

Green and Blue

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 26 Mar 2002

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/3092>

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Roy C. Lackey — 26 Mar 2002, 07:48

If the two mentions of the distance in leagues from Blue to Green, cited earlier, along with the perceived interval between them, have any meaning wrt to the cosmic dance being waltzed by the two bodies; that is, if Wolfe wasn't just throwing out arbitrary numbers, then they have to bear on the physical relationship between the two bodies. If I am correct in my deduction that Green is never nearer Blue than 105,000 miles, nor farther than (roughly) 540,000 miles, then the two are locked in a macabre dance called to the tune of gravity. As I see it, there are three possibilities:

1)Blue and Green circle each other, in the same orbit around the sun. 2)One body is a satellite of the other, in the same orbit around the sun. 3)The two bodies are traveling together, linked by gravity, in the same (in effect) orbit around the sun.

There's no getting around it: if Green is never much more than half a million miles from Blue, then they are in the same solar orbit, regardless of how it came about, just as Earth and Moon are. I don't know how to account for the six-year cycle.

Blue, so far as we can tell from the text, is uncannily like Earth. It seems to have the same gravity, solar year, length of day, seasons, atmosphere, chemical composition, etc. (If that isn't true, then we've had the wool pulled over our eyes, and few of our speculations matter. There's no point in figuring times and distances when we're not using the same clocks and yardsticks.) Even the flora and fauna aren't all that different. What is true of Blue seems also to be true of Green, for the most part. The differences are less of kind than of degree. The main difference between Blue and Green evidenced in the text is that the latter is much hotter; indeed, Green seems to have no seasons. If the above figures are right, then the heat of Green is not due to it being closer to the sun than Blue. Green must have no axial tilt, to account for the lack of seasons.

I recall no mention of Green causing an eclipse of the sun on Blue. Does this preclude it orbiting Blue? Or, for that matter, from them orbiting each other? Even near conjunction Green is said to "rise", and is apparently only visible at night, though once risen it is then so bright as to be "almost a second sun" ("Afterward", EXODUS).

I don't know where all this is leading, but I really wish someone would come up with a better explanation of Gagliardo's measurements, which are, btw, on page 228 of IGJ.

-Roy