

Inhumi in the Whorl

The Urth list — 35 messages, 10 voices, 16 Aug 2010

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/5717>

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Stuart Hamm — 16 Aug 2010, 20:06

I actually had a correspondence with GW and attempted to get a clue how P Quetzel and assorted Imhumi (s) ended up on the Whorl, but of course worded the question incorrectly and got a vague reference to OBW..we know they got to and from the Whorl on the landers, but has there been any consensus on how they got there before the Whorl orbited B&G??

???????? ? ?

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James Wynn — 16 Aug 2010, 20:20 · in reply to Stuart Hamm

On 8/16/2010 3:06 PM, Stuart Hamm wrote:

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What makes you think they were there before the Whorl orbited B&G? I'd really like for them to have been on Urth but I doubt there is anyway they could. Didn't the Neighbors say they put them on the Whorl? Would they even need landers to get on the Whorl assuming it passed close enough to Green?

u+16b9

Stuart Hamm — 16 Aug 2010, 20:43 · in reply to James Wynn

James...I thought someone posted that the Whorl had only been in orbit around B&G for about 40 years, and that Patera Q was so deeply ingrained in the society that he had to have been there much longer than that...

???????? ? ?

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--- On Mon, 8/16/10, James Wynn <crushtv at gmail.com> wrote:

From: James Wynn <crushtv at gmail.com>
Subject: Re: (urth) Inhumis in the Whorl
To: "The Urth Mailing List" <urth at lists.urth.net>
Date: Monday, August 16, 2010, 1:20 PM

On 8/16/2010 3:06 PM, Stuart Hamm wrote:

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-----Inline Attachment Follows-----

James Wynn — 16 Aug 2010, 20:57 · in reply to Stuart Hamm

On 8/16/2010 3:43 PM, Stuart Hamm wrote:
James...I thought someone posted that the Whorl had only been in orbit around B&G for about 40 years, and that Patera Q was so deeply ingrained in the society that he had to have been there much longer than that...

Well, the inhumis were such masters of disguise that almost nothing they did would surprise me. The Neighbors could easily dream-travel their way to the Whorl and aid Quetzal's ascendancy. The truth is, I strongly suspect that Quetzal's mother fed on Tussah. If I am right about that, it means he's not really older than 40. But it is not impossible that he fed on someone else not in the story. In which case, all bets are off. But if the Neighbors transported inhumis to the Whorl by dream-travel, they wouldn't be inhumis on the Whorl so that's out.

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Lee Berman — 16 Aug 2010, 22:08 · follows James Wynn

James Wynn: Well, the inhumis were such masters of disguise that almost nothing they did would surprise me.

If we are wondering if the Whorl came with Inhumis, it seems we should be looking for evidence of shapeshifting vampires on Urth. Shapeshifters are mentioned in BotNS. albeit in stories. What is the source material of those stories?

Dorcas thinks Severian looks like a black bat who has been sucking blood all night after he eats a pomegranate. We are told often of blood bats and we see the wounds they supposedly make. But do we ever actually see one?

We are also told of manatees and we never see those either, though we do see the undine(s) that manatees are fairly clearly a euphemism for. What might blood bats be a euphemism for?

Moreover, Urth used to be the hub of an empire of 10,000+ planets. It hardly seems impossible that one of the millions of spaceships flying around managed to land on Green and its cargo eventually made it to Urth. What are the sources of the legends...

Jack Smith — 17 Aug 2010, 00:20 · in reply to Stuart Hamm

Quetzal has been Prolocutor for 33 years when Silk is enlightened. I assumed he had come aboard the Whorl only a year or two before he became head of the Chapter, and then, as a shape-shifter, Quetzal took the place of a promising human augur who was already in line to become Prolocutor.

The way Quetzal gets to the Whorl is, as far as I can tell, not explained in the text.

I have a related question. How do the inhumis travel from Green to Blue? At conjunction, the two planets are 105,000 miles apart (In Green's Jungles, chap. 15). This means most of the distance would be a vacuum, and so the ability of inhumis to fly like bats would be of no help. After all, birds can't fly from the earth to the moon.

But if the inhumis use some sort of mysterious astral projection, then why do they need to wait for conjunction to invade Blue?

On Mon, Aug 16, 2010 at 4:43 PM, Stuart Hamm <hammstu at sbcglobal.net> wrote:
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From: James Wynn <crushtv at gmail.com>
Subject: Re: (urth) Inhumis in the Whorl

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 17 Aug 2010, 00:32 · in reply to Jack Smith

Forgive the top posting; I am trying out posting from a new phone.

Is there any textual evidence that inhumis can duplicate the appearance (let alone the personality) of a real, specific person well enough to replace him or her?

I don't recall any and would want to have it before believing that Quetzal had done as you suggest.

On Aug 16, 2010 5:21 PM, "Jack Smith" <jack.smith.1946 at gmail.com> wrote:

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On Mon, Aug 16, 2010 at 4:43 PM, Stuart Hamm <hammstu at sbcglobal.net> wrote:

James...I thought ...

Best wishes,
Jack

Mr Thalassocrat — 17 Aug 2010, 01:30 · in reply to Jack Smith

On Tue, Aug 17, 2010 at 9:50 AM, Jack Smith <jack.smith.1946 at gmail.com> wrote:

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But if the inhumis use some sort of mysterious astral projection, then why do they need to wait for conjunction to invade Blue?

Couple of points.

- The Neighbors first entered the Whorl as it approached Blue's sun, before it went into orbit. (Testimony of one of them at Silkhorn's trial in Doorp.)

- The Neighbors seeded the Whorl with inhumis (Silkhorn to Vadsig, on the way from Doorp to New Viron). By comparing human-ish inhumis with their own Neighbor-ish inhumis, they would get to understand humans better.

- As far as I can understand the process, it must have involved the Neighbors first taking some "wild" inhumis to the Whorl, letting them feed, taking them back to Green to breed, returning with some of the human-ish offspring to the Whorl, and observing them in a human context.

- I think it's a fair assumption that Quetzal was one of these human-ish offspring. He could have been placed in the Whorl some years before it reached orbit - I don't think there is any precise info on exactly when the Neighbors first made contact, only that it was when the Whorl was approaching the Blue/Green system.

- Note that the same is probably true of Jahlee, when you think about it. And also Fava, who seems to have spent time on the Whorl. (Interesting to speculate on whether we meet either of these or their "blood parents" in BOTLS - I haven't managed to identify anybody.)

- My theory is that the inhumis don't actually fly between Green and Blue. This story is just a lie they have propagated to conceal their reliance on Auk's lander, the real means of transport. Anyway, I think the theory is consistent with what we know, explains (umm spaced on name - the inhumu Horn adopts) desire to board the lander, and avoids the physical impossibility of the flying story.

- My other theory goes like this: The Neighbors used physical spacecraft to transport inhumis to and from the Whorl, and that we actually see one such spacecraft in the squat, dome-like structure Astral-SilkHorn encounters at the top of the cliff on Green. The stiff, cloaked figure he sees is the Neighbor-astronaut & from him SilkHorn learns about the seeding of the Whorl etc. The Neighbors have selected human-ish inhumis to transport to the Whorl from those who have had sufficient sentient determination and strength to fly all the way to the top of the cliff, an arrangement illustrated from the inhumis' point of view by Jahlee's story about her younger days.

Lee Berman — 17 Aug 2010, 02:51 · follows Mr Thalassocrat

Mr. Thalassocrat: - My theory is that the inhumis don't actually fly between Green and Blue. This story is just a lie they have propagated to conceal their reliance on Auk's lander, the real means of transport. Anyway, I think the theory is consistent with what we know, explains (umm spaced on name - the inhumu Horn adopts) desire to board the lander, and avoids the physical impossibility of the flying story.

I am not quite so fluent on Short Sun issues but this is exactly my own theory. I must peruse your other thoughts about Inhumis with careful attention.

One can postulate about unmentioned gelatinous secretions and pressure equalizers and biological heat and oxygen reserves to explain unassisted bio-space travel until the cows come home.

But my own first theory upon encountering such inexplicable contradictions and conundrums in Wolfe stories is: *Somebody is lying*. I think following that simple rule can take you far.

p.s. I think Krait is the name you were missing.

Jack Smith — 17 Aug 2010, 10:17 · in reply to Mr Thalassocrat

Thanks for all the good ideas. I need to re-read BotSS with these in mind.

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<thalassocrat08 at gmail.com>wrote:

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Stuart Hamm — 17 Aug 2010, 16:37 · in reply to Jack Smith

Brilliant, thanks!

That's the best explanation I have heard about this mystery, well done... 5 marks!

That's why I keep reading the list posts!

I more or less posed the same question to the source and the answer was

"P.S. Have you read "On Blue's Waters"?"...so the answers ARE there apparently...

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? ??

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

To post, write urth at urth.net

Subscription/information: <http://www.urth.net>

Best wishes,
Jack

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Stuart

Well, they are there for *him*. Because he knows where the clues are and he knows where the clues are *not*. I'm sure he thinks it's perfectly obvious who that guy was with barnacles who climb into Horn's boat...if you are just paying attention.

u+16b9

Lee Berman — 18 Aug 2010, 01:59 · follows James Wynn

Jeff Wynn- Well, they are there for *him* [Gene Wolfe]. Because he knows where the clues are and he knows where the clues are *not*. I'm sure he thinks it's perfectly obvious who that guy was with barnacles who climb into Horn's boat...if you are just paying attention.

That Gene Wolfe fellow must not be the sharpest tool in the shed or he'd have figured out after 30 years of writing that nobody finds his stories obvious. ;-)

A good observation that knowledge of where clues are not is almost as useful as knowledge of where they are.

That barnacle crusted thing is pretty weird. What I'd like it to be is an old version of Seawrack, a..erm...temptress created for the Neighbors which is now so senile it jumped into the boat of the wrong species.

What Horn's weird musings suggest is that it is some sort of Vanished People version of King Midas, cursed by the gifts of the gods, immortal and spending eternity underwater collecting a coating of crustaceans.

My worst fear is that it is what becomes of Blue's version of Severian.

Oannes indeed. Sigh.

Mr Thalassocrat — 18 Aug 2010, 10:33 · in reply to James Wynn

On Wed, Aug 18, 2010 at 7:11 AM, James Wynn <crushtv at gmail.com> wrote:
Well, they are there for *him*. Because he knows where the clues are and he knows where the clues are *not*. I'm sure he thinks it's perfectly obvious who that guy was with barnacles who climb into Horn's boat...if you are just paying attention.

And what the markings on Seawrack's rings are. And who the girl hiding under the sofa in Hoof's (Hide's?) dream is. And how SilkHorn got to Green in the cliff scene. And why does Horn's description of Mucor remind Seawrack of herself? And ... so on!

I'm convinced he does have a low, sadistic streak to his character.

On the barnacle guy: Horn speculates that maybe it was some Neighbor worshipper of the Mother, to whom she had granted eternal life. Maybe that's actually the case, and the barnacles are part of whatever bio-mechanism she used to do it. On Urth, gigantism; on Blue, something to do with barnacle symbiosis.

Maybe the bigger mystery is why he comes onboard Horn's boat - what's he looking for? - and

how Seawrack seems to control him so easily. I've always wondered whether perhaps the Mother engineered Seawrack from a Neighbor - perhaps originally the barnacle-guy's partner??? She seems to know a lot about Neighbors, including their language (her songs, for example).

James Wynn — 18 Aug 2010, 11:31 · in reply to Mr Thalassocrat

Mr Thalassocrat - And what the markings on Seawrack's rings are. And who the girl hiding under the sofa in Hoof's (Hide's?) dream is.

Fava, or so I believe. When her body died, her soul was left behind in Dreamland.

[snip] I've always wondered whether perhaps the Mother engineered Seawrack from a Neighbor - perhaps originally the barnacle-guy's partner??? She seems to know a lot about Neighbors, including their language (her songs, for example).

The connection between the Neighbors and Mother is key, whatever it is. There's some kind of connection between the woman pirate Horn killed and Seawrack but I can't say anything definitively because there's also suggestions that she was grown from some kind of animal sea-life.

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Lee Berman — 18 Aug 2010, 12:19 · follows James Wynn

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My view is that The Mother is analagous to the sea-borne monsters like Erebus and Abaia that we hear about on Urth. As such she is capable of taking on a form of a Naviscaput. Later The Mother appears to Horn as a great underwater mass with a human form above the water. What would that be, a Homo sapiens-caput? Anthro-caput?

Anyway, I think naviscaput is what the pirate ship is. Horn wonder about the homebase of the pirate ship, concluding it must be a cove since there are no towns anywhere close enough. When Horn shoots the woman on that boat, he is shooting off the arm of a pinched off piece of the Mother which has been formed into a human shape as attractive bait- Seawrack.

She falls into the water...I think she leaps onto Horn's boat but is scared by Babbie, and jumps off, leaving some blood on the deck for Babbie to lap up. Underwater, The Mother feels that it is more expedient to just sew up the amputated arm and hope Seawrack still works as damaged bait rather than going through the time and trouble of pinching off and re-forming a whole new siren and risk Horn escaping.

As mentioned, I consider it possible that the barnacle thing was an old piece of bait, pinched off and designed for Neighbors. Understandable that Seawrack wants it out of there.

James Wynn — 18 Aug 2010, 12:25 · in reply to Lee Berman

On 8/18/2010 7:19 AM, Lee Berman wrote:

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It just occurred to me that Blue might be Scylla's home planet.

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Lee Berman — 18 Aug 2010, 13:14 · follows James Wynn

Jeff Wilson- It just occurred to me that Blue might be Scylla's home planet.

Yes :-). Isn't there a mention that Scylla had her own world to rule?

I think Echidna is also a possibility, though mythological Scylla was a sea monster and Echidna was a cave dweller. I think Horn mentions that Echidna seems to be getting most of the worship since they arrived on Blue.

From Wikipedia-

In the most ancient layers of Greek mythology, Echidna (Greek: Ἐχιδνα, ekhis, ἔχιδνα, meaning "she viper") was called *the "Mother of All Monsters"* because most of the monsters in Greek myth were the offspring of Echidna and her husband Typhon. Echidna was described by Hesiod as a female monster spawned in a cave, who mothered with her mate Typhoeus (or Typhon) almost every major horrible monster in the Greek myths.

Echidna was a *drakaina*, with the face and torso of a beautiful woman and the body of a serpent, sometimes having two serpent's tails. The site of her cave Homer calls "Arima, couch of Typhoeus".

Interesting that we have a character in BotNS also called "The Mother". Also snake-like. Also cave-dwelling. And "couch of Typhon"- I think we have seen that in BotNS also. How DOES The Cumaeen fit into all this?

In Greek mythology, a drakaina (Greek: δράκαινα) is a female dragon, sometimes with human-like features.

What better wife for a mandragora than a drakaina?

In Greek mythology, Typhon, Echidna, Scylla, Lamia, witches, vampires, dragons, snakes are all related. In some manner, all these find their way into BotNS which seems like a guide to appearances in Long/Short Sun.

James Wynn — 18 Aug 2010, 13:58 · in reply to Lee Berman

Jeff Wilson- It just occurred to me that Blue might be Scylla's home planet.

I don't guess I mind, but out of curiosity, how did I get to be Jeff Wilson?

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I think Echidna is also a possibility, though mythological Scylla was a sea monster and Echidna was a cave dweller. I think Horn mentions that Echidna seems to be getting most of the worship since they arrived on Blue.

When I say Scylla, I mean the megatherian of Urth.

The reason I suggest it is only that the original Scylla is does make an appearance in "Short Sun". They seem very similar. It makes literary sense is all. I have no further information to defend that hypothesis.

Mother might actually BE the megatherian Scylla rather than just of the same species. We know the Rajan can time travel when he dream travels because 1) he travels back into time to take part in the grandmother's story in In Green's Jungles and 2) the time-line from when Horn leaves home until when he returns is all screwed up. If the Rajan can time travel, then the Neighbors can time travel, and reasonably Mother can as well. I realize the can of eels that opens for tBotNS and tUotNS.

u+16b9

António Pedro Marques — 18 Aug 2010, 14:19 · in reply to James Wynn

James Wynn wrote (18-08-2010 14:58):

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I don't guess I mind, but out of curiosity, how did I get to be Jeff Wilson?

Live by one's incomprehensibly bizarre quoting, die by the next guy's incomprehensibly bizarre quoting.

Lee Berman — 18 Aug 2010, 14:36 · follows António Pedro Marques

James Wynn: I don't guess I mind, but out of curiosity, how did I get to be Jeff Wilson?

All you JW types are the same. Hm..I guess that makes me the same as brunians.com.

;-). Sorry James.

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The reason I suggest it is only that the original Scylla is does make an appearance in "Short Sun". They seem very similar. It makes literary sense is all. I have no further information to defend that hypothesis.

Yes, Scylla is mentioned once as a megatherian of Urth. But the same name is used in Long Sun as daughter to Pas/Typhon. From an author who has said he thinks one subtle clue should be all his readers ever need to figure out everything, this seems of sledgehammer impact to me.

Mother might actually BE the megatherian Scylla rather than just of the same species.

Yes, although, as has been discussed, for creatures that may be able to reproduce sexually and asexually, and even share consciousness among parts, as we see for Tzadkiel, the issue of identity becomes pretty clouded and confusing.

Can the Scylla on Blue on Blue produce black bean seeds of "her"self which can be transported across space during Urth's empire?

Again the question if such a ship carrying the beans could have become infected with Inhum.

(I still consider Echidna to be a possibility also. There is an echidne mentioned in BotNS and I can't ignore the mythological similarities of The Cumaean to Typhon's wife)

adam at io.com — 18 Aug 2010, 14:43 · in reply to Lee Berman

On Wed, 18 Aug 2010 09:14:12 -0400, Lee Berman <severiansola at hotmail.com> wrote:

In Greek mythology, Typhon, Echidna, Scylla, Lamia, witches, vampires, dragons, snakes are all related. In some manner, all these find their way into BotNS which seems like a guide to appearances in Long/Short Sun.

Who will be the first to wonder if the _Soldier_ books take place on Blue or St. Croix or Urth?

Lee Berman — 18 Aug 2010, 15:32 · follows adam at io.com

Who will be the first to wonder if the _Soldier_ books take place on Blue or St. Croix or Urth?

I am confident that the first and only person to do that will be adam @ io.com

James Wynn — 18 Aug 2010, 15:47 · in reply to Lee Berman

James Wynn- When I say Scylla, I mean the megatherian of Urth. The reason I suggest it is only that the original Scylla is does make an appearance in "Short Sun". They seem very similar. It makes literary sense is all. I have no further information to defend that hypothesis.

Lee - Yes, Scylla is mentioned once as a megatherian of Urth. But the same name is used in Long Sun as daughter to Pas/Typhon. From an author who has said he thinks one subtle clue should be all his readers ever need to figure out everything, this seems of sledgehammer impact to me.

But, as you know, determining which clue is the right one is the trick.

Scylla on the Whorl is software entity and she came with the Whorl. When we do meet her in the Short Sun books, she is in Oreb and her original form as a young girl. We learned that she consciously named herself *after* the megatherian for whom she was an agent. Echidna might well be hiding out in one or more of the colonists, but how could she become Mother?

The megatherian Scylla is a solid being. A gigantic underwater dweller. Megatherian, Mother, Vironese Scylla. Which one of these is not like the others?

Look, in the five New Sun books, we never meet a megatherian that I know of. In the Short Sun, the main character travels all the way to Urth to meet one. It's not one of the big "male" megatherians either (Erebus or Abaia). It's the one named after a Greek female monster. And then we have huge undersea creature on Blue named Mother. I'm just sayin'. It's "fishy".

u+16b9

Lee Berman — 18 Aug 2010, 18:02 · follows James Wynn

James, I'm sensing a misunderstanding of my general framework for BotNS, which Roy derisively calls the "Grand Unified Theory". I have one which works pretty well for me but I understand it doesn't always jibe with the theories of others causing misunderstandings. I'll post my G.U.T. sometime soon if it seems worth it but for now I'll try to just answer your questions, hoping it is understood there is a supporting framework beneath it, perhaps unseen.

James Wynn- Look, in the five New Sun books, we never meet a megatherian...

I disagree. By naming convention alone I think we do meet one. The acknowledged megatherians generally have the names of giant mythological monsters (Arioch, the fallen angel, is an exception but that's a different part of the G.U.T). And yes, we seem never meet them as we meet other gigantic creatures like Tzadkiel and The Mother. (I do think we do meet a very small one named Juturna and another even smaller named Idas)

But we have another character who is unequivocally named for a mythological monster. And this one we do meet. Typhon of course. By his name alone we can group him with the others. His human form should not fool us. That was a common trick of the ancient gods. (We actually do see The Mother and Tzadkiel do a certain pinching technique to create a human form)

When we add the fact that Typhon has superhuman powers of telepathy and clairvoyance (just like the mandragora in the bottle) and his claim that he "was not born" in the sense that Severian understands the term I think his status as megatherian is solidified. His poor sense of identity with his own body, and willingness to be grafted onto Piaton's adds more.

One might wonder about his resurrection. Severian can only resurrect human beings. It is my general thinking that megatherian monster/gods have a component of immortality. It is only Piaton that Severian resurrects.

Scylla on the Whorl is software entity and she came with the Whorl.

Yes, it is my understanding that The Whorl was built by Typhon (Pas) on Urth and the gods of The Whorl are the uploaded minds/personalities of Typhon and his family. Kinda like Mr. Million. As Typhon was fleshly real, so were Echidna, Scylla, Tartaros, etc. Unlike Mr. Million I think the uploading needn't have killed the donor. Thus, copies of Scylla, both biological and electronic, can exist simultaneously on Urth and the Whorl and Blue.

It's the one [Scylla] named after a Greek female monster. And then we have huge undersea creature on Blue named Mother.

Agreed on the connection. But Echidna is also female and was "*The Mother*" of all Monsters". Moreover the Whorl humans have shifted worship toward Echidna now that they are on Blue. I don't know if the evidence for Scylla or Echidna as The Mother is stronger, I'm only suggesting both are there for me.

I think if the megatherians on Blue and Urth are related, the more original source is Blue (and perhaps other planets). From that source they were spread to Urth during its First Empire (the black beans). After a while, Typhon realized Urth was no longer hospitable (black hole) and perhaps that he was contending with powers too great for him and decided to send a ship of the delightful Urthly human worshipers and slaves he treasured back to the home planet(s) before he escaped himself.

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 18 Aug 2010, 18:10 · in reply to Lee Berman

On Wed, Aug 18, 2010 at 11:02 AM, Lee Berman <severiansola at hotmail.com> wrote:
But we have another character who is unequivocally named for a mythological monster.

Two, actually: Baldanders is named for a monster in Borges' *Book of Imaginary Beings*, who comes from German literature -- where he is a shapeshifter, in fact.

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes

António Pedro Marques — 18 Aug 2010, 18:18 · in reply to Lee Berman

Lee Berman wrote (18-08-2010 19:02):

Moreover the Whorl humans have shifted worship toward Echidna now that they are on Blue.

The *Gaon* humans. For all we know she might have been the patroness of their whorly city.

Lee Berman — 18 Aug 2010, 18:43 · follows António Pedro Marques

Dan'I- Two, actually: Baldanders is named for a monster in Borges' *Book of Imaginary Beings*, who comes from German literature -- where he is a shapeshifter, in fact.

Yes, good point. I suppose Wolfe's Baldanders is based more on the Borgean giant than the protean German guys.

Baldanders' status as a megatherian is surely an interesting question.

Lee Berman — 18 Aug 2010, 18:45 · follows Lee Berman

Moreover the Whorl humans have shifted worship toward Echidna now that they are on Blue.

Antonio- The *Gaon* humans. For all we know she might have been the patroness of their whorly city.

Good point, Antonio. Thanks.

James Wynn — 19 Aug 2010, 14:47 · in reply to Lee Berman

Lee- I'm sensing a misunderstanding of my general framework for BotNS, which Roy derisively calls the "Grand Unified Theory". I have one which works pretty well for me but I understand it doesn't always jibe with the theories of others causing misunderstandings. I'll post my G.U.T. sometime soon if it seems worth it

Definitely do!

James Wynn- Look, in the five New Sun books, we never meet a megatherian...

I disagree. By naming convention alone I think we do meet one. [snip]...we have another character who is unequivocally named for a mythological monster. And this one we do meet. Typhon of course. By his name alone we can group him with the others. His human form should not fool us. That was a common trick of the ancient gods.

So you don't think Typhon is human? I might have been more likely to believe that before "An Evil Guest". But the similarities between Typhon and Bill Ries make me think the latter is a re-fashioning of the former.

This post brings up a lot of questions for me which I suspect would be answered by your GUT. So I'll wait.

u+16b9

DAVID STOCKHOFF — 19 Aug 2010, 15:28 · in reply to James Wynn

Is there any particular reason why a megatherian can't be human? it's not how I see them, but the term is not species-specific.

I have more of a problem with an autarch being a megatherian, but Typhon preceded the Autarchy. He is certainly Great and quite a beast.

--- On Thu, 8/19/10, James Wynn <crushtv at gmail.com> wrote:

From: James Wynn <crushtv at gmail.com>
Subject: Re: (urth) Inhumani in the Whorl
To: "The Urth Mailing List" <urth at lists.urth.net>
Date: Thursday, August 19, 2010, 10:47 AM
Lee- I'm sensing a misunderstanding of my general framework for BotNS, which Roy derisively calls the "Grand Unified Theory". I have one which works pretty well for me but I understand it doesn't always jibe with the theories of others causing misunderstandings. I'll post my G.U.T. sometime soon if it seems worth it

Definitely do!

James Wynn- Look, in the five New Sun books, we never meet a megatherian...

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So you don't think Typhon is human? I might have been more likely to believe that before "An Evil Guest". But the similarities between Typhon and Bill Ries make me think the latter is a re-fashioning of the former.

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u+16b9

Lee Berman — 19 Aug 2010, 18:21 · follows DAVID STOCKHOFF

David Stockhoff- Is there any particular reason why a megatherian can't be human? it's not how I see them, but the term is not species-specific.

Ah, well, who knows. But the not-metaphoric meaning of "beast" is:

1. a : a four-footed mammal as distinguished from a human being, a lower vertebrate, and an invertebrate b : a lower animal as distinguished from a human being c : an animal as distinguished from a plant d : an animal under human control

So in any of the usual meanings, a beast isn't going to be a human or plant.

Many seem to think of Baldanders as a proto-megatherian. We don't know Baldanders' true origin. Just a small guy who appeared on the edge of Lake Diuturna a couple lifetimes ago. Human? Or alien in human form? If alien, is he like a black bean who does the first part of his growth into megatherian on land?

As mentioned I think only the Piaton part of Typhon is human. The other part, like the mandragora, has an element of immortality to it. Like the immortal, Greek mythological Typhon, the BotNS Typhon seems to meet his end eternally confined beneath a mountain. Maybe while down there he manages to wrench out one last nursing of his erection from the battered, dying remains of Piaton's body.

DAVID STOCKHOFF — 19 Aug 2010, 19:01 · in reply to Lee Berman

I suppose it may depend on the distinction between "monster" and merely "monstrous" ...

--- On Thu, 8/19/10, Lee Berman <severiansola at hotmail.com> wrote:

From: Lee Berman <severiansola at hotmail.com>
Subject: (urth) Inhumani in the Whorl
To: urth at lists.urth.net
Date: Thursday, August 19, 2010, 2:21 PM
David Stockhoff- Is there any particular reason why a megatherian can't be human?
it's not how I see them, but the term is not species-specific.

Ah, well, who knows. But the not-metaphoric meaning of "beast" is:

1. a : a four-footed mammal as distinguished from a human being, a lower vertebrate,
and an invertebrate b : a lower animal as distinguished from a human being c : an animal
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??? ???????? ?????? ??? ?

Jeff Wilson — 20 Aug 2010, 03:56 · in reply to Lee Berman

On 8/18/2010 7:19 AM, Lee Berman wrote:

Jeff Wilson- The connection between the Neighbors and Mother is key, whatever it is. There's some kind of connection between the woman pirate Horn killed and Seawrack but I can't say anything definitively because there's also suggestions that she was grown from some kind of animal sea-life.

Still not me; I'm not even following the thread, just scrolling past when this caught my eye.

Maybe I should adopt an alias to avoid the whole JW ambiguity?

Signed,

"Clay Drumstick"

Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com
IEEE Student Chapter Blog at
< <http://ieeetamut.org> >

David Stockhoff — 20 Aug 2010, 14:48 · in reply to Jeff Wilson

Aha!

I always thought so.

Jeff Wilson wrote:

On 8/18/2010 7:19 AM, Lee Berman wrote:

Jeff Wilson- The connection between the Neighbors and Mother is key, whatever it is.

There's some kind of connection between the woman pirate Horn killed and

Seawrack but I can't say anything definitively because there's also suggestions that she was grown from some kind of animal sea-life.

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Signed,

"Clay Drumstick"