

VRT as the only John Marsch

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 10 Nov 2000

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/2454>

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Robert Borski — 10 Nov 2000, 01:30

Blattid having written:

<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...?>

John Marsch's field journal belies his. His sections appear to be quite legible--at least the junior officer assigned to review his case does not remark otherwise. Whereas once VRT has killed the Terran doctor, he must somehow account for the sudden turn in bad handwriting (abos, like the inhumi, have difficulty with manual tasks) which he blames on a cat bite. The first entry to this effect takes place in the section immediately predating April 23. "You must excuse my writing in this entry, and I suppose some of the subsequent entires as well." On April 24, he also writes: "Hand still bad, as you see from the writing." It therefore seems likely the original Earth-born Marsch has died previous to April 23.

And while we've all been talking about taking GW's interviews with a grain of salt, in his recent NOVA EXPRESS interview, Wolfe comes right out and says VRT has killed Marsch and assumed his identity.

Robert Borski