

fifth head

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 31 May 2008

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/5036>

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dwallach at mail.utexas.edu — 31 May 2008, 05:47

Hey guys, this is my first time writing on this thing. I've just recently been introduced to Gene Wolfe (I finished Shadow and Claw a few days ago and am reading Fifth Head of Cerberus while I wait for S&C in the mail). Anyway, I just finished reading the first novella and I'm honestly kind of clueless as to what that last line means (spoiler to those who haven't read it): "someday they'll want us". Who is Number Five referring to and what does the line mean? Thanks, and hopefully when I finish S&C and the rest of the Sun books I'll be writing more.

-David

Dave Tallman — 31 May 2008, 20:16 · in reply to dwallach at mail.utexas.edu

dwallach wrote:

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Welcome, David. You can probably find many more detailed answers in the archives, but my take is that Number 5 has become just like his "father." Just as Maitre hoped to raise his family in the social hierarchy through his clone experiments, Number 5 will do the same with his new clone. "Someday they'll want us" means someday his family will rule. Someone once said "The definition of insanity is to keep doing the same thing, and expecting different results."