

What is "Cim" in Cim Glowing?

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 03 Nov 1997

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John Bishop — 03 Nov 1997, 10:00

Over the weekend, I got a clue: "Cim" is capitalized the same way that "Nashhwonk" and "Min" are, not the way "boat" and "tree" are. It's not a thing, it's a name.

And given the other things that are named this way, it's an animal (c.f. "kluy", a plant, which is not capitalized on reference).

Firefly sounds nice (thanks, mantis!), but small. However, if this is not Earth (for which we have clues), and is smaller, then the firefly could be larger and brighter.

But where do the snow monkeys come in? And what does everything eat? Yeah, the carnivores eat the herbivores, but in our world, there isn't a whole lot of "herb" to eat in the winter, and the animals as a whole are using up resources acquired in the summer. Even the moss that reindeer eat doesn't grow much in the winter. Years of winter would really cut back on the animal presence (e.g. the high Arctic or Antarctic: once you leave the sea, there's not much life).

'Course, we are shown plants growing under the snow. Even so, that's only going to create a tiny fraction of the number of calories per day per acre produced by plants during our summers. And we see enough animals that there have to be lots of plants to support them.

On another topic, "how can the world be circumnavigated in a few days by a sled going not much faster than a crude sailing sled?", here's a potential answer: the action isn't taking place at the equator, but close to the pole of the planet. So the Great Sleigh isn't running along a great circle route of ten(s) of thousands of miles, but just zipping along a thousand or so miles around a pole.

Or, if you don't like that, it's zipping around the edge of a small continent/island: that removes the "always going the same direction" component, though.

-John