

Inhumi

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 12 Apr 1999

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Alex David Groce — 12 Apr 1999, 13:50

On Apr 12, 11:27am, David Wells wrote:

Subject: (urth) RE: Digest urth.v025.n005

Speaking of ambiguity, we might remember that the Long Sun books were written by a colonist (Horn) who may not have been entirely impartial in his portrayal of Quetzal and the inhumi. Some of the scenes where we get the most characterization of Quetzal must be somewhat speculative reconstruction on Horn's part, or at best second or third hand accounts (such as the scenes with Quetzal and Remora).

Indeed. At the end of Exodus, Horn describes the inhumi as being "no more intelligent than dogs". As one of them posed successfully as a senior clergyman on the Whorl for around 30 years, this is either a particularly biting satire on the clergy (which I rather doubt) or evidence that Horn, at least, is suffering from a seriously misapprehension.

....which apart from any moral dilemmas it may cause, may also lead to nasty surprises for the colonists when they try to defend themselves against an opponent which they so seriously underestimate.

Does Horn actually say that? I'm reading the lines: ". . . no more have character than a hus; but those who trap hus and tame them have told me that they differ at least as much as dogs." That's the only mention I can find of dogs in Horn's defense that's possibly relevant. I can't imagine Horn making that statement (although it does sound awful familiar) given the portrayal of Quetzal in the Book. Am I missing something?

The one thing I demand of Short Sun is that Wolfe better give me some idea about how Quetzal got on board, why he acted as he did, and whether he was trying to get everyone killed by choosing Green... Since he's admitted that you can't really figure it all out from Long Sun.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free." - John 8:32

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Alex David Groce (adgroce at eos.ncsu.edu)
Senior (Computer Science/Multidisciplinary Studies in Technology & Fiction)
'98-99 NCSU AITP Student Chapter President
608 Charleston Road, Apt. 1E (919)-233-7366
<http://www4.ncsu.edu/~adgroce>