

SS Matters Revisited

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 21 Apr 2005

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/4409>

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studio at studiobl.com — 21 Apr 2005, 09:10

Re-Posted, with some additions (including supporting quotes):

I am just finishing a third(?) reading of RTTW. I felt that I was beginning to get some inklings of new insight, and have resolved to re-read the entire BOTN, making marginal notes.

I have a few thoughts and questions, though.

Has anyone worked out a timeline of events. I found that this time, I was able to keep track of the different time sequences better than previously, but on beginning to reread the first book, I started becoming confused just where SilkHorn's time in Gaon fit into the timeline.

Why is Seawrack missing a limb? At one point, I thought Babbie had bitten it off, resulting in some kind of psyche transference, but I'm not so sure of this now. The Mother seems pretty powerful--if Seawrack is supposed to attract at least in part by physical beauty, why wouldn't the Mother completely replace her arm, rather than just cauterize it? I tend to wonder if Seawrack's arm is missing for some specific reason...creatures with extra limbs, Seawrack with a missing limb...I can't figure it out..

Does Seawrack's ability to trigger uncontrollable rutting behavior have any thing to do with inter-species breeding experiments?

What is the encrusted thing that climbs aboard Horn's boat?

[OBW, Ch6 'Seawrack': "Something climbed into our sloop last night that was neither a beast nor a man, and was not a thing of the sea nor a thing of the land, nor even a thing of the air like the inhum...In appearance it was like a man of many arms and legs, long dead and covered over with crabs and little shellfish and other things...I think it feared the storm as much or more than we."]

I thought the broken dome on the island had most likely been a greenhouse for genetic experiments. Possibly human/plant hybrids resulting in the Neighbors.

--The Neighbors

would then be humans transformed to meet new environmental stresses. Why then, would similar domes be at the bottom of the sea, as Seawrack mentions?

[OBW, Ch8 'The End': "'I know of places in the sea where there are walls like those," Seawrack told me. Her voice was hushed. "'Underwater' is what you say."]

Is Horn made part Neighbor on the island? Or just what the heck happens in the pit?

--It does sound as if he is killed in the fall, and somehow restored to life by one or more Neighbor. I wonder if Horn's spirit isn't temporarily 'stored' in Babbie, while the repairs (or

whatever) are made. When Horn's spirit is being transferred to Silk's body (OBW Ch 16) there is some understandable confusion about who is who and where, including some confusion between the identities of Silk/Horn and Babbie.

If the Neighbors allowed the Imhumi to become part human in order to compare the result with the result of Inhumi infused with Neighbor blood, where are the Neighbor/Inhumi?

[RttW, Ch11 'My Trial': (Horn is speaking) 'That is what the Neighbors did. Knowing what their own inhumi were like, they gave us ours so they might compare the two.']

Why does Horn's son see a Neighbor sitting on a "tree branch" when he looks through Horn's ring?

[RttW, Ch17 'He Took Me With Him': (Hide writes) 'I held it to my eye...I noticed the limb of a tree floating upright to starboard. The leaves were still silver and green, and the limb was so big it looked like a whole tree even though I would think there must have been a trunk floating the regular way since a floating tree does not stick up like that. There was somebody sitting in one of the branches, and it was one of the Vanished People.']

If the Vanished People were dryads, why wouldn't the ring allow you to see a VP in a regular tree? Why is the tree also hidden, and why is it sticking up out of the ocean?

I think much of this fits together as a breeding or hybridization program. The three races (Neighbors, Humans and Inhumi) are brought together to create hybrids that are desirable somehow to someone. This is accomplished, in part by bringing the colonists from the Whorl to Blue and Green. The Whorl is to be sent away with a cargo of pure human stock, presumably with the idea to repeat the hybridization in another 600 years or so. Possibly this is why the Neighbors have 'gone away' --to preserve remaining pure stock for future hybridization.

Have the Neighbors really gone anywhere if you can find one just by peeping through one of their rings? What is that damn ring anyway? It seemed like Horn left it on Green when he was placed into Silk's body. Then he got a different ring that seem to turn, over time, into the original ring.

Is one of the three races the method of hybridization, rather than a base stock? Possibly the Inhumi?

[An interesting quote from OBW, Ch5 'The Thing on the Green Plain': (Horn writes) 'If the inhumas' eggs hatched in our climate, would not our human kind become extinct? What tricks Nature plays! If they are natural creatures at all. But they surely are. Natural creatures native to Green. Why would the Neighbors create something so malign?']

If the gods have hidden in animals, is Echidna in Babbie? Is someone in Oreb? Is Oreb even the original Oreb? Could Scylla be in Oreb for some reason? I'm not sure why I think this last, I seem to remember some connection between the two, possibly from the Long Sun Books. A lot of what happened around Lake Limna seemed fishy to me. I think there is a lot of hints in that portion of the book that I couldn't quite get.

[Regarding the gods hiding in animals, RttW, Ch16 'Hari Mau': (the Whorl crew surgeon M'to is talking to SilkHorn after the operation to transplant one of SilkHorn's eyes into Pig) "'...You know about the animals?"
"What animals?"

"Great Passilk is supposed to be mad at his wife and half his sprats...people say they've turned themselves into animals to get away from him."]

Anything about the ocean-dwelling giants confuses me. I still don't quite get it about Abaia and whatnot. Was he just an alien who was scheming to take over Urth? Where does the Mother (in Blue's ocean) fit into the picture? She seems to be less malign than Abaia and his wives. For one thing, the Mother seems to be involved in helping Mucor survive. Either Seawrack or the Mother are probably the ones chasing fish up onto the rock for Mucor to eat.

I wonder if Mucor is able to assist with the transference of the psyches of others--kind of like a human Sacred Window. If she could appear to the blind Pig, she may have offered to release the trapped PasSilk. She may also have been removing some rider from Babbie when Horn returned to Maytera's island with her eye. ...either Echidna, some part of Echidna, or even part of herself...a sort of recording mechanism by which Mucor could plant part of herself, then retrieve it later and access its memory.

In Rttw, Ch1 'The Bloodstained Men', Hide tells Horn about a dream. Hide has dreamed, among other things, that he hides under a multi-legged couch and discovers that a girl is already hiding there. Hiding under a multi-legged thing sounds like hiding in spirit inside a hus, but who is the girl? Hide never says.

I don't doubt that some of these questions have been answered before...searching the Urth archives can be kind of frustrating, though--lots of slogging through barely related material that results from searching a keyword.

Brian Lovely

Studio bl

<http://www.studiobl.com>

James Wynn — 21 Apr 2005, 10:50 · in reply to studio at studiobl.com

Brian Lovely said:

Has anyone worked out a timeline of events. I found that this time, I was able to keep track of the different time sequences better than previously, but on beginning to reread the first book, I started becoming confused just where SilkHorn's time in Gaon fit into the timeline.

The Narrator's rule over Gaon takes place after the Narrator leaves the Whorl...after he gives his eye to Pig (RTTW). Remember he got to the Whorl by leaving Horn's body behind on Green (IGJ). And he got to Green with the lander that left from Pajarocu (OBW).

The entire Short Sun story is written after the Narrator returns to Blue.

After the story has started to be recorded, the Narrator escapes from Gaon (end of OBW), fights the war at Blanco(?) (IGJ), liberates Dorp, and returns to New Viron (RTTW).

But as I wrote before, there are still some REAL puzzlers about the timeline.

Why is Seawrack missing a limb? At one point, I thought Babbie had bitten it off,

resulting in some kind of psyche transference, but I'm not so sure of this now. The Mother seems pretty powerful--if Seawrack is supposed to attract at least in part by physical beauty, why wouldn't the Mother completely replace her arm, rather than just cauterize it? I tend to wonder if Seawrack's arm is missing for some specific reason...creatures with extra limbs, Seawrack with a missing limb...I can't figure it out..

Yeah. It seems there ought to be some point, thematic or otherwise. (shrug).

[OBW, Ch6 'Seawrack': "Something climbed into our sloop last night that was neither a beast nor a man, and was not a thing of the sea nor a thing of the land, nor even a thing of the air like the inhumani...In appearance it was like a man of many arms and legs, long dead and covered over with crabs and little shellfish and other things...I think it feared the storm as much or more than we."]

Oh. Well, the Narrator makes some suppositions about this that bring to mind Baldanders retreat into the sea.

I thought the broken dome on the island had most likely been a greenhouse for genetic experiments. Possibly human/plant hybrids resulting in the Neighbors. --The Neighbors would then be humans transformed to meet new environmental stresses. Why then, would similar domes be at the bottom of the sea, as Seawrack mentions?

[OBW, Ch8 'The End': "'I know of places in the sea where there are walls like those," Seawrack told me. Her voice was hushed. "'Underwater' is what you say."]

Ah yes! And Seawrack is very uncomfortable in the destroyed dome on the island. I have no answer to this one.

Is Horn made part Neighbor on the island? Or just what the heck happens in the pit?

--It does sound as if he is killed in the fall, and somehow restored to life by one or more Neighbor. I wonder if Horn's spirit isn't temporarily 'stored' in Babbie, while the repairs (or whatever) are made. When Horn's spirit is being transferred to Silk's body

(OBW Ch 16) there is some understandable confusion about who is who and where, including some confusion between the identities of Silk/Horn and Babbie.

True. There is some confabulation between the Narrator and Babbie at the end of OBW. I don't understand that part, but I think my explanation explains more and is appealing on more levels. I wish I understood Babbie.

Hmmm....Here's a hypothesis: Horn asks Mucor to find Silk and because he wants to bring him back to New Viron. She contacts him psychically and he refuses to leave the Whorl, telling a lie that it would be "dangerous" for him and Hyacinth for Horn to contact him. But Mucor is still helpful and returns with a psychic piece of Silk and transfers it to Babbie. Then she gives Babbie to Horn. Thus she helps Horn succeed in his task. That would explain why the Narrator (who

contains both Horn's and Silk's psyches) is confabulated with Babbie's identity.

If the Neighbors allowed the Inhumis to become part human in order to compare the result with the result of Inhumis infused with Neighbor blood, where are the Neighbor/Inhumis?

[RttW, Ch11 'My Trial': (Horn is speaking) 'That is what the Neighbors did. Knowing what their own inhumis were like, they gave us ours so they might compare the two.']

(Crush smiles with satisfaction). Their Inhumis are like VINES. Note how the on both Blue and Green, one finds the trees and lianas in "embrace".

"Green is a whorl made for trees, and Green's trees have solved every problem but that one [the lianas]. One might almost call it a whorl made by trees..." IGJ pg 17.

This also fits with the Inhumis association with Dionysus, the god of the vine:
<http://www.urth.org/whorlmap/quetzal.htm>

Why does Horn's son see a Neighbor sitting on a "tree branch" when he looks through Horn's ring?

[RttW, Ch17 'He Took Me With Him': (Hide writes) 'I held it to my eye...I noticed the limb of a tree floating upright to starboard. The leaves were still silver and green, and the limb was so big it looked like a whole tree even though I would think there must have been a trunk floating the regular way since a floating tree does not stick up like that. There was somebody sitting in one of the branches, and it was one of the Vanished People.']

If the Vanished People were dryads, why wouldn't the ring allow you to see a VP in a regular tree?

What makes you think it couldn't? He only looks at one. But there are all sorts of hypotheses for why one might only see a tree's associated Neighbor some of the time.

Why is the tree also hidden, and why is it sticking up out of the ocean?

How is it hidden? I don't understand. The Narrator says it was floating.

I think much of this fits together as a breeding or hybridization program. The three races (Neighbors, Humans and Inhumis) are brought together to create hybrids that are desirable somehow to someone. This is accomplished, in part by bringing the colonists from the Whorl to Blue and Green. The Whorl is to be sent away with a cargo of pure human stock, presumably with the idea to repeat the hybridization in another 600 years or so. Possibly this is why the Neighbors have 'gone away' --to preserve remaining pure stock for future hybridization.

Which begs the question: To what purpose? Especially since the Narrator and Seawrack abandon the Green/Blue system (Bleen). Are you then in agreement with my theory that the Neighbors had a hand in the launching of 'The Whorl'?

Have the Neighbors really gone anywhere if you can find one just by peeping through one of their rings? What is that damn ring anyway? It seemed like Horn left it on Green when he was placed into Silk's body. Then he got a different ring that seem to turn, over time, into the original ring.

Yes. Damn Wolfe!

[An interesting quote from OBW, Ch5 'The Thing on the Green Plain': (Horn writes) 'If the inhumas' eggs hatched in our climate, would not our human kind become extinct? What tricks Nature plays! If they are natural creatures at all.

But they surely are. Natural creatures native to Green. Why would the Neighbors create something so malign?']

Yeah, but there are also quotes that suggest the Inhumani were merely natural creatures whose camouflage powers became malign in the presence of a sentient race that preyed on its own species.

[Regarding the gods hiding in animals, RttW, Ch16 'Hari Mau': (the Whorl crew surgeon M'to is talking to SilkHorn after the operation to transplant one of SilkHorn's eyes into Pig)

"...You know about the animals?"

"What animals?"

"Great Passilk is supposed to be mad at his wife and half his sprats...people say they've turned themselves into animals to get away from him."]

Well, we know that and we know why. Passilk is called that because he has required Silk's psyche as a patch for the psyche lost during his erasure. But it is Silver Silk in Pig. They are hiding in the animals. Perhaps it was Pas in Oreb during the Long Sun but it is definitely Scylla in Oreb when they return to Blue (she sneaked in at during the sacrifice).

Anything about the ocean-dwelling giants confuses me. I still don't quite get it about

Abaia and whatnot. Was he just an alien who was scheming to take over Urth? Where does the Mother (in Blue's ocean) fit into the picture? She seems to be less malign than Abaia and his wives. For one thing, the Mother seems to be involved in helping Mucor survive. Either Seawrack or the Mother are probably the ones chasing fish up onto the rock for Mucor to eat.

Well, someone like Mucor could be in contact with anyone imaginable, including races below the sea: Either those giants, or the inhabitants of the domes, or Mother, or all three if they are one people.

I wonder if Mucor is able to assist with the transference of the psyches of others--kind of

like a human Sacred Window. If she could appear to the blind Pig, she may have offered to release the trapped PasSilk. She may also have been removing some rider from Babbie when Horn returned to Maytera's island with her eye. ...either Echidna, some part of Echidna, or even part of herself...a sort of recording mechanism by which Mucor could plant part of herself, then retrieve it later and access its memory.

Well, if she is not limited by time then she can simply access that time to retrieve whatever part of herself she wants.

In Rttw, Ch1 'The Bloodstained Men', Hide tells Horn about a dream. Hide has dreamed, among other things, that he hides under a multi-legged couch and discovers that a girl is already hiding there. Hiding under a multi-legged thing sounds like hiding in spirit inside a hus, but who is the girl? Hide never says.

I'm pretty sure that is the inhumani Fava who did not return to her body after spirit traveling and has retreated to the world of dreams. Doesn't he see her later in a dream playing hide and seek with Mora?

~ Crush