

In a Pig's Eye

The Urth list — 3 messages, 3 voices, 17 Jul 2002

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/3365>

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Charles Reed — 17 Jul 2002, 13:46

Howdy everyone.

I've been following the pretty high-level discussions going on concerning Silk-in-Pig, Silk-23 vs Silk-43, etc. But at the risk of sounding both mundane and stupid, I need to ask a question regarding Silk giving his eye to Pig.

Pig is a (smallish) giant, but a giant nonetheless. He's what, maybe four or five feet taller than Silk? Given this, Pig's head might reasonably be assumed to be twice as big (in diameter) as Silk's head, with eye sockets proportionately sized. How plausible is it, then, that Silk's eye could be successfully transplanted into Pig's eye socket? I don't pretend to know much about advanced physiological concepts, but it seems to me that Silk's eyeball would really have a lot of room in which to flop around.

Kind-of gives me the willies to think about it. :-)

Any thoughts?

Charles

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 17 Jul 2002, 16:25 · follows Charles Reed

Charles Reed wrote ...

... well, I mainly wanted to comment on the Subject: line. Oy! Is there any reasonable doubt that (once it's been pointed out) this is just another example of Wolfe's carefully hidden sense of humor?

Who let the Wolfe out? Who? Who? Who?

StoneOx17 — 18 Jul 2002, 23:17 · follows Dan'l Danehy-Oakes

"Charles Reed" <cmreed at link.com> writes

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Wolfe addresses this (possibly by accident, although I doubt it) when Silk/Horn is talking to the godling. Silk is talking:

"Oreb can see even when it seems to me that there's no light at all."

There was no reply, and he wondered whether the godling had heard him. "Oreb's eyes are larger than mine," he continued gamely, "though Oreb is so much smaller. Your eyes seem very small to me, but that's only because they are small in proportion to your face. Each must be the size of Oreb's head."

The lesson to be taken from this, of course, is that the size of the eyes of giants and godlings increases disproportionately slowly, so Pig's eyes could be only slightly larger than Silk's.

Until Charles asked his question, I had assumed that the discussion of the size of the godling's eyes was just incidental detail, and/or speculation on how physical proportions would change in giants (after the excerpt above we find that the godling's reaction time and speech are slower than Silk's). Now, I see that Wolfe's also very cleverly slipped in the answer to an objection someone might raise about an event that happens half a book later. I am impressed!

-- Stone Ox