

"at last" and 5HoC questions

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 09 Nov 2000

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Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 09 Nov 2000, 13:23

Hi,

Roy observed that:

While describing building his fancy house, [Weer] wrote "when the company at last came into my hands" (35). That phrase "at last" certainly sounds to me as if he had reason to anticipate acquiring the company.

While I agree with this as stated I don't think it means as much as Roy suggests: to whom would Julius leave the company? Olivia was already dead, it seems certain that they'd had no children. If Julius died intestate, a the court proceeding which would determine who got his fortune would almost certainly be drawn-out. The opening of his tale mentions vague "relations," but there's no reason to suspect siblings. These might apply for the estate, or a share in it; but as Weer (unlike them) had actually been involved with the company for years, I would guess most judges would award it (though perhaps not other things such as cash and real estate) to him... at last.

Meanwhile, I've just finished reading FIFTH HEAD for, rather surprisingly, only the second time, and find that there are some pretty basic things I don't understand. I know that many people find the last line of the first part very disturbing: I truly do not understand why.

Also, is there any reason to believe that there was ever a real John V. Marsch? I mean, by that name -- there clearly was a homeworld anthropologist. I ask because "John Marsch" sounds exactly like the name of an abo as described in the beginning of part 2: "John" is the name of all men born to the people, and "Marsch" would be a logical name for a child born in the meadomeres. Toss this together with the Earth passport having been "tampered with," and I wonder if "VRT" simply took his abo name and applied it to his new identity...