

Narrative reliability in the Sun Cycle

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 22 Nov 2002

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Don Doggett — 22 Nov 2002, 05:21

There is none. :) But seriously folks, I just flew in from Green (Lune) and boy are my arms tired. Da Da. Okay, honestly seriously this time, I've been looking through the last several posts and there is nothing to convince me to abandon my position on Blue as Ushas. The thirty years bits all refer to things that have happened inside the Whorl and they all hinge on one idea, namely that Quetzal somehow entered the Whorl from Green or Blue thirty years ago. An easy way around that is to say that Quetzal has been on the Whorl from the start. Nowhere, to the best of my knowledge, is the lifespan of an Inhumu given in the text. For goodness sake, Jahlee was buried underground for months without nourishment (very plant like if you ask me, which you didn't) so they're obviously very hardy. Likewise, there is nothing that I have said to convince someone who wants to believe otherwise. That, I'm realizing, is the beauty of these books. Severian is a liar. Everything in the Book of the Long Sun is written by Horn and Nettle, so even Silk's experiences are at best second hand information. Short Sun is even worse: the narrator doesn't even know his own identity and then the last third of the book is second hand information! Good fishing indeed! I've had my two cents on the issue and I remain convinced that my theories can at least survive this maelstrom. And I'm appreciative that people find them worth responding to. I'm done with arguing Blue as Ushas, at least until I reread LS and SS thoroughly. But I'll be back, oh yes. I'll leave you all with this question: Do you think the people of New Viron cook their (Jan) Hus on a spit over an open flame? "Good King Wenceslas da da, la la, something something"

Don

"Wherever you go," said the Patriarch, "I'm convinced you'll come to no good. So remember, when you get into trouble, I absolutely forbid you to say that you are my disciple. If you give a hint of any such thing I shall flay you alive, break all your bones, and banish your soul to the Place of Ninefold Darkness, where it will remain for ten thousand aeons." "I certainly won't venture to say a word about you," promised Monkey. "I'll say I found it all out for myself."