

Hethor's tricks

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 04 Jul 1999

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Michael Andre-Driussi — 04 Jul 1999, 08:29

Mitchell A. Bailey,

While I haven't fathomed where Hethor came from, nor his real name (and if it's Kim Lee Soong, why is he never described as resembling a Xanthoderm, as Agilus and Agia were?),

Ha-ha! Yes, this has been a secret understanding between Ranjit and myself, and I'm glad you've come to see that Agia looks "Korean"!

While I don't want to argue too strongly that Hethor is actually Asian, still, it is a common perception that people (some more than others) lose a degree of "ethnicity" as they go beyond middle age--so some old guy might seem "Chinese" or "French" or whatever, depending upon the setting, because his features are so blurred by the ravages of Time.

As for a bit of sailcloth, hmm. That's interesting! I was just thinking that maybe it was the pocketbook edition of THE BOOK OF MIRRORS . . . sailcloth certainly fits for issues of size and opportunity of theft, but as you suggest it would seem to be unweildy and offers some other technical problems . . .

Getting back to THE BOOK OF MIRRORS, here is a case where the elaborate "six or eight sided booth" is not required, nor the "laser-like light" thingie--in fact, the charge grows stronger the longer that the book is closed (which has possible applications to the folded-bit-of-sailcloth theory, as well).

Remember, in the Presence Chamber we have:

- 1) Optically perfect mirrors,
- 2) Mirrors are arranged in a pattern
- 3) There is an unusual light source.

Furthermore, forms take shape in the focal point of the mirrors and s-l-o-w-l-y become concrete.

If we recognize that a manifestation occurred when Severian drifted among the sails in URTH (the genesis of the apport which became Zak), we might see that there was an unusual light source involved. Again, the materialization process was slow.

THE BOOK OF MIRRORS, while it has mirrors (of sailcloth, virtually or actually), and the mirrors are "looking at each other," still it has no light source associated with it, nor does anything happen slowly--rather, it is presented all at once.

(Quite like discovering a pressed butterfly within a specimen book, come to think of it!)

So we may have two technologies rather than one: the one a birthing of monsters, the other a window of simultaneous reality (similar to the window used to transport Severian and Gunnie

from the interior of worldship Yesod to the local area of starship "Tzadkiel").

(Then again, when Hethor seems to be searching for Severian from the sky, he may be using another aspect of the "window" technique . . .)

Damn good question on how Hethor manages to control the critters once he has pulled them to Urth!

"Find the one called Severian and I shall give you . . . a tasty Scoobie Snack!"

"Hmmm . . . grrr . . . urf . . . "

"Oh, all right--=two= Scoobie Snacks."

=mantis=