

no inhumis on Urth - reason, Silk/Sev parallelism

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maa32 — 01 Dec 2002, 01:37

Here is a fascinating quote from *Sword of the Lictor*, which talks about a secret of the trees that is almost revealed to Severian (from the chapter entitled "The Widow's Hut"):

"I made my way through a forest less precipitous than the one through which I had followed the brook. The dark trees seemed, if anything, older. The great ferns of the south were absent there, and in fact I never saw them north of the House Absolute ... but there were wild violets with glossy leaves and flowers the exact color of opoor Thecla's eyes growing between the roots of the trees, and moss like the thickest green velvet I heard the barking of a dog. At the sound, the silence and wonder of the trees fell back, present still but infinitely more distant. I felt that some mysterious life, old and strange, yet kindly too, had come to the very moment of REVEALING ITSELF to me, then drawn away like some immensely eminent person, a master of the musicians, perhaps, whom I had struggled for years to attract to my door but who in the act of knocking had heard the voice of another guest who was displeasing to him and had put down his hand and turned away, never to come again. Yet how comforting it was." (89) Then he goes on to say that the roots of the trees may have pre-existed Urth, or form the very ground that he walks on. Also, remember that the trees take part in the cannibalistic ritual of Vodalus: "the trees nodded, and I nodded with them". THE TREES PARTICIPATE IN THE CEREMONY OF THE LIEGE OF LEAVES. Also remember that there is a big section that talks about Vodalus hiding the forests of Lune - sentient trees there, maybe? The trees of Green?

Here is the deal: it is too cold down South for the trees to thrive. Warmth is necessary. The reason that there are obviously little to no inhumis in the Urth sections of *Return to the Whorl* is not because they can't have evolved yet (it only takes a generation or two, as Quetzal must prove), but because IT IS TOO COLD ON URTH. It would kill them before the New Sun came. Only in the warmer north can the sentient trees even survive. After the new sun comes, Lune is pulled from its regular orbit (perhaps even out of orbit if you but that Green is a separate planet altogether, but I buy an oscillating spiral orbit that blue and green follow around a central point of gravity as both go around the sun - remember that the long sun whorl has the same year that Blue does, and therefore the same year as Urth does). Blue, or Ushas, is much warmer than Urth was. The trees and the inhumis can thrive farther south and come to the planet that is now more suited to living.

At last we have the case that sentient trees with a secret exist on Urth in the quotes from *Claw of the Conciliator* and *Sword of the Lictor* - and remember that these trees partake in a cannibalistic ritual in which the consumer takes on the traits of the one consumed, and that Vodalus leaves with these trees. Blue is warm, the orbit of Lune is changed, the salty sea is diluted by the melted polar ice caps, and the Green Man could always travel freely through the corridor of time - but remember the stipulations - he couldn't come back and set himself free from his trap because there are time restrictions through the Brook Madregot. If there are sentient trees and giant sea creatures and oxygen to breathe and cognates of many Urth species on Blue, then I think it's time we really apply Occam's razor and get to the motivation of Pas: he wants to immortalize himself on the original home of mankind: Urth. The whorl always had a

circular destination.

We even have evidence of sentient trees on Urth now participating in eating humans. What more do we need? Imagine that the liana's thrive in the newfound warmth of Lune after the New Sun comes, and that the Neighbors (aka the hybrids produced by the bioengineered trees meant to cultivate Lune and the original settlers of Lune) of Green come back to Ushas, then leave, with only the trees to mark their passage.

One more thing: in *On Blue's Waters*, there is a quote that talks about going to a region where the trees are less sleepy, and how babbie won't remain intelligent for long if he goes into the trees. I'll find it tomorrow. Also, one of the only places where Horn the narrator says that we won't believe him is when the four-armed man comes onto his boat and he says how absurd his ideas are to explain that man: that he was a favored of the gods who lived so long and then abandoned the upper world for the depths of the ocean, one who couldn't die. The only other case of a narrator stating that what happened was completely unbelievable, despite all the strange stuff that happens, is when Severian says that he won't include Silk in his text because no one would believe it. I argue that Wolfe employs this parallelism to make the one unspeakable thing in Severian's narrative Horn/Silk and the one deliberately unexplainable thing in Silk's narrative Severian.

also, Horn performs Severian's task in "In Green's Jungles" when he takes a black sword and a light and cuts away the detritus of human remains to allow a cleansing flood through the aqueduct. (just as Severian carries Terminus Est and the Claw and eliminates all humanity to start anew with green men). They really do parallel each other.

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