

food of the narrator

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 16 Feb 2002

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maa32 — 16 Feb 2002, 22:45

Some have recently speculated on the obviously disturbing lack of appetite in the narrator of the Short Sun books. Remember that in the chilly snows of In Green's Jungles the narrator becomes deathly ill. At first I ascribed this to being fed on by his liana staff. My theory is that somehow the blood of the narrator has assimilated some plant like qualities that allow him to feed directly from the sun. If this is the case, then the link between the narrator and Severian becomes even more explicit: the narrator is powered by Severian. If Silk is in fact one of the first green men, then he no longer needs to eat and can simply pretend to eat.

How were these factors introduced to his blood stream in particular? We have a case for the physical body of Horn being subjected to sharing blood with the Vanished People (trees) when He Pen Sheep talks to him in On Blue's Waters and says that Horn is a vanished person because he has traded blood with them (which, I would argue, occurs when he falls in the pit and shares DNA, but is somehow resurrected). How were these elements introduced into the body of Silk? Through the soul of Horn? When he sits under the big tree at the end of On blue's Waters? I would argue that the wounds Silk has on his hands and arms at the very beginning of Return to the Whorl, which seemed to be caused by some "brush", actually introduced this into his bloodstream (through tree contact), which might have opened a path for Horn to travel into him in spirit (in other words, I am rejecting the Silk's suicide hypothesis in favor of a Tree Attack). When Silk runs out of the house, he runs into a big tree. I think Silk's appetite may have been affected by the sun-harnessing quality of his mixed blood --> What does this say about his relationship to Severian? If Severian is the new sun that brings light to mankind, and Horn and Silk together form one of the first men who can be sustained by that light, are they some kind of new Adam to the more Godlike Severian? Or does Severian serve Silk, since Silk in some ways is the good father figure of mankind, who guides how he will write his narrative and advises him? And how the heck are Triskele and Silk related? OK, I guess you have to buy my tree ideas to believe this. At least I've convinced a few of us ... but when the sun is not around, Silk ails and the inhumu (the vines of the trees) tend to die rather easily. Marc Aramini