

# "Donner, party of 4?"

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

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m.driussi — 03 Nov 1997, 18:13

Reply: Item #2052399 from URTN at LISTS.BEST.COM@INET00#

John Bishop,

Re: upper-case Cim blowing among trees, but wait--those other upper-cases you mention are group names . . . so are you saying that Cim is a group name (i.e., tribe) of some aerial or airborne creatures (like the singing moths in the Gardens of the House Absolute)? (There is also the dread typo possibility--maybe the Cim blowing should have been cim blowing.)

The female name "Red Kluy" and the plant "kluy" point to a Vironese style of naming (which is not necessarily the only form available to the tribes). Cross-tribe naming, while certainly possible, at least in theory leads to odd moments: "Hi, I'm Pueblo Lacota" (where these are two tribes widely separated by culture/geography); "Hello there, I'm Mousey Cat."

Re: the geography. I'm afraid we'll have to nix that polar circle notion (though it is clever!) since the sun would be in the south instead of directly (well . . . more or less) overhead. (I mean, if the sun is ever =really= directly overhead, then we "have no shadows," we are somewhere between the tropics, and it is local equinox.)

Hey, you could probably estimate how much Cutthroat has traveled by estimating planetary diameter (say Mars, just for fun) and then factoring in the amount of travel/time it takes for him to spot the geostationary reflector in the sky: it is, in effect, a fixed object he is heading towards, obscured only by (clouds and) the curvature of the planet.

Re: food base. Your points are valid, and I think that readers are meant to feel that desperate hunger, that nightmarish drive to cannibalism as a last resort (seeing the "animals" as human as members of the Donner party in the Sierras, or airline passengers stranded in the Andes). On the other hand, Siberia, nobody's idea of a picnic, is mainly south of the arctic circle, has lots of permafrost, yet still manages to have an eco-system considered robust when compared to the cold deserts of the poles.

Then again again, the story is =dreamy=. The "plants" have a mineral aspect, at least when they grow in the cave, don't they? Weird.

=mantis=