

godling's claw

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 01 Dec 2010

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/5792>

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.

Lee Berman — 01 Dec 2010, 05:10

Jane Delawney: I think the claw is actually on the godling's thumb? Silk/Horn sees the aforementioned appendage whilst the godling is cradling him upon his/its hand and it's pretty clear from the description (with a caveat or two, see below) that this claw is part of the hand not on the creature's head. Hilariously (IMO) the front cover of the British paperback edition of RTTW depicts Silk/Horn cradled upon an oversized but very human hand (ie. with fingernails rather than claws) which belongs to a giant humanoid ... with a very big claw attached to the top of his head!

Hah, you are absolutely right! Good catch. I feel foolish for misreading it, though funnily enough I think it was the cover(hardcover American) which misled me. I can remember reading that passage and flipping to the cover to look at the hat, ignoring the real meaning of the text.

There may be deeper significance to be gleaned but I think I (now) understand the proximal purpose of giving the godling such a claw. Pig's fingernails are several times described as large, thick and claw-like and I wondered what Wolfe was getting at. Now I see that this was a fairly obvious clue (among others) to tell us that Pig is essentially a small godling.