

## Scorpio: Secret Forces of Nature

Larry had been fascinated by animals since the day when, barely two years old, he had caught his first beetle and borne it triumphantly into the house. Mother, grimacing, removed the beetle, but had no idea then that the creature was only the first of a seemingly endless procession of bugs, caterpillars, mice, hamsters, toads, dogs, and cats, to say nothing of the duck, several orphaned squirrels, and other assorted fauna destined to share their home for longer or shorter periods of time as her son grew up.

Mother had to admit, however, that Larry took care of his pets and understood, and gladly accepted, responsibility for their welfare. They were never a burden to the family, and only rarely caused trouble. Larry spent much of his time studying the habits of his animals, and of other wildlife he encountered, and kept copious notes on animal behavior — notes which, as he grew older, became carefully documented, concise, and inclusive scientific descriptions. While still in junior high he determined to become a zoologist, and geared his studies toward that end as far as possible. He soon became a “walking encyclopedia” of animal lore, and could spout facts and figures on this subject as well as his friends could recite batting averages or information about sports cars.

Larry was always particularly intrigued and puzzled by the way in which members of the same animal species could be counted on to act in the same way in given situations. Why did birds migrate along identical routes at the same times year after year, and what kept them from getting lost? In fact, what prompted them to migrate in the first place? What motivated the salmon into the tortuous up-river journey to their spawning

grounds? Why did certain creatures hibernate, and others know enough to store food for winter? What made cougars fierce, rabbits timid, and foxes cunning? From his studies, he knew that these questions had long puzzled naturalists, but in none of his texts did he find convincing answers.

The day that Larry learned about Group Spirits proved to be one of the most eventful of his life. A friend gave him a pamphlet called "Understanding the Animals," which explained that each species was governed by a Group Spirit which directed the activities of all the members. Group Spirits were Archangels, and, as such, endowed with superior wisdom. They knew what was best for their charges — often far better than man seemed to know what was best for *him*. Animal reactions to all situations, whether of crisis, simple need and want, or involving relationships with other animals and people, was governed, not by what scientists had come to call "instinct," but by the dictates of the Group Spirits. Human beings were individualized, therefore unpredictable. Animals were not yet individualized, but were in all aspects linked to and governed by their Group Spirits, who were not capricious. Therefore, animals were predictable. Larry knew at once that many unanswered questions posed by naturalists about animal behavior would be immediately answered if they knew of, and were willing to accept, the presence and activity of Group Spirits.

At first, Larry said very little about his discovery. He realized at once its momentous nature, but also sensed that other people would not be nearly so ready to accept and believe the theory of Group Spirits. To him, it was the only logical explanation. Some more advanced scientists, he knew, had suggested the existence of some sort of hidden "force" in the universe which caused animals to do what they did, and this

“force,” of course, could easily be translated into “Group Spirits.” Other observers, however, were content to ascribe animal behavior to “instinct” — without ever fully explaining, at least to Larry’s satisfaction, just what “instinct” was or how it operated. Many of these observers, he knew, would find the idea of an invisible entity such as a Group Spirit simply ludicrous, and akin to fairy tales.

Grateful for his new knowledge, Larry knew that, even though he did not intend to keep it to himself, he could not do much with it at the moment to revo-



lutionize the scientific world. At college next year, however, he was sure that his professors were going to be surprised by some of the theories he would express, and, eventually, when he launched his career, he would be in more of a position to impress this information upon colleagues. Meanwhile, he intended to learn all he could along these lines. If there were Group Spirits, of whom relatively few people had heard, it was certainly possible that other entities of which scientists as yet had no concept were also playing important roles in the workings of Nature. The sooner the existence of such beings was generally acknowledged and accepted, Larry knew, the sooner would much that scientists still puzzled over be explained.