

Urth Digest, Vol 78, Issue 46

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 12 Feb 2011

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/5970>

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Andrew Mason — 12 Feb 2011, 21:43

James Wynn wrote:

I don't think it is likely Silk would ever have lived his life as a humble augur. Assuming Silk is the one Tussah was thinking of when he said "my son shall be Calde after me", he new that his abilities would carry him to the top wherever he was placed.

Was Tussah expecting to die just when he did? If not, perhaps he intended to do more to bring Silk to power. Still, perhaps he would have become prolocutor. Quetzal shows you can do that without a specific background.

But the Outsider is important. Silk suddenly comes to prominence immediately after his enlightenment, and while it may be that Quetzal, and the Trivigauntis, are giving pushes to this movement, it's happening before they could have become involved; people are standing round listening, and kneeling in the street for a blessing, while he is talking to Blood right at the beginnng.

It is unlikely that Silk was originally the only one with gifts of his sort. However, he might have been the last. Or there might be others in plain sight. They would undoubtedly be persons in positions of leadership--leadership gained without certification or struggle.

Yes. I've sometimes wondered if Siyuf is one.

. It's implied that the embryos were granted disparate abilities,

but it is hard to imagine that anyone would have thought only one with Silk's would be necessary.

Well, I agree, but that's because I think that while Silk is special, he isn't super-special - he's not (intended to be) a figure of Whorlwide significance. I would think he is there to provide a leader for Viron (or the Vironese colony), and there would be similar people in other cities. Those who think Silk always had a special destiny, either as vehicle or as heir, would see things differently

By the the time of the evacuation, the human

embryos had all been lost. Perhaps, they were all located beneath Viron because it was the Cargo most like the Commonwealth.

I think that if there were one store of embryos for the entire Whorl, one would expect it to be at Mainframe. I also think it's significant that the embryos were on the lander; this suggests they were meant to be used after the landing (as the animal embryos were), to provide people with special ability in the second generation, which may be when the real hardships of colony life are likely to kick in.

And some he

? ?sent as frozen embryos, the products of carefully controlled matings
? ?in his workshops."
? ?RttW, Chap 6

For those who say Silk was a test tube baby and not a clone, here is
your confirmation.

Thanks! And also (unless 'matings' is taken very literally) not an embryo produced the normal
way and then harvested - at least, not the child of people who were lovers in ordinary life.