

hides the universe

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 23 Feb 2002

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/2981>

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maa32 — 23 Feb 2002, 01:40

Two things:

First, for Steve and William: Thanks for at least keeping my theories in mind, guys. I really DID put a lot of thought and time into them, so of course I'm going to seem somewhat sure of them. I also kept the most obsessively complete notes, cross referencing mundane things like wind, horns, trees, sticks and just about anything else I could think of. After obsessing, you would like to think there is some validity to your hard work. If you read the text again, watch out for those weird meta-comments on the text where he talks about Urth and Blue having the same sky, where he talks about how he can't tell "you" where the vanished people came from because it would be better if you figured it out for yourself, where he mentions how horrified he was when he realized the island was made of big trees, and how he emphasizes "don't concentrate on my words, not the words on the page, to understand me" at one point in Return to the Whorl. And that scene where he scales the cliff with one hand on green while fighting off the inhumu makes so much more sense if you think of it as a scene with moon gravity. And if they are somewhat vegetative, it might make their survival more believable if they can jump through outerspace from place to place (like the tree ship Yggdrasil).

Secondly, I was also confused about the statement in the interview which said the white hole in the sun hides the universe. Did he mean "save"? How has it become hidden? (Besides maybe Urth being hidden as Blue and covered in water). Does anybody have any insights into this statement?

Also, Wolfe keeps claiming There are Doors is his favorite novel. Maybe I should give that one a close, close reading. I haven't found any of the "text transforming" connections that definitely abound in Peace, The Fifth Head of Cerberus, and The Book of the New and Short Suns (at least for me, in the last case; I think we pretty much agree on the other novels having subtle points that transform the whole story). Someone has proposed that There are Doors is actually a 1st person novel written by someone with a dissassociative disorder. I wonder. It seems as if he has put so much more esoteric research into the New Sun and the Soldier books, and it seems like they would have been much harder to write and much more satisfying to finish. I wonder why he likes that one so much. Is it just the theme? Or has he accomplished a technical triumph we (or at least I) have not yet fully recognized? He IS tricky, after all.

Marc Aramini