

green man

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 20 Jul 2003

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/4106>

Exported from an unofficial mirror of a public mailing list. Copyright in each message remains with the person who wrote it. Email addresses are obscured as `user at host`, the form the original archive published. This file was rebuilt from parsed fields rather than retained headers, so it is faithful in content but not byte-exact.

maa32 — 20 Jul 2003, 05:00

Well, I have always favored the idea that Silkhorn is the proto-green man, eaten (but spit out) by a tree and reconstituted with chloroplasts in his blood so that he never has to eat, but gets really sick in winter when the lighting isn't so good. (Through reverse endosymbiosis: tree eats man) BUT ... Silk isn't green. Maybe it's like freckles - you need a few generations of good healthy chloroplasts to have them so prominent that people become green. So I don't know.

Someone did make a fascinating claim: that Silk's power to change stories like he did with Fava could indeed have affected Severian's narrative: Silk didn't want to be in it so he changed it up, or Silk wound up in it somehow even though that's not how it really went. What a neat power to have to solve all contradictions and paradoxes! "Silk wanted it written that way subconsciously" Talk about metanarrative abilities. And he was "told" the story of Severian by his passion play in the chapter of In Green's Jungles where Silk tells his story of "the man on green" : a man with a wicked sword and a light, imbued with power from an extraordinary, previous world-cycle source, clears out the trash of humanity and brings a big flood, and in that flood loses his light just as Severian lost the claw in Lake Diuturna. So the passion play would tell him all about Severian through the odd mutable myth technique, which he could then mutate beyond all recognition at a whim or write himself into.

Marc Aramini