

Greenhouse Effect (was Rajan and Food)

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 29 Apr 2009

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/5419>

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Brian Lovely — 29 Apr 2009, 15:40

I'm with ya about it being a stretch from polyploidy to multiple limbs. Still, with alien biologies....

Has anyone ever had any solid theories about the greenhouses? Seawrack says she's seen similar things on the ocean floor, so the one with the broken dome that she and Horn find may have been pushed up by volcanic action at some point. Plus one of Horn's sons looks through one of the rings associated with the Neighbors (can't remember which one) and sees a Neighbor sitting on a tree sticking up out of the ocean. Is this somehow a vision of Neighbors crossbreeding themselves into dryads in underwater domes? Inhumis breed and lay their eggs in the water, but can they survive in salt water? Maybe the domes are the only place proof against the Inhumis.

A theme in the books is about growth through change, and often that change comes about through physical hybridization (even just the consuming of blood...the blood IS the life, you know), or imitation. I guess the process would be a sustained effort at close imitation actually triggers a change to become more like the model. The gods of the Whorl are capable of becoming divine over time. The Inhumis are capable of becoming human over time. Humans are capable of...

I don't think the Neighbors have gone to another whorl circling another sun, as Horn thinks (or was it SilkHorn, or Rajan, or Incanto?). I think they've gone into the "spaces between" to use a Lovecraftian term. If they're someplace physical, they're in the trees or in the undersea domes. However I think the undersea domes have something to do with an alteration performed on someone by someone. Maybe the Neighbors performed it on themselves to make themselves less susceptible to the Inhumis. Perhaps they're in the trees as dryads now because of some modification performed on themselves in the domes. Or they were treelike and/or dryadic before and the modification was to allow themselves to survive away from the trees.

Does anyone have any theories about what the greenhouses are for?

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

From: urth-bounces at lists.urth.net [mailto:urth-bounces at lists.urth.net] On Behalf Of urth-request at lists.urth.net Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2009 11:40 PM To: urth at lists.urth.net Subject: Urth Digest, Vol 56, Issue 59

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Today's Topics:

1. Re: Urth Digest, Vol 56, Issue 58 (Robin Dunn)
2. Rajan and Food (Brian Lovely)
3. Re: Rajan and Food (David Stockhoff)
4. Re: Rajan and Food (Matthew Groves)
5. Re: Rajan and Food (Jerry Friedman)
6. Re: Rajan and Food (Matthew Groves)

Message: 1

Date: Tue, 28 Apr 2009 14:19:22 -0700

From: Robin Dunn <bigbadgerjohnny at gmail.com>

Subject: Re: (urth) Urth Digest, Vol 56, Issue 58

To: urth at lists.urth.net

Message-ID:

<ccc836b60904281419n3c566f73yfcda4556ed74ba29 at mail.gmail.com>

Content-Type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1

Fascinating discussion of the moral parts the Neighbors play vis a vis
human settlement on Blue--

One thought I had is that it can be counterproductive to some extent
to expect that every creature we find in Wolfe fits into a detailed
bestiary that he had planned.

Severian narrates at some point in Thrax that he rarely reads tales
where strangers are encountered, no dialogue results, but some
nameless hatred is still there between men. As I recall Severian has
this thought when he passes some guy that glares at him, without any
explanation.

Part of what I always liked about Wolfe is that he's willing to have
so many loose ends, and he's willing to introduce incredibly complex
ideas and characters almost as side-gags, before moving on to
something completely different.

I guess what I'm saying is, sometimes the crazy shit goes down, and we
stay in the dark ;)

On Tue, Apr 28, 2009 at 2:09 PM, <urth-request at lists.urth.net> wrote:
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Today's Topics:

- ? 1. ?Rajan and Food (Brian Lovely)
- ? 2. Re: ?Rajan and Food (James Wynn)
- ? 3. Re: ?Rajan and Food (Jordon Flato)
- ? 4. Re: ?Rajan and Food (Jordon Flato)

Message: 1
Date: Tue, 28 Apr 2009 06:58:32 -0400
From: "Brian Lovely" <brian at studiobl.com>
Subject: (urth) Rajan and Food
To: <urth at lists.urth.net>
Message-ID: <011001c9c7f0\$465a20c0\$d30e6240\$@com>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

He's a tree, he's a tree! Neighbors are trees, Inhumis are parasitic vines.
.or something. ?Not sure what the Neighbor-version of Inhumis are-maybe the
vine with a face that is cut for Incanto's staff. ?Except that seems so
quiescent. ?You'd think the Neighbor-Inhumis would be a bit more active.
?The
Inhumis are somehow about sacrifice and one race raising up another. ?The
Neighbors infected humans with Inhumis to see what human-Inhumis would be
like.not sure where I'm going with this, but there's something here about
being willing to suffer for the betterment of the Inhumis. ?So, a) the
crossbreed would be a "higher" being than the pure Inhumis, and b) you'd
rid
yourself of them by being so passive.they'd take on your Christ-like
willingness to sacrifice yourself.

"James Wynn" crushtv at gmail.com wrote:

Granted, but when it is combined with the onset of ravenous hunger in the
Spring, we know more is going on here (incidentally, this is more of that
Tree-Neighbor connection that I still don't understand). I do not recall
an
instance of LS Silk pretending to eat food set before him. He fasts, but
when there is not a lot of food available anyway, it is easy to be holy in

that way. Not the same thing as what happens in SS, I think.

--Brian Lovely

----- next part -----

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URL:

<<http://lists.urth.net/pipermail/urth-urth.net/attachments/20090428/49e28ccf/attachment.html>>

Message: 2

Date: Tue, 28 Apr 2009 07:04:11 -0500

From: "James Wynn" <crushtv at gmail.com>

Subject: Re: (urth) Rajan and Food

To: "The Urth Mailing List" <urth at lists.urth.net>

Message-ID: <AC78EFE1A7F440FFB9604C769FE6EB1D at eMachinePC>

Content-Type: text/plain; format=flowed; charset="iso-8859-1";

? ? ? ?reply-type=original

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are-maybe the vine with a face that is cut for Incanto's staff.

Brian, let's posit that the Neighbors are dryads--that their steady
physical
form is one of the "sleepy trees" in the forests of Blue. How do the
inhumi
make the jump to become vines? Or how do they transform back to
winged/clawed vampiric reptiles? That is the fundamental problem with any
"tree/vine theory" regarding the Neighbors and inhumi.

J.

Message: 3

Date: Tue, 28 Apr 2009 11:00:10 -0700

From: Jordon Flato <jordonflato at gmail.com>

Subject: Re: (urth) Rajan and Food

To: The Urth Mailing List <urth at lists.urth.net>

Message-ID:

? ? ? ?<273409710904281100p29971f87s893b7b7aff2a2e5b at mail.gmail.com>

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1"

I've wondered if the strange creature (not the leatherskin) that jumps on
the ship with Horn when he first sets out, which is described much like a
neighbor but faaaar scarier isn't maybe a nieghbor/inhumi remnant. ?That
is
what occurred to me.

I can't get behind the neighbors as trees/inhumi as vines theory at all.
?It seems like such a stretch. ?There is no denying a connection of some sort between trees and neighbors. ?I'm not certain it is a literal connection. In New Sun, there are instances of Wolfe anthropomorphising trees and such. With human qualities. ?Why wouldn't the same be true on another planet, but echoing the essence of the 'original' inhabitants, the neighbors.

And I think, in terms of the Neighbors infecting the inhumi on the Whorl, it was primarily to get a sense of what the souls of the humans were like. When they saw the result, they made their decision that they could give the world to Humans, as they had confidence that the humans would have a chance, that the neighbors did not, to end the cycle of inhumi/host extinction, due to the possible qualities of the human soul. "I think, in Horn/Silk in particular (keeping in mind that when the neighbors gave Blue to humans through Horn, he was still Horn and not Silk at all), they saw something in humanity (in my opinion, not his being a neighbor doppelganger) that convinced them that they might be able, at some point, to make a peace with the inhumi. ?They wouldn't have known that if they had not first infected the Whorl with inhumi.

What is much more controversial to me is that the neighbors say they also spent time on the whorl, and befriended some there. ?What are the implications of this" "Who did they befriend" "We have an inhumi character in Long Sun. ?Is there a as yet unidentified Neighbor"

On Tue, Apr 28, 2009 at 5:04 AM, James Wynn <crushtv at gmail.com> wrote:

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J.
