

How long, how long, has my little Whorl been gone?

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 17 Dec 2002

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Jeff Veyera — 17 Dec 2002, 05:13

Don Doggett wrote:

Fair enough. The thing I think that keeps me drawn to my theory is the fact that Marble's internal clock is off by three thousand years (well 2,700) soon after Silk's enlightenment. I know that's circumstantial evidence and everything is breaking on the Whorl, but it seems compelling to me.

Don

That brings up another nagging point---with all the allusions to the fact that The Whorl's been in space a lot longer than the inhabitants suspect, why couldn't Marble's clock be correct?

Those chems seem like they were built to last, as was the ship. It certainly seems to me that it might take a lot longer to get as decrepit as it did than 300 years. Some factors potentially weighing in here:

1. The fact that the cargo GREATLY outnumbers the sleepers. Can't imagine that this would have been the case from the outset, or shortly thereafter.
2. There are very few flyers left. There had to have been a host of them---would Typhon have taken any chances by undermanning the primary propulsion and heating system of the ship?
3. Marble is absolutely decrepit. I find it hard to believe that an advanced chem capable of self-repair and engaged in only mildly strenuous activity would decay so soon.
4. The ship has been looted. Cards have been currency for long enough for people to forget what they originally were or where they could be found. Sleepers have largely been exterminated or joined the cargo. The embryos have been pillaged. The Ayuntamiento knows a LOT more than they should about the ship and how it operates (not like they were given a manual when they came aboard.) All of this takes time, particularly when the original inhabitants were utterly ignorant of being aboard a ship and given that everything initially was provided for them.

I'm left with the disturbing feeling that The Whorl was in space a LOT longer than its inhabitants believe.

What say the sages?

Don Doggett — 18 Dec 2002, 02:55 · follows Jeff Veyera

Jeff wrote

That brings up another nagging point---with all the allusions to the fact that The Whorl's been in space a lot longer than the inhabitants suspect, why couldn't Marble's clock be correct?

Well, it seemed to be implied in the text that Marble's clock showed a lot smaller number not too long before.

Don