

"And what do you do now?" Maximus asked Alexander after greeting him. The entire wing of the monastery was underground and the ground level was above their heads. On one corner a large protruding rock showed off, like this so hard and massive that the builders had evidently preferred to leave it where they found it.

"About Catt's anomaly," Alexander replied seriously.

"Are you joking?"

"No one with a modicum of common sense would risk their career and scientific reputation to study the Catt anomaly" thought Massimo, "and even if they were spending time on it, they certainly wouldn't tell anyone."

"Why would I joke?" Alexander retorted. "Ivor Catt is one of the brightest minds in electronic engineering. You might forget that he invented the most intelligent process for making semiconductor memories."

"Yes, of course. But now he is a maverick. For years he has been in open conflict with the entire academy."

"There is no brilliant scientist who is not at odds with your academy," replied the other.

"Maybe. But how can you argue that classical electromagnetism should be compared to poltergeists and other such idiocies? He put himself in the position of a heretic!"

"Catt anomaly? What is this?" Fabio intervened at that point, having just arrived holding a plate full of arancini.

"It's an unresolved paradox of classical electromagnetism" Massimo cuts it short.

"I didn't know there were any."

"You certainly don't find Catt's anomaly in university textbooks," Alexander observed sarcastically. He wanted to talk about it, and Fabio was intrigued."