

"Tracking Song" notes

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 05 Jun 2002

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/3295>

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Roy C. Lackey — 05 Jun 2002, 16:45

Re. Robert Borski's theory that Cutthroat is somehow Cain:

Robert didn't bring this up, but it would explain Cutthroat's otherwise puzzling lack of concern for his wound. When he first reported the wound he "felt somehow that no serious harm had been done", and was more concerned about the cold and freezing to death. Again, after he was in the cavern, he said: "I feel sure now that the wound in my chest will not kill me, though it is more painful than ever, and the feeling contradicts the plain reasoning of my mind." Yet between those two statements he states that he is weak and is afraid he will be unable to rise again if he stops moving. He worries about death from the cold, but not from the wound, which Mantru took one look at and pronounced fatal. Is his lack of concern for the wound due to a belief that he cannot or will not die from injury inflicted by men? Of course it wasn't given by Men, but by Min.

We are given no hint of any physical injury, no head trauma, to account for Cutthroat's amnesia. I suggest that his memory loss is due to a psychological blow incurred when cast off from the Great Sleigh for the murder of the Sleigh's equivalent of Abel. I also suggest that the unnamed "you" he refers to on the Sleigh, after he discovers that the recorder is also a communicator, is Abel, not God. He said: "I hear your breathing as well, though you are far ahead in the Great Sleigh, and I wonder why it is you cannot speak." "Cannot" wouldn't apply to God, but it does to the dead. Cutthroat continues: "Am I being tested? If I pass, do the right thing, if only once, will you talk to me then?" This echoes Gen.4:7, where God said to Cain, after spurning his offering, "If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted?"

When Cutthroat made the choice to search for Cim Glowing rather than pursue the Sleigh, and when he tried to defend her, he made moral choices he hoped would earn him redemption. It is also why he said to Ketin: "I am prouder of not having killed you thus far." When, at the end, he says: "I am going to talk to you face to face. Who is that tall man with you? I think he has . . . wings?", he means that he is going to die (the tall man with wings is the Angel of Death), and that in death he will see his brother once more.

I agree that Ketin is Adam; Ketin is depicted much as the Adam-like tall man at the end of "Copperhead".

I can't help but think that the term "Sleigh" is intended somehow as a pun on "slay".

-Roy