

plantary problems

The Urth list — 9 messages, 5 voices, 28 Dec 2010

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/5859>

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Lee Berman — 28 Dec 2010, 17:31

James Wynn: I'm not crazy about Lee's postulation either. If Nessus is connected to the distant cities of Green, why is it not connected to any city in the galaxy that has a mirror in it?

Hm. Things are spiralling out of control here. I guess the connection could be a mirror though I was thinking more along the lines of a permanent dream-travel connection (in contrast to the temporary dream-travel connections made by The Cumaeon and Silk-Horn)

I don't think it matters. Nor do "any" other cities or planets in the galaxy matter; Wolfe doesn't mention them, they don't exist; not in the labyrinth of his stories, anyway. If Dr. Talos can create a cosmic opus using only five actors, Dr. Wolfe can create one using only five heavenly bodies, Urth, Yesod, The Whorl, Blue and Green. (I don't include Lune because nobody goes there.)

For me, Marc addresses the key question:

I think we need to look at what caused the deluge.

But I don't think the relevant answer is astronomical. It is Biblical. The Flood was caused by the "Sons Of God and the Nephilim". "Fallen angels and giants". "Demons and Men Of Reknown". By whatever name these things are called (e.g. inhum and godlings, Inire and Baldanders). They show up repeatedly in the Sun Series and I don't see how they can be ignored in a story where Floods are a recurring theme.

(I'm not making this stuff up. I swear! <http://www.gotquestions.org/Nephilim.html>)

If there is a connection between Urth and Green I can't imagine it being just for fun. There has to be a thematic purpose to it. I can't remember where the "are Inhum on Urth?" discussion went but not far enough, imho. Was Quetzal's origin discussed? Urth's populace knows of manatees but only a few know what they really are. I think even fewer know the truth about those elusive blood bats.

James Wynn — 28 Dec 2010, 18:04 · in reply to Lee Berman

Lee Berman-

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Wolfe said that Quetzal was a recent arrival, and since I believe his mother fed on Tussah that sounds reasonable to me. But when that question was asked, no one knew about the other inhum on Green. There has been no word from on high about the existence of inhum on Urth. If

Wolfe intended to retcon them in, then we should expect to see one or two during the Rajan's travels to Urth.

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Marc Aramini — 28 Dec 2010, 19:24 · in reply to Lee Berman

See, this Green is Urth thing is a messy messy can of worms for some reason given what we don't really understand about Silk's powers. Sorry, my fault. The implications are chaotic and bizarre, but for all my solutions I prefer to look for evidence with quotes, which I agree are more often than not ambiguous in Wolfe. So we do have in the text a saying that Silk can enter other people's stories and change them, which is bizarre, like he is a nexus for the creation of mythic reality or something.

But as far as the mechanism goes, yes, obviously, Rigoglio was thinking about Urth, but Silk was thinking about Green. That was the mechanism I was missing when I thought Blue was Urth, obviously, there was no thought or motivation from Silk to indicate he was going to Blue. That scene outright says the guy in charge of the translation through space wanted to go to Green. So given the description of the city and its sewers and its towers and the retold myth of Severian there, I think that is pointing toward a physical contiguity? with Urth. I don't have a problem with the Vanished people because they are just the next stage of people in this schemata.

Now Blue is causing all sorts of problems, and I just don't know what to make of the weird conjunction between the two planets either.

I hope someday Wolfe publishes something that will shed light on whether he viewed Severian as a salvific figure or something quite a bit more sinister, and how the white fountain altered the cosmology (or astronomy I guess) of Urth, but that is a vain hope.

--- On Tue, 12/28/10, Lee Berman <severiansola at hotmail.com> wrote:

From: Lee Berman <severiansola at hotmail.com>

Subject: (urth) planetary problems

To: urth at lists.urth.net

Date: Tuesday, December 28, 2010, 9:31 AM

James Wynn: I'm not crazy about Lee's postulation either. If Nessus is connected to the distant cities of Green, why is it not connected to any city in the galaxy that has a mirror in it?

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James Wynn — 28 Dec 2010, 19:36 · in reply to Marc Aramini

Marc Aramini -

I don't have a problem with the Vanished people because they are just the next stage of people in this schemata.

Well, you should because the Rajan asserts the Neighbors' home planet was Blue, not Green.

u+16b9

Stuart Hamm — 28 Dec 2010, 19:42 · in reply to James Wynn

I'm feeling really stooopid...I haven;t read the books in a while...but isn't the Rajan Horn in Silks' body who was kidnapped by the townspeople who thought he was Silk to rule/clean up their town? The Rajan is something else entirely?
explanations appreciated

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STUHAMM.COM

FACEBOOK/STUARTHAMM

myspace.com/stuhamm

Skype? stuart.hamm

? ??

--- On Tue, 12/28/10, James Wynn <crushtv at gmail.com> wrote:

From: James Wynn <crushtv at gmail.com>

Subject: Re: (urth) planetary problems

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

Date: Tuesday, December 28, 2010, 11:36 AM

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James Wynn — 28 Dec 2010, 19:59 · in reply to Stuart Hamm

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The Rajan is something else entirely?
explanations appreciated.

The Rajan is the same. But I believe it is a teensy bit more complicated than Horn in Silk's body.
<http://lists.urth.net/pipermail/urth-urth.net/2010-December/018826.html>

Wolfe doesn't call him Horn, or Silk, or Silkhorn in interviews. He calls him the Rajan. So that's what I call him.

Stuart Hamm — 28 Dec 2010, 20:04 · in reply to James Wynn

Whew...I agree James and am familiar with the "3 quills in the pen case" theories...I got the impression that someone here mentioned that the Rajan had dream traveled to Blanko and not gotten there by lander...

???????? ? ?

STUHAMM.COM
FACEBOOK/STUARTHAMM
myspace.com/stuhamm
Skype? stuart.hamm
? ??

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From: James Wynn <crushtv at gmail.com>
Subject: Re: (urth) planetary problems
To: "The Urth Mailing List" <urth at lists.urth.net>
Date: Tuesday, December 28, 2010, 11:59 AM

Stuart Hamm-

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

Lee Berman — 29 Dec 2010, 23:07 · follows Stuart Hamm

Gerry Quinn: "The red star there is called the Fish's Mouth, and on its one surviving world there dwells an ancient and acute mind."

The planetary system containing Blue and Green has at least two surviving worlds.

Antonio Pedro Marques: Well, one could argue Green is not surviving, as in there may be no intelligent life there at some point.

Yes. The phrase "one surviving world" should inspire the question of why the other world(s) did not survive rather than be reduced to a simplistic count of one.

Gerry Quinn — 29 Dec 2010, 23:31 · in reply to Lee Berman

From: "Lee Berman" <severiansola at hotmail.com>

Gerry Quinn: "The red star there is called the Fish's Mouth, and on its one surviving world there dwells an ancient and acute mind."

The planetary system containing Blue and Green has at least two surviving worlds.

Antonio Pedro Marques: Well, one could argue Green is not surviving, as in there may be no intelligent life there at some point.

Yes. The phrase "one surviving world" should inspire the question of why the other world(s) did not survive rather than be reduced to a simplistic count of one.

Feel free to speculate on the history of that system... the fact remains that the number is stated to be one.

- Gerry Quinn