

love & the inhumani

The Urth list — 3 messages, 2 voices, 07 Feb 2002

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/2935>

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Andy Robertson — 07 Feb 2002, 11:40

----- Original Message -----

From: "Alice K. Turner" <aturner3 at nyc.rr.com>
and Hyacinth's ghost in the ruined palace: part mocking, part loving.
What happened to them?

Nice post, hartshorn. Which is to say that I too have thought about these things. How in the world could two so fundamentally different characters have found a way to get along? With Silk it would be the healing power of sex,

or love . . .

now, come to think of it the whole business of the inhumani is about "the healing power of love", isn't it?

If people stop hating the inhumani, who get their souls from people, will stop being god's scourge.

Unfortunately Wolfe is not offering any facile answer here. The healing power of sexual love does not work particularly well where the inhumani are concerned: Jahlee's "humanisation" and interior sexualisation and love for Horn/Silk only leads her to try to kill Nettle.

If anything the message of the books seems to be that you *can't* love the alien, or that it is a task that requires a god's patience.

hartshorn

James Jordan — 12 Feb 2002, 17:33 · follows Andy Robertson

At 05:40 AM 2/7/2002, you wrote:
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hartshorn

In another post I mentioned that Wolfe sees sanctification as a very long and difficult process. His comment to me years ago about Severian was that Severian has come from a horrible background, and is gradually and traumatically trying to become a better person. I think we

need to bear this theme in mind in the Short Sun presentation of human/inhumi relationships. Wolfe does, IMO, present what needs to happen: people to love inhumi as they love themselves (love your Neighbor as you love yourself, and inhumi are part of Neighboriness). But there are going to be loads of setbacks along the way. These failures ought not to be taken as indications that the programme is wrong.

When Jahlee dies in Nettle's arms, that is one of the most moving scenes I've ever read. It gives me chills just to remember it. It is a wonderful image of hope in spite of failure.

Nutria

Andy Robertson — 12 Feb 2002, 20:31 · follows James Jordan

----- Original Message -----

From: James Jordan

When Jahlee dies in Nettle's arms, that is one of the most moving scenes I've ever read. It gives me chills just to remember it. It is a wonderful image of hope in spite of failure.

Actually, it seems to me a powerful image of failure in spite of hope :-(

hartshorn