

Confirming Talirican's _Fifth Head_ variation

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 13 Mar 2000

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Dan Rabin — 13 Mar 2000, 21:56

"Talarican" <exultnttalarican at mindspring.com> writes:

I recall when I read the hardback library copy, I was struck by one particular passage that I was positive had been added from the older paperback version. It was in "A Story", where the Old Wise One was explaining to Sandwalker how the Shadow Children's "singing" worked. In the paperback version, as I recall, he said something like "Shake your hands. Now imagine your hands gone. That is what we shake. You may call it nothing, but what you think is nothing holds all things apart. When it is gone, all the worlds are born". I seem to recall the hardback version continued with another new sentence, not present in the paperback, which indicated this "birth" would follow the collapse of the universe. (so the Shadow Children's "singing" vibrates Einstein's Cosmological Constant, or Fred Hoyle's C-field? <g>)

Confirmed. The first edition hardcover has (p. 88)

When it is gone, all the worlds will come together in a fiery death from which new worlds will be born.

where the Ace paperback has (p. 95)

When it is gone, all the worlds will be born.

The Orb trade paperback (p.96) follows the text of the first edition here.

The discrepancy can be accounted for by assuming that the person re-entering the text for the paperback edition confused the two occurrences of the word "worlds". A pity, but it now stands corrected.

All three editions have the passage concerning the volume by V. Vinge.

-- Dan Rabin

P.S. The hypothetical must have been pretty bored to skip over a phrase such as "fiery death"!