

Witch spirit and Tales of Silk and Horn

The Urth list — 9 messages, 7 voices, 05 Jan 2005

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/4292>

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aramini1 at cox.net — 05 Jan 2005, 21:14

I am still about fifty posts short of catching up, so perhaps some of this was covered, but I wanted to respond to a few things i read before I forgot.

A)Wizard Knight: I find it interesting that Org is clearly some kind of mutant chameleon, with scales, a reptilian head, and the ability to blend into the background - but Able doesn't seem to categorize him as a "Lizard"man.

Also, the witches ghost is interesting to me in that she speaks to Able through the wind and the rain instead of with a real voice (in the hut where he meets Mani), just as Apheta does in Urth. Her spirit seems to be hanging out throughout The Wizard, too.

B)

I was reading a few posts called Tales of Silk and Horn and I wanted to say one small thing about that. I think the simplest scheme to describe who inhabits Silk's body at any given point in the narrative is that Horn's body dies on Green, his spirit is sent hurtling into Silk, whose spirit has been so wounded (or has vacated his body) that it is no longer extant in the body.

Then, the quest to find Silk actually ENDS when Horn gives his (ok, Silk's) eye to Pig, allowing Silver Silk, who is a download of Silk from the mainframe into Pig, to re-enter the body of Silk by escaping Pig's eye , creating Silk+Horn. Then, Horn begins writing. He says his goodbyes and leaves the body of Silk, and then Silver Silk, who was never the real Silk, takes up the tale of Horn and his death at the beginning of In Green's Jungles, but denies that he is Silk until he is forced into it, so that in the text, Silk admits that he is in fact Silk at about the same place that Silver Silk is freed from Pig and placed in Silk's body.

So it is a copy of a copy of Silk that we are left with, like the copy of a copy of Severian at the end of Urth.

Hmm.

Marc

Chris — 06 Jan 2005, 00:50 · in reply to aramini1 at cox.net

It's an interesting angle, but the point of those posts was an issue of what constitutes the soul/spirit/identity. Without diving too deeply into it, the terms "soul" and "spirit", etc, were being used as shorthand in a way that evolved through the thread, so they can't be substituted freely. So your hypothesis is if anything even more problematic in this sense, because now you're dealing with three entities instead of two.

Saying that Silver Silk was "never Silk" commits you to what I was referring to as the "simple view". But, on the simple view, the download/upload process is merely memories and inclinations, not "real" spirit, or identity. And that's all Silver Silk would be, from that

perspective: not Silk, not

anyone in the sense of being an actual person - there would be no spirit associated with Silver Silk.

If you take the complex view, in contrast, you can't say that Silver Silk "was never Silk" because he was as much "Silk" as the original at the time of the download, and has as much claim to the title as the organic version.

So this plotline would just about double the possible branches on the tree of interpretation. And it would double (or more) again if you take into account the possibility that Pas (or someone else) might have downloaded partially into Silk before or after his upload (or before AND after, for that matter).

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Hmm.

Marc

StoneOx17 at aol.com — 06 Jan 2005, 04:12 · follows Chris

In a message dated 1/6/2005 12:15:10 AM Eastern Standard Time, aramini1 at cox.net writes:

B)

I was reading a few posts called Tales of Silk and Horn and I wanted to say one small thing about that. I think the simplest scheme to describe who inhabits Silk's body at any given point in the narrative is that Horn's body dies on Green, his spirit is sent hurtling into Silk, whose spirit has been so wounded (or has vacated his body) that it is no longer extent in the body.

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Let me say that I really like this idea. Does this make up for my trying to demolish your circular interpretation of WK in my last post?

So it is a copy of a copy of Silk that we are left with, like the copy of a copy of Severian at the end of Urth.

But couldn't this be the real Silk now? Are souls subject to mechanical manipulation and physical laws, or does the Outsider have direct authority over them?

Hmm.

Marc

James Wynn — 06 Jan 2005, 08:27 · in reply to aramini1 at cox.net

Then, the quest to find Silk actually ENDS when Horn gives his (ok, Silk's) eye to Pig, allowing Silver Silk, who is a download of Silk from the mainframe into Pig, to re-enter the body of Silk by escaping Pig's eye , creating Silk+Horn.

Is there any unambiguous example where the gods transfer eye-to-eye rather than exclusively eye-to-Sacred Window?

I can think of one instance that suggests this is impossible. Kypris-In-Chenille tells Silk that Maytera Mint had a partial download of Kypris (because she forced herself to look away). She tells Silk that they need to get Mint to a Sacred Window before she has some sort of breakdown. But if eye-to-eye transfers were possible, Chenille only needed to get alone with Mint and look her in the eye. Thus, it seems, eye to eye transfers are not possible.

~ Crush

Adam Stephanides — 06 Jan 2005, 18:45 · in reply to aramini1 at cox.net

on 1/5/05 11:14 PM, aramini1 at cox.net at aramini1 at cox.net wrote:
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I won't rehearse my disagreement with the "PigSilkHorn" scenario again, but I did want to mention something that I just noticed (if this has been noted already, I apologize). When precisely is "Silver Silk" downloaded into "Horn"? Twice, in the scene in Pig's hospital room, it is stated that Horn looks into a glass (371-2), and I've seen it suggested that it is at one of these moments. But this won't work, for two reasons. First, both these times are before the bandage has been removed from Pig's eye, so Silk cannot have left Pig yet. Second, Silk is still present in

Pig during Pig's last conversation with Horn (374). If Silk's soul does go from Pig to Horn, it must be offstage, in the gap on the page between the last reported words spoken by "Pig" and Hari Mau speaking to Horn in the lander.

Silver Silk, who was never the real Silk, takes up the tale of Horn and his death at the beginning of In Green's Jungles, but denies that he is Silk until he is forced into it, so that in the text, Silk admits that he is in fact Silk at about the same place that Silver Silk is freed from Pig and placed in Silk's body.

But neither of these passages were written by Silkhorn; the juxtaposition of the two is the editors' work.

--Adam

aramini1 at cox.net — 06 Jan 2005, 22:20 · follows Adam Stephanides

Adam said:

But neither of these passages were written by Silkhorn; the juxtaposition of the two is the editors' work.

My point was that Wolfe has consciously constructed the book in such a fashion - not Silkhorn.

Marc

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 07 Jan 2005, 09:31 · in reply to aramini1 at cox.net

I should like to point out that the downloading of "Silver Silk" into the Narrator remains speculative. There are several explanations (not all mutually exculsive) of how the Narrator comes to realize that he is Silk and what, precisely, it means. Furthermroe, there is, so far as I know, no direct or usefully indirect textual evidence to suggest that the SSilk persona is "reloaded" into the Narrator at _any_ point.

For those who hold that SilverSilk is downloaded into the Narrator,I suggest it would be worth spending a bit of effort finding support for the theory before elaborating its details more.

--Dan'l

On Fri, 7 Jan 2005 1:20:29 -0500, aramini1 at cox.net <aramini1 at cox.net> wrote:
Adam said:

But neither of these passages were written by Silkhorn; the juxtaposition of the two is the editors' work.

My point was that Wolfe has consciously constructed the book in such a fashion - not Silkhorn.

Marc

James Wynn — 07 Jan 2005, 11:58 · in reply to Dan'l Danehy-Oakes

I should like to point out that the downloading of "Silver Silk" into the Narrator remains speculative.

--Dan'l

I thought of another reason why this is probably not possible. Scylla remains trapped in Oreb all that time. If she could have transferred out eye-to-eye, would she have stayed there?

Anyway, I thought Silver Silk wanted out of Pig so he could rejoin Kypris. That's what he told the Narrator. For him to jump into Silk's body and take a ride to Blue strikes me as the opposite of what he would have done. I would think that if he entered Silk, he would immediately go to a Window and escape.

~ Crush

harlekin at earthlink.net — 08 Jan 2005, 15:16 · follows James Wynn

-----Original Message-----

From: James Wynn <thewynns at earthlink.net>
Sent: Jan 7, 2005 12:58 PM
To: The Urth Mailing List <urth-urth.net at lists.urth.net>
Subject: Re: Re: (urth) Witch spirit and Tales of Silk and Horn
I should like to point out that the downloading of "Silver Silk" into the Narrator remains speculative.
--Dan'l

I thought of another reason why this is probably not possible. Scylla remains trapped in Oreb all that time. If she could have transferred out eye-to-eye, would she have stayed there?

If the transfer happened, it was probably eye to whatchamacallit (oh yeah, sacred window) and then window to new eye. Scylla was hiding in Oreb, then when he left the whorl, she was stuck.

Don