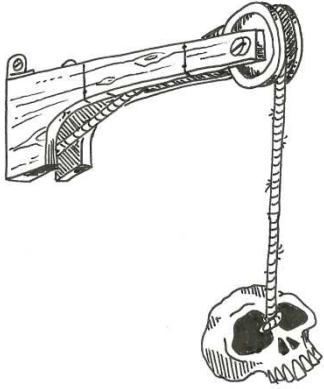
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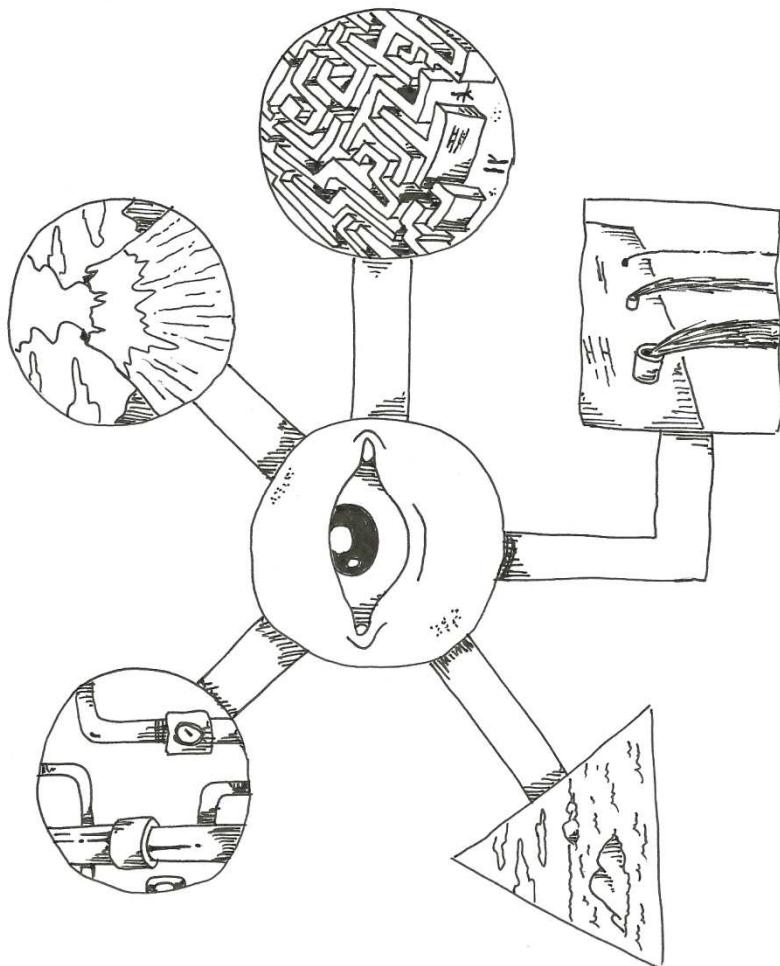
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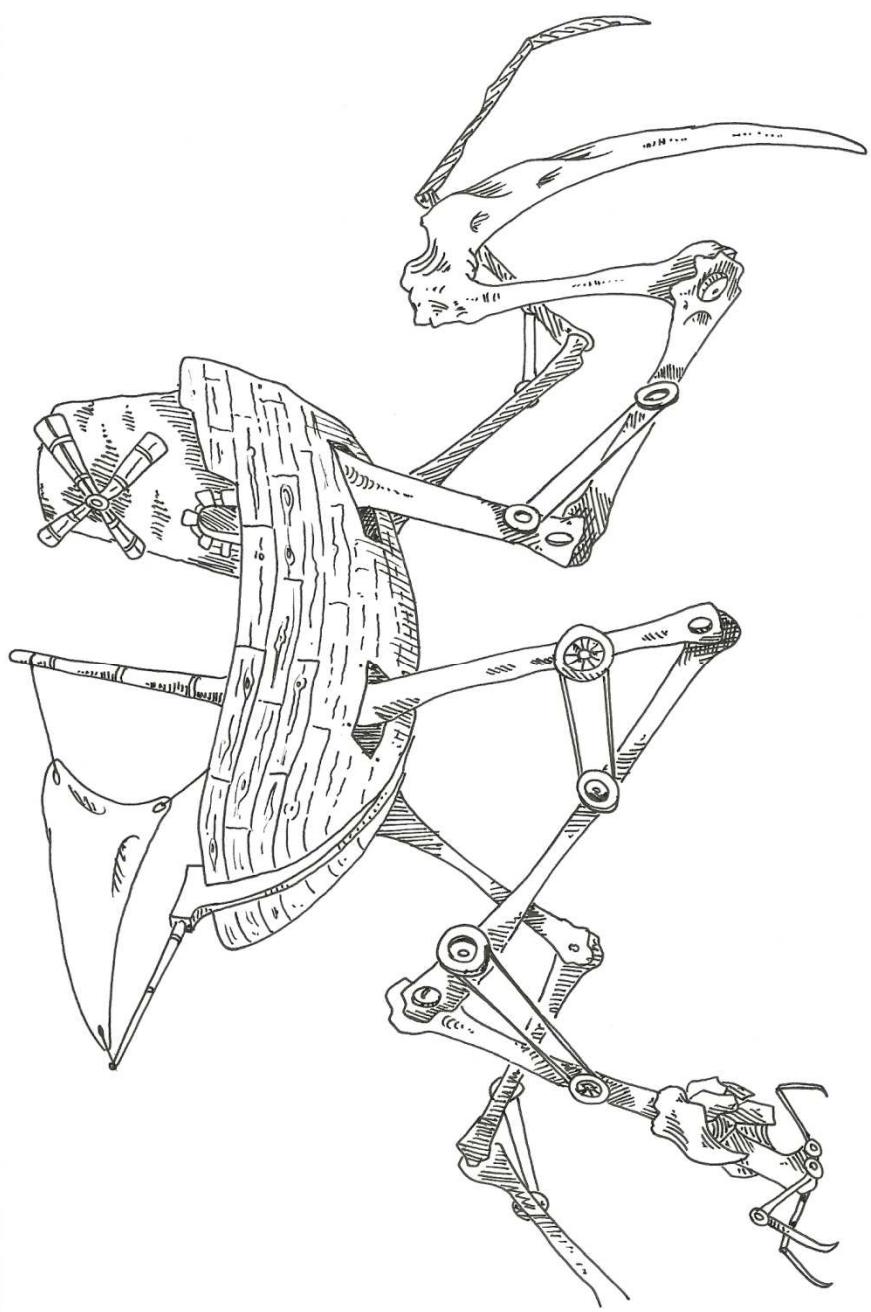


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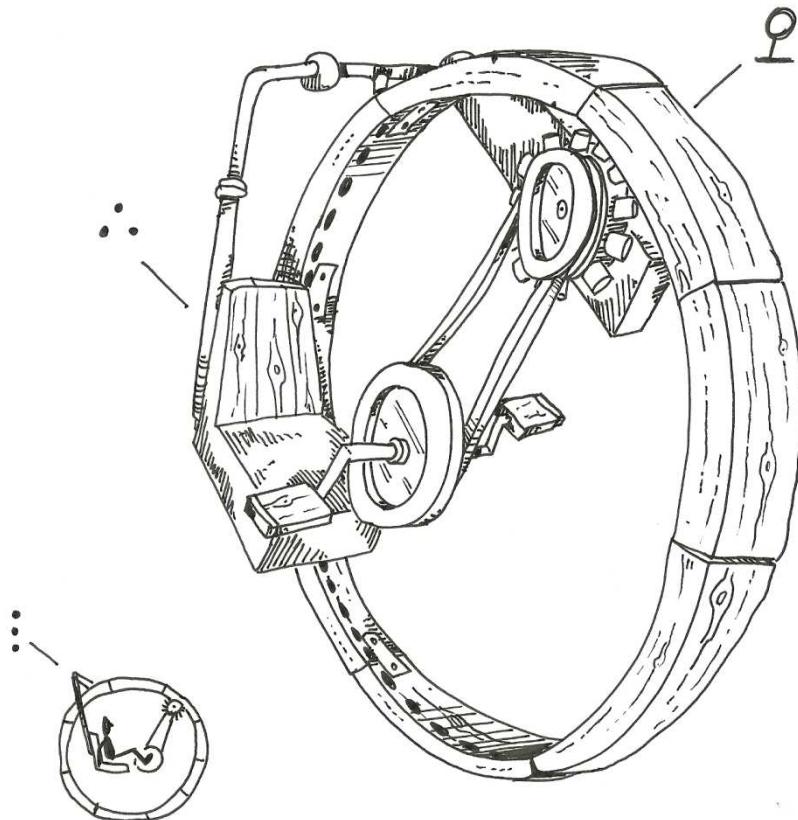
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Annex I – Table of figures

Page	Description
11	A solar system, with two opposite planets. One of them has a satellite resembling the Moon
13	Three planets connected by tubes
14	An egg shell containing tentacles and a tower. The tower has an eye on top
16	A crowd of what seem people and animals walking down a stair from a big wall to a planet
18	A hybrid tree with large leafs on top, small branches in the middle and eyes in the roots
20	Some pictures of grass having animal appendixes as roots
21	A dome made of hexagons. The hexagons seem to float up
23	A horned beast with no eyes, two legs, two big protruding bags on the bag and a spiral-shaped tail
25	Four heads of horned animals. They look similar or at least related to the previous one
26	A flower with an eye in the center
26	A head of a horned animal, with ears and no visible eyes. Instead of them, it has two long stems
27	A winged shark
28	A semi-human beast with fangs, sharp teeth and no eyes. It walks with its arms and have its legs over its shoulders
30	Two skulls, one apparently human and the other similar to it but without no eye cavities and sharp teeth. It could be related to the previous one
32	A hooded man looking through a pipe
33	Pipes
35	A view from a high tower. A door can be seen, and far away more towers with peaks and catwalks to other buildings
37	A set of small houses hanging from chains and ropes, connected by ropes and thin bridges
38	A skull hanging from a rope, in a device similar to a crane
38	A bucket with bones, hanging from a rope
41	A diagram with an eye in the center and branches showing pipes, a seascape, collectors dropping dark liquid, a maze and a volcano.
44	A ship with legs
45	A round, wheel-like device that seems to be some kind of vehicle

Annex II – Symbol list

Symbol	Description (alias)	Frequency	Ratio	
:	Line of dots	460	3,97%	
☒	Legged triangle	428	3,70%	
Ӯ	Key and table	420	3,63%	
߳	Triangle of dots	414	3,58%	
ߴ	Fork	394	3,40%	
߷	Small H	391	3,38%	
߸	Headphones	384	3,32%	
߹	Chair	379	3,27%	
ߺ	Left lightning	377	3,26%	
߻	House	376	3,25%	
߼	Hook	360	3,11%	
߽	Crossed curly	358	3,09%	
߾	Square H	357	3,08%	
߷	Right lightning	353	3,05%	
߸	Curly	350	3,02%	
߹	Inverted fork	345	2,98%	
ߵ	Spring with floor	343	2,96%	
߶	Delta	336	2,90%	
߷	X with floor	335	2,89%	
߸	Round H	334	2,88%	
߹	Big J	333	2,88%	
߻	Te	323	2,79%	
߻	Crossed Y	322	2,78%	
ߵ	Mirror	318	2,75%	
ߵ	Inverted headphones	307	2,65%	
߻	Curved Y	304	2,63%	
ߵ	Crossed mirror	295	2,55%	
ߵ	ߵ	Box and key	292	2,52%
ߵ	Spring	289	2,50%	
ߵ	Lizard	281	2,43%	
ߵ	ߵ	Key and saw	268	2,31%
ߵ	Doble crossed J	254	2,19%	
ߵ	Boxed ball	252	2,18%	
ߵ	Crossed ball	247	2,13%	

This table shows all the symbols that appear in the corpus of the text; there are 34 different glyphs, and a total of 11579. The *frequency* column shows the number of times each one appears, and the *ratio* one the percentage of appearance from the grand total. Given the similarity of these numbers can be inferred that the text is an encoding instead of another classical scripting system.

Everything shown or told in this book,
including this paragraph, can be considered
from pure invention to patent lie. Pavel
Kolsinski and Ángel Ortega are fictional
characters as well.

Composed during the summer of 2010.

