

AEG spoilers - Gid as Timelord?

The Urth list — 4 messages, 3 voices, 28 Oct 2008

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/5201>

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.

Mr Thalassocrat — 28 Oct 2008, 10:20

Or something.

- The only time discrepancies we get told about explicitly involve him: messages around his birth, and his ethermail message to Cassie.
 - He wears a watch but doesn't need to look at it.
 - The only RC we know about in this story is his father Bob. Did HPL give the watch to Bob, ~150 years ago?
 - Gid seems too old. Bob was the first ambassador to Woldercon; then Klausner; then Bill, up until a couple of years ago. Gid was born on Woldercon, and left when he was a child. Say he was five at the time, and say Sharon is right and he's around 35 now. That means say 28 years total for the ambassadorships of Klausner and Bill. But Bill's service was during the two terms of Ingstrup's presidency, so around 8 years. That makes Klausner ambassador for 20 years - how likely?
 - How long is it between the time he gts his leg cut off and the time he reappears as Gil, prancing around on his peg-leg with a dancing demi-goddess on stage? Three months or so? How likely? (But Gid is surely half-human at most, so maybe he has superior recuperation powers or something.)
-

Dave Tallman — 28 Oct 2008, 12:01 · in reply to Mr Thalassocrat

Thalassocrat wrote:

- The only time discrepancies we get told about explicitly involve him: messages around his birth, and his ethermail message to Cassie.

If the birth announcement message was treated like Cassie's ethermail (sent in order to avoid time complications) then it's possible that there was no child at all and that Gid is an imposter. On the other hand, the President treats him as the genuine son of the ambassador (p)

- He wears a watch but doesn't need to look at it.
 - The only RC we know about in this story is his father Bob. Did HPL give the watch to Bob, ~150 years ago?
 - Gid seems too old. Bob was the first ambassador to Woldercon; then Klausner; then Bill, up until a couple of years ago. Gid was born on Woldercon, and left when he was a child. Say he was five at the time, and say Sharon is right and he's around 35 now. That means say 28 years total for the ambassadorships of Klausner and Bill. But Bill's service was during the two terms of Ingstrup's presidency, so around 8 years. That makes Klausner ambassador for 20 years - how likely?
 - How long is it between the time he gts his leg cut off and the time he reappears as Gil, prancing around on his peg-leg with a dancing demi-goddess on stage? Three months or so? How likely? (But Gid is surely half-human at most, so maybe he has superior recuperation powers or something.)
-

Dave Tallman — 28 Oct 2008, 15:07 · follows Dave Tallman

Gid cannot be too powerful. A time-traveler with the ability to freely change the past would not allow himself to be shot and lose a leg, for example. I don't think he can consciously warp reality enough to account for Cassie's address changes, for the same reason. Still, he is very capable:

- 1) He's strong, since he can break through a door with one lunge (p. 82).
- 2) He's agile, since he can do professional-level dancing even after losing a leg.
- 3) He has a time-sense, though there are places it doesn't work (p. 75). Perhaps when he's in space?
- 4) He may have matured more quickly than usual, allowing him to appear older than he really is.
- 5) He has a remarkable range of knowledge, including physics, Earth arcana, and old sea shanties.
- 6) He can enter a locked room through a one-foot-square hole.

I think these can be accounted for by two factors: his biological father and his adoptive father. I think we should believe he was born on Woldercan. Ambassador Klauser saw him there as a young boy (p. 297). Klauser also says that Wolder males try to seduce Earth females, and Chase tells us that they can reproduce with other species. This probably accounts for his physical traits.

His adoptive father is Robert Chase, who seems to have known Lovecraft (p. 75). If Lovecraft used him as the basis for his stories of Randolph Carter, we know that he is an "old dreamer" (Dream Quest of the Unknown Kadath) who is well-aquainted with the mysterious beings of Earth (who are aliens, at least in this novel). Bob Chase was either an old wizard who had some means of prolonging his life, or a time-traveler. He probably taught his son a great deal.

There is also the connection to Charles Finney and the "Circus of Dr. Lao" to account for. Bob Chase became the first ambassador to Woldercan. Is it too much to speculate that he used some knowledge he gained through his arcane research to get a clue to the planet's location from the old space-faring races that are hidden on Earth? He may have collaborated with Chuck Finney, a descendant of the Charles Finney who wrote a novel based on his encounter with Dr. Lao and his circus, in order to get the planet discovered. Lao himself may have come from the planet Woldercan, and brought some of the humanoid-animal crossbreed monsters from there (there was a centaur in his circus, for example).

Adam Thornton — 28 Oct 2008, 15:18 · in reply to Dave Tallman

On Oct 28, 2008, at 10:07 AM, Dave Tallman wrote:
His adoptive father is Robert Chase, who seems to have known Lovecraft (p. 75). If Lovecraft used him as the basis for his stories of Randolph Carter, we know that he is an "old dreamer" (Dream Quest of the Unknown Kadath) who is well-aquainted with the mysterious beings of Earth (who are aliens, at least in this novel). Bob Chase was either an old wizard who had some means of prolonging his life, or a time-traveler. He probably taught his son a great deal.

Oh, there's a whole Lovecraftian thread on how Old Wizards Never Die...see "The Thing on the Doorstep," for example.

But it wouldn't be exactly a shock to find that Gideon was a Son Of Yog-Sothoth (or whatever they call him on Woldercan) either (cf. "The Dunwich Horror").

Adam