

(no subject)

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 06 Jul 2005

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James Wynn — 06 Jul 2005, 22:06

I said:

I am saying that Tussah KNEW he is a clone of Typhon. It is likely he even knew that Pas had that name on the Red Sun Whorl (the Rajan was aware of it). Lemur knows a lot of details about the family of Typhon.

Chris responded:

I think this is a bigger assertion than you appear to think it, at least based on the cursory treatment of it so far. Knowing some details about the history of Typhon, knowing that Pas is Typhon, these are significant things to be sure - and one can imagine a few vectors this knowledge might be acquired.

The only way I can possibly think of for Tussah to know **who** he was a clone of is to get it directly from one of the gods. Presumably Pas...

I'm just supposing here, but if I were writing this story, having established Silk's remarkable perceptiveness, I would would have had Tussah **deduce** his nature. That said, I could imagine lots of ways for Tussah to know up to and including be **told** by his guardians. Nevertheless, it is **almost** essential that he be aware of it (although subconscious knowledge cannot be ruled out since this a Wolfe story).

I said:

SILK and TUSSAH and were part of the Plan of Pas with respect to Viron. But it was not necessary for Typhon to plan it from Urth. Tussah's implantation could be argued to be timed with the Whorl's arrival to Blue, but Silk's was done by after Pas's erasure."

Chris responded:

But this puts Pas/Typhon in the position of doing **just** the kind of planning that seems most problematic...And there seems no reason at all to go to the trouble of raising Tussah from an embryo and engineering his rise to Calde-hood, instead of just working with whoever happens to be in place at the time.

Today in Iraq, there are over a hundred thousand US soldier organizing patrols and public works projects. I presume this is part of the Plan of US General Abizaid. But it is not necessary for Abizaid to have personally planned the current any specific activity. He has layer upon layer of individuals who are working to have his Plan succeed. They derive their daily duties from that Plan, but their focuses change from day to day as circumstances require.

Since it is an **inequivocal** fact that the embryos **were** on the ship to with added abilities to unite and direct the colonists, it seems obvious to

me that they would start dropping those embryos a couple decades before the colonists' planned departure. Who did that? I would guess the technicians at either end of the Long Sun. Typhon did not have to *plan* that being done per se. It probably wasn't even his idea. The colonists on the Whorl came in three types: the Cargo who maintained varying cultures (presumably artificially created), the Sleepers (who also had their memories tinkered with to prevent them overawing the Cargo), and the Embryos, and the embryos with their pimped out genes. But the Plan went awry. Pas was murdered by the other Mainframe modules, Tussah--one of the hyped up embryos--was murdered, and some of the embryos were stolen and sold on the black market.

Tussah's implantation was *probably* part of the orderly Plan. But Silk's implantation and any subsequent similarly purposeful implantations (Mucor's type does count) only required parties with means to emplant them and a desire to see the Plan to succeed. It was CERTAINLY not necessary for Silk's ascension to the Caldeship be planned from Urth.

Well, Silk meets Mamelta rather than Kypris in Mainframe would imply that the same would apply to his father; since we know Typhon doesn't make it on the Whorl, it would imply that Silk's father is someone other than Typhon. So I don't think that interpretation is favorable for your purposes.

Buuuut, the father is NOT identified and Mamelta *is*. However, if Mamelta = Kypris then Silk's bio dad is Typhon (unless you think Ty was being cuckolded).

If it were important to hide a child from the eyes of the powerful, then the best schools might be the worst place for his welfare. Putting [child who was the image of Tussah] in the best schools probably would have been murder.

To fly under the radar you have to place him in the worst place you can find? A nice middle-income neighborhood would have done just fine for concealment.

No it would not. The essence of middle class is social mobility. If you want to hide someone from the eyes of the powerful in a limited space (such as a city), you have to place that person as far from the eyes of the powerful as possible...such as a neglected neighborhood. What difference would it make? With the leadership clones' innate skills they could overcome any social obstacles to rise like a cork from the bottom of the Mariana Trench. Doesn't Sik's ascension prove that?

What was the plan in placing a clone in Horn's neighborhood?

Have you read "A Confederacy Of Dunces"? There's a pivotal scene where Burma Jones, in an act of sabotage writes information identifying his employer on a bag of pornography. Why? How would that be sabotage? "Because it doesn't belong there," he says. He doesn't have a plan beyond that. By the same token, I doubt whoever implanted Horn had a specific plan for how he would be used either, but such a clone would be a powerful tool and it would have Tussah's face and it was against the Ayuntamientos perceived interests...so that would be enough. Quetzal looks like a better and better choice since Silk was MOVED to that neighborhood by the Charter. But, truth is not really stated.

Based on Mark Millman's hint found the relevant quote on page 139 of "Sword and Citadel". What Typhon says of his face is that "it is the face that men are customed to obey". Obviously that is not an issue on the Whorl unless Typhon intends the colonists to be ruled by physical representations of monsters.

Incorporating Mark's insight here creates something of a pretzel of logic that is difficult to straighten out...

Well lets start by quoting the text then:

"Why should you desire to have such a thing done?"

"That I might have life, of course...My physicians, of whom I naturally had the best of many worlds, told me it might be possible for me to take a new body, their first thought being to enclose my brain in the skull previously occupied by another. You see the flaw in that?...The face--the face! The face would be lost, and it is the face that men are accustomed to obey!... I told them it wouldn't do. Then one came who suggested that the entire head might be substituted. It would even be easier, he said because the complex neural connections controlling speech and vision would be left intact. I promised him a palatinate if he should succeed."

"It would appear to me--" I began.

Typhon laughed once more. "That it would be better if the original head were removed first. Yes, I always thought so myself. But the technique of making neural connections was difficult, and he found that the best way--all this was with experimental subjects I provided for him--was to transfer only the voluntary functions by surgery. When that was done, the involuntary one's transferred themselves, eventually. Then the original head could be removed. It would leave a scar, of course, but a shirt would cover it."

"But something went wrong?" [...]

Mostly a matter of time." The terrible vigor of his voice, which had been unrelenting, now seemed, now seemed to wane. "Piaton was one of my slaves--not the largest, but the strongest of all. We tested them. It never occurred to me that someone with his strength might be strong, too, in holding to the action of the heart...It was a period of great confusion as well."

The first question is, did Typhon possess special genetic powers of leadership, or not?

If no, then Silk/Tussah (who *do* possess such special genetic abilities) are not of Typhon's line. So your answer here has to be "yes".

I disagree. Are you saying that if you had a grandchild with a genetic disorder who benefited from gene therapy, that he would not be of your line anymore?

Or are you saying that a clone who has had his genes tinkered with to some degree is by definition no longer a clone? Well then what of the multi-armed twin Number Five found? This is an interesting case for Sci-Fi family court, but it doesn't matter in this case, because I assert:

- 1) Tussah considered himself to be a clone of Typhon.
- 2) Tussah knew Silk's genetic relation to Typhon.
- 3) Tussah, therefore, called Silk "the son not of my body", NOT in order to differentiate his unnamed successor from all other claimants (since knowledge of that was clearly and ultimately not necessary), BUT because he considered it a fact. A simple fact.

The second question is, if Typhon did possess special genetic powers of leadership, then why did he have to worry so much about his face?

Well, I hope I shown that it is not necessary for Ty to have such special manufactured powers. And the text shows that that was not the reason for his concern over his face. The issue is that the people are ACCUSTOMED to obey his face. Enclose his brain in another body and to that

extent he is starting from scratch. Enemies might even let out that he is NOT the real Typhon, but a usurper. The power of dictators lay in their ability to prove that coming against them is fruitless. If there were any question about who was really in there. The whole farce would collapse.

the whole two-headed monster thing isn't exactly familiar (or positive, either).

But Pas did not originally intend to have that head very long. His testimony states that Piaton held on to the involuntary bodily functions longer than expected and the do to all the "confusion" the an occasion never arose where it was convenient to figure out how to help it along.

[And of course even without connecting the leadership genes to facial features, one still expects Typhon's son (if he is to have similar abilities) to take after his father quite a bit.]

Sons don't always look like their fathers. Sometimes they look like their mothers instead. It happens. But Silk did inherit his father's blonde hair and physical supposed physical significance.