

DOORS: Time flow, death trigger, societies, W.F.

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 23 Jan 2003

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Michael Andre-Driussi — 23 Jan 2003, 17:03

Roy wrote:

The time difference was even greater for those four months Green was gone from the Otherworld; more like 14 to 1.

Yes, something like 14.67, nearly double the previous rate of 8.25 (or at least it is still higher than the probably more accurate 11:1 ratio proposed by Stone Ox). So do we agree that the rate ebbs and flows like a tide, or do you think Wolfe was just being sloppy?

About the death trigger, Roy wrote:

I disagree. If the "death trigger" mechanism were something that simple, some smart cookie would have made a fortune selling condoms and other barrier methods of birth control. Males in the Otherworld must have an innately weak libido for any such insectile biological reproductive system to work. And if that's the case, then they aren't men like us, and North's sexual revolution would never even have gotten off the ground.

That would be a completely different story, wouldn't it? A more traditional sf story, where a competent technological man discovers a world with such an imbalance, and he goes about fixing it. In a weak story he would fix it on the first go; or it could cycle through a few fix/breakdown stages to reach a new equilibrium. But TAD is not a story about solving this situation in such a manner; and it is a story which could not take place if the situation had been so solved.

(I'm not saying that the people of Otherworld even know what the trigger is, and with all the scientists being women, and "birth control" for them being all about getting more zygotes from reluctant men, well I can see how they would not discover it. Like all those arguments from women about how male scientists created the Birth Control Pill but to be used by women -- where is the Male Pill, they ask, and then tell you it won't be invented by male scientists.)

The secret societies: "Blue Sempember," "Iron Boot," and "Immortals." North does not seem a part of "Immortals," but has he become the chief of "Iron Boot"? Fanny is somewhat connected to "Immortals": is this a group that captures Earth men (who would not die by zygote transfer), or a chastity group?

BTW, pursuant to your theory of names and initials, what does W.F. stand for?

Well sure, I guess that the "W" is another "William," but that's as far as I've gotten. If it is William, then maybe he is keeping hidden from the goddess by not having that name spoken.

=mantis=