

DOORS: Dates, ages

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 11 Feb 2003

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Roy C. Lackey — 11 Feb 2003, 06:31

mantis wrote:

Speaking of Attis, the FUNK & WAGNALLS STANDARD DICTIONARY OF FOLKLORE, MYTHOLOGY, AND LEGEND has some nice notes: mention of the pine connection, which we've noted before; a calendar of events, which goes like this

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March 22 -- pine tree is cut and brought into the sanctuary of Cybele where it is "swathed with woolen bands, decked with violets" and has an effigy of a young man tied to it.

F&W must have been using Frazer for their authority; the quoted section is almost the same as in chapter XXXIV of THE GOLDEN BOUGH.

I couldn't do anything with the March dates. It was January when Green first arrived in Otherworld, either the 17th or 18th, depending on whether he spent one or two nights in the hospital. He escaped on the 19th and spent that night at the hotel with North. They went to the theater on the night of the 20th, and Green spent that night alone at the hotel. The next day, the 21st, is when Green met Fanny and he returned to our world, where it was April 15. The 21st is also when North killed Applewood. I can't do anything with the January dates, either.

Green's return to Otherworld, though it had been several years for him in our world, was four months later, making it about May 21st there. Ring any bells?

When Green had lunch with Lara at Mama Capini's for the last time, what did Mama and her son's see when they looked in the mirror? Were they four months or 4-5 years older than they were when Green had lunch with Fanny?

-Roy

Michael Andre-Driussi — 12 Feb 2003, 22:01 · follows Roy C. Lackey

Roy wrote:

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No bells ringing for me, aside from a progression from early Winter into mid-Spring.

When Green had lunch with Lara at Mama Capini's for the last time, what did Mama and her son's see when they looked in the mirror? Were they four months or 4-5 years older than they were when Green had lunch with Fanny?

<LOL> Yeah, that restaurant-between-worlds plays hell with employee break-times, too. Step out for a cigarette, come back a few days later; a little afternoon-delight and you miss a pay-period. And if the family doesn't actually live in the same building as the restaurant, whoo boy! Or rather, "Mamma mia!"

Backing up to figuring North's perspective: the police report first note is dated in July, 1987, as a member of Blue September; then December, 1987 he is chief of Iron Boot; finally he is arrested in June, 1988. So we figure he has been in Otherworld for about two local years (because we see him in January after June). Since we determine that he entered in 1972, it stands to reason that in one step he went from 1972 to 1987 (a fifteen year gap, with Otherworld having the date "in the future").

When Green enters Otherworld, we don't know the Earth date (beyond it being some year after 1984), yet he does not seem surprised at the dates on the police reports (1987, 1988), suggesting that the Earth date must be at least 1988 (or Green is just not as detail-oriented as we are, a possibility). This suggests that the year-gap is down to zero, or close. Earth might even have the date "in the future."

When Green returns to Otherworld, he must then be going into the past, since it is still 1989 in Otherworld and it is something like 1993 on Earth. Clearly by this stage (if not earlier) Earth has a calendar year "in the future" from the Otherworld perspective.

TWO WINNERS?

Today I wonder if North didn't actually "win" by dying. It has to do with Liddy's "Watch me and learn how to die" phrase to all the "squeelers" as he marched off to prison. North is definitely going out in a blaze of glory, the warrior's dream of "dying with his boots on"; and judging by the immediate effect, with the men outside weeping at the news, I wonder if he has actually brought the Thunder-child cult into being in Otherworld. Like the hero of Kipling's poem "If," he gambles it all on one throw of the dice and cannot lose no matter what.

ICE FLOES AT CAPITAL CITY

Before I forget: the reason I wonder if Otherworld might be in a mini-Ice Age is that detail about the ice in the water/on the beach seen from the hotel, and Green's conviction that the latitude on Earth would be much milder than that.

=mantis=