

Spirit travelers and food

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 06 Sep 2010

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Roy C. Lackey — 06 Sep 2010, 04:29

In connection with the theory that Hyacinth is in fact a spirit/dream traveling inhuma, Fava, the issue has been raised over whether Hy actually consumed food, as I have contended, or if she only pretended to eat. This is what Silkhorn had to write about the issue of dream travelers and eating, when recounting one of his spirit journeys to Urth.

"When the torturer's apprentice and I went to Jahlee's cell, there was an unhealthy-looking young woman [Merryn] with her, so pale and gaunt I feared that Jahlee had been feeding until I recalled that on the Red Sun Whorl Jahlee could eat (and could not eat) as I did -- that the differences between our digestive systems had been erased, so to speak, since neither of us had any." (RTTW, 266)

Since spirit travelers, whether human or inhumani, can eat, there would have been no need for a spirit traveling Hy/Fava to have faked hunger or the act of eating. She could have eaten, or not eaten, as little or as much as she cared to without consequence, without fretting that her thighs were getting fat. A vain human bimbo who had used her body since she had been a teenager to advance herself in the world did not have that luxury.

Juganu wanted to try human food while he was spirit traveling on Urth, and presumably had breakfast with the captain of the _Samru_ (ibid, 356-57). I presume this inspired him to eat some soup back on Blue (361) while in his usual inhumani disguise as a little old man with a bald head.

Lest anyone suppose that Hy was in fact a real-world inhuma who faked eating as Quetzal did, remember that when Quetzal died on that lander his body reverted to its natural reptilian form, revealing his decades-long charade. The body on the bier on the first page of RTTW was that of a dead "middle-aged woman", not that of a dead reptilian inhuma.

-Roy