

**Exhibit A**

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1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020

The setting and some of the events of Blake's initiation into the Athanasian Society were inspired by the watercolor entitled "Subterranean Labyrinth for a Gothic House," by Jean-Jacques Lequeu, reproduced on page 186 of the catalogue of the traveling exhibition *Visionary Architects*, by Dominique de Ménil, et al., University of St. Thomas, 1968.

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ISBN 0-671-03899-0

First Pocket Books printing January 2000  
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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Cover art by Jim Burns  
Cover design by Claude Goodwin  
Interior design by Michael Mendelsohn and MM Design 2000

Printed in the U.S.A.

## Introduction

by ARTHUR C. CLARKE

There cannot be many science fiction novels that end with a 40-page appendix full of mathematical equations and electric-circuit diagrams. Don't worry—this isn't one of them; but just such a book inspired it, half a century ago. And with any luck, during the next half-century it will cease to be fiction.

It must have been in 1937 or '38, when I was Treasurer of the five-year-old British Interplanetary Society (annual budget to start the conquest of space, about \$200), that the BIS was sent a book with a rather odd title, by an author with an even odder name. "Akkad Pseudoman's" *Zero to Eighty* (Princeton: Scientific Publishing Company, 1937) must now be quite a rarity; I am indebted to my old friend Frederick I. Ordway III (responsible for the technical designs in *2001: A Space Odyssey*) for the fine copy I possess.

The snappy subtitle says it all:

Being my lifetime doings,  
reflections, and inventions  
also  
my journey round the Moon

Quite an "also"; I can hear the author's modest cough.  
He was not, of course, really Mr. Pseudoman, as the pref-