

What's in a name?

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 25 Feb 1999

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/1395>

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Dan Parmenter — 25 Feb 1999, 14:23

From: "Kevin J. Maroney" <kmaroney at crossover.com>
(Remember that most/all of the animal species of Urth except humans were driven extinct at some point in the past, and the animals present in the Book are alien replacements which approximate the original species. Destriers aren't horses, they're alien horse-like beings. This is an inversion of the standard sf cliché where an alien world is populated by exotic creatures which are actually just cows and bunnies with different names; here the Earth is populated by alien species which are *like* cows and bunnies.)

By the first rule of Wolfean naming ("everything is exactly what it says it is") is it fair then to assume that Triskele is indeed a dog? Possibly a "modified" dog, but a dog no less? The Wolfean Naming Rule clearly doesn't always work, since the Salamander is no newt (though it does resemble a certain Newt after a fashion, it flames and flames until its flames burn its bridges and it conveniently disappears :-)

Dan P. aka
Lexicographer Shellac

CRCulver — 26 Feb 1999, 00:35 · follows Dan Parmenter

Shellac wrote:

<<The Wolfean Naming Rule clearly doesn't always work, since the Salamander is no newt (though it does resemble a certain Newt after a fashion, it flames and flames until its flames burn its bridges and it conveniently disappears :-)>>

The Salamander, according to ancient Greek belief, could survive in fire. Jorge Luis Borges, in El Libro de Seres Imaginarios (The Book of Imaginary Beings), wrote an article on the Salamander and Wolfe took it, like many of Borges' creatures (Baldanders, etc.) for the BotNS.

- Christopher R. Culver <crculver at aol.com>