

Alien Stones, spoilers 2

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 29 Jun 2001

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/2709>

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Michael Andre-Driussi — 29 Jun 2001, 14:16

Rostrum wrote:

When the zombie empath shows up, the woman asks the aliens something like "Is that my husband?" And they say something like "The question is difficult. What is meant by 'is'?"

The passage from the Bible is where the Saducees, who do not believe in the resurrection, ask Jesus about a woman who has been widowed several times and remarries each time. In the resurrection, whose wife is she?

Thus: Is the empath still her husband if he's dead?

Actually she asks "Where is my husband?"

This doesn't entirely invalidate what you are saying: they are still talking about existence (either living vs. dead; animate vs. inanimate; corporeal vs. noncorporeal).

Part of the way I've seen this Bible passage in context of the story is the answer Jesus gives, that is, the rest of the passage, which is basically that there is no marriage at the resurrection. In the context of the story, it seems to me that "resurrection" might also be taken as "not-life," which includes machine-based aliens (not biological life), zombie (alien repaired dead empath--biological tool), virtual reality captain/cadet (and maybe even empath--there's that part where Helen wonders if her husband was ever really on the ship), to name a few.

But still, it is a strange angle for the captain who has just "won the woman." In fact, it might be only about her as a widow (not about the zombie or the aliens at all): that he "has" her now, but now is just a short time compared with eternity, and it doesn't really matter (or "count" or "register") at the end of time (the resurrection).

Another important point: the passage comes up when they are both safely on Gladiator and Helen has just told him that she had earlier on asked cadet Wad about Daw--what Daw's childhood was like. This sets up all sorts of weird loops. If she assumes that Wad is a computer simulation based on Daw, then she =should= ask Wad about Wad's childhood. If she thinks that Wad is a persona worn by the ship's computer, then it is unclear how the ship's computer could know enough about Daw's childhood to answer the question. She asks the question as if Wad is a fellow cadet of Daw, a classmate . . . which would make Daw a computer simulation based upon a friend or twin brother. But time and space play a part--which participant is real?

The fact that the cadet grows into the mold presented by the captain is clear. But there may be a suggestion that the beautiful empath talking to the cadet starts the obsession (for the same woman) in the cadet who then grows into the captain.

=The other symbols=

P

P-barred

X (actually looks more like a teepee)

X-barred

O

0 (looks close to O-barred)

=mantis=