

verbal suggestions

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 30 Mar 2002

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/3112>

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maa32 — 30 Mar 2002, 07:01

Roy, there was one more thing I wanted to comment on about the wording of the dust quote. It says: "there could be little point in creating us in one place and creating us again in another. Besides, the dust of that whorl can scarcely be identical to the dust of this one." Now go down a little: "I could not find Green there, or Blue, or the Whorl, or even the constellations" But he can see the light of the red sun from Blue, right? That's the big objection I keep hearing. He can't see Blue in the heavens because he's standing on it. I don't know why he can't see Green - Hoof sees Lune later on and calls it Green, "Green came up, bigger and brighter than we ever see it on Blue. Or want to, either." (356). This makes it seem the same, but then he says (2 chapters later) "Green was up above the mainmast, and it seemed like if we put up the main top it would touch it. Our Green is not as big as theirs, but ours was plenty bright." (366) BUT we know that the moon was closer in Severian's time than it is in ours or Ushas, when the gravity upheavals of the solar system pulled it out a little. This is the thing: if Green comes closer than the moon (which it supposedly does, at conjunction) then it wouldn't seem smaller if it was big at all. It would have to be itty bitty, and therefore have less gravity than we have been talking about. I propose that it is the same size as the moon, but it has moved back to the moon's original orbit, but in an oddly unstable one which decays and is then corrected, kind of like a fish tail when you lose control of your car: it goes to the left and to the right until it is straight again, at that middle distance between the farthest point and conjunction (note that conjunction is still not as close as the moon appears to Hoof). It will stabilize at the old moon's orbit eventually.

Read this passage again, as well:

Think of a whorl so old that even its seasons have worn out ... a whorl on which they had jungles like yours once, with wide-leafed plants and many flowers and huge trees. It is too cold for that IN OUR TIME, and when the people of that whorl speak of the present they intend five hundred years. (384) RTTW Or this one in transit: "everything else was changing anyhow except the sky and the water" (346) Only the color changes and the stars come out for that. He also talks about his father's voice: as if the words were being spoken a long time ago. What does that mean: it is too cold for that in our time? why does he say when the people of that world speak of the present they intend five hundred years? Isn't that an odd way of saying that the present is anytime in the last five hundred years? Normally I would agree with a statement like the first in a text negating the dust being the same, but it is set up so that if you believe that we are related to the Vanished People, then we must be in the same place BECAUSE there is little point in creating the same people in two different places. And there is the old suggestive trick of talking in negatives: no matter what adjectives are included that temper or reverse a statement, if you want to suggest something to someone you do it as follows: When Jessica says "Don't Fight over me" in Dune, she means "Fight over me." The negative isn't there because of the way our mind processes statements. If I wanted to suggest something to you without telling you, or I wanted to fool you, I would use a light denial like "scarcely" : the suggestion of that statement is "the dust of that whorl CAN be identical to the dust of this one." simply by the way it is worded. I am aware this is opposite to its meaning - are there any linguists or behavioral psychologists who can help me support this claim - how linguistic suggestion works?

Silk isn't reliable - he tells Hoof that his ring is Seawracks, but earlier he makes a narrative point of saying that it can't be the same ring. So which is it? Can you believe blanket statements like that? (which aren't narrated events but opinions he holds - how would Silk know if it was the same dust or not? That's the difference: you can trust his depiction of most events, but you can't trust his opinions.)

I'm tired of writing about this, to tell you the truth. I can see your point. (All of your points) But I can see mine, too; and two or three statements in the text can't overturn a hundred small clues that otherwise lead nowhere. I would rather ignore three or four statements which can easily be chalked up to the limited point of view of the narrators rather than ignoring all the little clues that Wolfe obviously planted (he he) in their testimonies. In other words, Hoof has no idea if he is right or wrong when he calls Lune Green - he does it unconsciously. Silk doesn't know if the soil is the same - he just makes assumptions based on the knowledge he has - but we can know more than our fallible narrators, as a precursory glance at PEACE or Fifth Head of Cerberus should emphasize.

Marc Aramini

Roy C. Lackey — 31 Mar 2002, 08:12 · follows maa32

Date: Saturday, March 30, 2002 1:01 AM

Marc wrote:

[snip]

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My reading of "it is too cold for that in our time" is straightforward. "Our" refers to those individuals present who are attempting to travel in dream to Urth, and "our time" means the present. The present, on Blue, is the 23rd year after the lander that carried the colonists from Viron first touched down; on Urth it is shortly after Sev found Triskele, which is several decades before the big flood. Ushas is in the future of Urth on that day when Silkhorn spoke those words on Blue.

As for the rest; Silkhorn is trying to put Juganu in the proper frame of mind necessary to accomplish the trip to Urth, where neither have been except in dream. He doesn't want to end up in the mating pools of Green, about which Juganu is thinking. He is trying to impress on Juganu the antiquity of Urth--that it is worn out, used up, where very little changes even in five hundred years. When Juganu has trouble making the transfer, Silkhorn offers to go up on the roof and point out the Red Sun, around which Urth is circling. He speaks of Urth in the _present tense_ as he diverts Juganu's sexual appetite to dreams of fair Urth women. It works, and they all wind up on Urth.

"Father stopped talking, and it seemed to me that he had stopped a long time ago someplace a

long way from where I was. I opened my eyes and saw daylight and stars . . ." Hoof had gone to sleep, lost track of time as sleepers do, and when he woke up he was a long way from where he had gone to sleep.

Silkhorn's dream trips are _always_ contemporary. There are no exceptions.

All this is just another way of saying--Blue ain't Urth.

-Roy