

The Beautiful Ones, They Always Hurt U

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 29 Mar 2000

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/2171>

Exported from an unofficial mirror of a public mailing list. Copyright in each message remains with the person who wrote it. Email addresses are obscured as `user at host`, the form the original archive published. This file was rebuilt from parsed fields rather than retained headers, so it is faithful in content but not byte-exact.

Thomas Jeenicke — 29 Mar 2000, 08:33

Talarican wrote (digest urth v028.n169.2):

What struck me in "No Planets Strike" was what a whimpy galactic authority seems to be operating. A (shapechanging!) people who us swords they can't even make, but must obtain in trade, imprison spacegoing humans on their planet and torture them if they misbehave, and the humans cower in their starships and do nothing about it? (and keep selling them swords?!)

It must be considered that most people coming to Sidhe are very poor (p.92: "People still come, though, mostly the ones that are too poor to go anyplace else"), and authorities (galactic or otherwise) usually don't care much about that kind of people. Furthermore, the Beautiful Ones try not to get too much attention from otherworldly authorities: if somebody on another world ask about a human on Sidhe, that human is allowed to leave (p.93). Obviously, the Beautiful Ones fear that somebody with power could take an interest in their world and their world's situation after all. The traders probably still come because there is still profit to make. And if a trader leaves the ship, it was his choice and he has to take the consequence (so they think, maybe). I guess the strength of the Beautiful Ones is deception and manipulation. They look noble, but are not at all. Their manipulative skills must be great, though they aren't described. The humans on Sidhe being underdogs even before they came to the planet) don't think they can do much against the situation, and they don't work together! That working together can solve problems, is what the animals' show try to teach (p.95/96).

I wonder what the point of the Beautiful's prohibition on human reproduction was? ... Better yet, how is it implemented? Are the humans forbidden to, um, make babies, or are any who are born kidnapped?... What do they do with the children they take?

I think that it is forbidden to reproduce and, if it happens anyway, the newborns are kidnapped. My guess is that they are either killed then or raised as slaves - all humans on Sidhe are practically slaves. Why the Beautiful Ones were afraid of babies born on Sidhe right from the start, is difficult to say. But now, that the rule is implemented, it is clear, what a surviving newborn will be. The human will probably not be able to work wonders, but he will be a saviour insofar he is a symbol that there is a way to defend oneself against the Beautiful Ones (esp. if people are working together), that the miserable situation of the humans on Sidhe is not fate (not prescribed by the "planets"), but can be changed.

Thomas