

blargh and rapid evolution

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 13 Dec 2002

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/3672>

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maa32 — 13 Dec 2002, 14:09

I am not convinced that the interview is a valid criticism of Blue = Ushas. I do, however, want to make the claim that the secret of the inhumani is the equivalent of rapid evolution - very, very rapid one generation evolution, which is why I snagged on the term polyploidy - or, as I like to think of it, instant speciation. Chromosomes may double in one generation in plants when a mutation like polyploidy occurs, and a new species is produced, sometimes with twice the chromosomal content. This means that, on a symbolic level, you might represent something like that going on by, say, doubling the limbs (without giving your audience a dissertation on chromosomes that the inhabitants of the planet probably wouldn't know about). This is different than natural selection - very very different. In one generation, hybridization creates new species. NO TIME IS REQUIRED. So we cannot make any claims as to how long it would take the species of the Blue to evolve - it could be three generations - if the same kind of recombination (through "canibal trees" eating) is going on planetwide. Here is one bit of evidence that supports the idea that the narrator is traveling astrally through a white hole: in the crypt with Severian and Cillinia, Hide keeps talking about the eerie light that radiates from the image of Silk in the corner - that light might stem from the astral trail that Silk has taken - through the sun and into the past - and doesn't the ship in Urth of the New Sun travel freely to the past, if it's there to block out the sun with its sails, as is generally accepted, at the long night of Apu Punchau? And I thought there was some kind of description of this travel in which the ship goes through some kind of rift in space, and Severian sees the gravid matter of the universe, or something. Whatever the general consensus is, I've quite convinced myself. Marc Aramini

Jerry Friedman — 13 Dec 2002, 17:53 · follows maa32

--- maa32 <maa32 at dana.ucc.nau.edu> wrote:

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...

I'm not either, but I mentioned it as a strong (in my mind) criticism of the possibility that the _Whorl_ got back to Ushas using the white hole as a spacetime warp. Could Typhon have planned that, and why?

For those who take author comments as valid at all.

Jerry Friedman