

Inhumi's secret and numbers on Blue

The Urth list — 30 messages, 10 voices, 26 Nov 2012

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/6319>

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Lee Berman — 26 Nov 2012, 19:22

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With regard to the astral projection sort of travel, I agree with those who think that has more to do with the less-than-substantial Neighbors' influence than Inhumi. FWIW, this sort of travel seems to produce the "real essence" of the travellers or something like that. So gods and inhumi who travel that way end up showing their "true" form, whatever that may mean. The Inhumi end up as hyper-sexualized humans which is probably worth some discussion.

I'll leave aside the debate on whether all predatory humans rely on stealth and emphasize the point that all Inhumi that we encounter are relentless liars and deceivers. It seems completely a part of their nature. Likely this is metaphorically related to the Serpent, Satan, The Great Deceiver, etc., not to mention Jahi/Lilith, the temptress, demoness etc.

We could go so far as to say that the Secret of the Inhumi is a lie just like everything else the Inhumi say. But I think good writing requires that there is something of substance to this secret that we are supposed to figure out.

As you point out earlier, nate, this secret is supposed to be something which could ruin the Inhumi race if revealed. Your idea about consent is along these lines, and I appreciate that.

Yes, quite a bit is said about the Inhumi travelling across the void from Green to Blue when the planets are in conjunction. In previous discussions about that we've agree that the planets cannot be close enough to share an atmosphere and not collide so the Inhumi must be travelling through the void.

My position has been that multi-cellular organisms cannot possibly survive such a trip without exploded cell membranes. Perhaps most damaging to this story is the impossible premise that biological creatures could somehow achieve escape velocity purely on the power of wings. Still, I may be in the minority in disbelieving the lies of the Inhumi, but it leaves me feeling as frustrated as when I hear real world masses believing the lies of some demagogue.

So, I think that is a lie to cover up the inhumi reliance on being spaceship stowaways. I feel it has to have some important significance like that. Likewise, Antonin Scriabin's thought that the Inhumi mating habits could be just a biological oddity doesn't ring true to me. Why would such a thing be revealed at the very end of the story by Juganu? There are more lies going on here I think, meant to protect the Inhumi race.

These are like the lies told by Quetzal to get some of the Whorl residents to go to Green. As

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tells Horn, the Inhumans think of humans as cattle. They are more (socially) intelligent than humans and will use lies and deception to herd us where they want us, just as we use fences, whips and nose rings to herd cows where we want them.

nate jarvis — 27 Nov 2012, 01:08 · in reply to Lee Berman

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Any possibility some of the ruined buildings on Green are something other than buildings? (e.g., space elevators, like in Banks's Feersum Endjinn, or cannons, like in War of the Worlds/The Moon is a Harsh Mistress)

If the Inhumans were to "fly" through space, I think that would require a special morphological configuration distinct from vine or snake or "person". Being both "naked" and maneuverable while in transit seems less likely to work than being one or the other.

I assume the cell membrane obstacle is based on lack of atmospheric pressure rather than the limitations of cryoprotectants such as glycerol, but either might present an insurmountable obstacle.

Did the Inhumans use Neighbors' technology to board the Whorl prior to Long Sun? Or hijack a Crew reconnaissance landing on Green?

Nate.

Lee Berman — 27 Nov 2012, 13:44 · follows nate jarvis

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Yes, I think these are exactly the questions Gene Wolfe expects us to ask. But I differ from some others in finding that he provides unequivocally likely answers.

The first question boils down to: "Do the Inhumans really overcome impossible biological challenges to fly through space or do they lie about it?"

From what we know of the Inhumans and eliminating the impossible, the "lie" becomes the obvious answer. Yet, we are still tempted to believe the lie, despite a dearth of evidence for the flight except the words of the Inhumans. (to be fair, I find one bit of evidence: the Inhumans ability to stay alive for years buried underground; but this does not address the cellular fluid pressure nor escape velocity questions).

Wolfe also gives us the answer to the second question, the one you post above regarding the Inhumans using technology or surreptitiously hitching a ride. Inhumans are explicitly described as poor at using technology but brilliant at hitching rides.

We don't know how Quetzal got onto The Whorl but we are shown in exquisite detail how

Krait wrangles a ride onto Horn's boat and then onto the lander. Not only does Wolfe show Krait using manipulation, lies, flattery, forced oaths, impersonation, exploitation of family etc., but he makes it seem easy and natural for Krait to use these stratagems to tie Horn into knots. Plus he has Krait admit he thinks of humans as cattle. Unintelligent, easily herded food. (Horn, Sinew, Hoof, Hide etc. are probably not coincidental names here).

DAVID STOCKHOFF — 27 Nov 2012, 20:58 · in reply to Lee Berman

Does anyone recall a passage in which the narrator suggests inhumis are derived from plants? (Please excuse it if I've brought it up before.)

I'd have to look at it again to confirm it (and that it was meant in a literal sense), but it could make for an interesting twist to this discussion. I believe the inhumis are related to the vines of Green. Plants could traverse space given sufficient external hardness, but that is insufficient by itself. There are at least three dangers and three challenges in traversing space:

- (1) Vacuum rupture
- (2) Radiation
- (3) Heat/cold variation

- (4) Navigation/propulsion

- (5) Reentry/landing
- (6) Food/air

I'm pretty sure there are Earth seeds that could handle the first two or three for a period. The second three are probably unsolvable except by (1) setting a trajectory, (2) either large "wings" or a very hard, nonflammable exterior, and (3) dormancy.

A winged, intelligent descendent of plants capable of going dormant could conceivably carry this out (aside from firing seeds across the abyss). It's a stretch, but one worth making. Anything else is unlikely even by SF standards.

From: Lee Berman <severiansola at hotmail.com>
To: "urth at urth.net" <urth at urth.net>
Sent: Monday, November 26, 2012 2:22 PM
Subject: (urth) Inhumis's secret and numbers on Blue

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Marc Aramini — 27 Nov 2012, 22:35 · in reply to DAVID STOCKHOFF

Yes the Inhumans are liars as is the narrator's staff. This has been my position since about 2001.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 27, 2012, at 1:58 PM, DAVID STOCKHOFF <dstockhoff at verizon.net> wrote:
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nate jarvis — 27 Nov 2012, 22:57 · in reply to DAVID STOCKHOFF

If the Neighbors sent/brought the inhumis to the Whorl to judge what humans are like based on how the inhumis parasitizing them behaved, then how did they do so? If the Neighbors on Green

were shipping inhumis to Bue as part of their war between Green and Blue, what was their method of shipping?

Climbing a mountain--even one that pokes up out of the atmosphere like our own Olympus Mons--and then flapping your wings really really hard to fly through vacuum just seems silly. The inhumis obviously do use human tech to travel--that's how Krait and Horn get to Green--but they might also still be using Neighbor tech to travel during the events of Short Sun.

David Stockhoff lists:

- (1) Vacuum rupture
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Micrometeorite impacts should maybe also be included.

If inhumis have a means of going into protected stasis then #4 and likely #5 present insurmountable obstacles. If they were being fired out of cannons, that might address #4, but I don't recall any hint of space guns on Green, nor any reason to believe that the inhumis are capable of calculating where they would like to aim a space gun, let alone manipulating controls to do so themselves.

So why do people on Blue believe that the inhumis fly through space? Is this just a case of the inhumis themselves knowing how to start rumors, and wanting that particular piece of misinformation in wide circulation on Blue?

Nate.

antonio at gmail.com — 28 Nov 2012, 13:57 · in reply to nate jarvis

Didn't Anne McCaffrey have some such filiform beings land on a planet as well?

I find the insistence on the unfeasibility of inhumis travel misguided, except when it aims to point out that they may be lying (that's what they and their hosts do, after all). We keep discovering creatures here on earth living lives formerly considered impossible, and I mean impossible, not unlikely. To hold on to what we know to dismiss what we don't is what flat-earthers did. Still, I'm inclined to think the inhumis can't cross the void the way we're told they do.

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Lee Berman — 28 Nov 2012, 14:44 · follows antonio at gmail.com

David Stockhoff: A winged, intelligent descendent of plants capable of going dormant could conceivably carry this out (aside from firing seeds across the abyss). It's a stretch, but one worth making. Anything else is unlikely even by SF standards.

I do like this theme for the secret of the Inhumis. I agree with Marc that the association of parasitic inhumis and multi-limbed Neighbors with parasitic lianas and trees is more than a casual metaphor. There seems to be something literal to it.

As Sergei reports, the description of Inhumis mating habits comes very close to the end of this story and this placement suggests it should reveal more than it seems to. There is a ludicrous nature to the idea of male inhumis building a house and providing a ritual gift to a female then having them flop into the water to perform non-sexual aqueous fertilization like a fish or frog.

Perhaps mating/reproduction is part of the secret of the Inhumis. Juganu's story really doesn't ring true. Perhaps he is just using what little animal biology he knows to invent a lie to cover their true plant/seed origin. (they don't sprout, but Inhumis do survive years of burial).

My own line of thought regarding the essential secret of the Inhumis has been to focus on their hitchhiking/stowaway skills (Fava's integration into Mora's family is the same sort of skill). What just struck me is that hitchhiking/stowaway strategies are very inherent in the nature of many types of seeds.

DAVID STOCKHOFF — 28 Nov 2012, 15:08 · in reply to antonio at gmail.com

You're absolutely correct: We're not talking about hard SF here. Some basic reasons to give the inhumis space flight theory a break are (1) they are aliens whose physiology we have only the smallest clues about (2) we do indeed keep expanding our understanding of the limits of earthly

life (although to be fair bacteria don't quite count) (3) as you suggest, we know they have the powers of glamour and inhumation, so why not? Cthulhu-like "flight" between "the stars"? (Tzadkiel seems to do it.) I've argued for the first two; the last bothers me because I'm not really sure I accept the shapechanging powers.

Still, winged flight between planets requires ether to swim in. Wolfe does not propose an ether. He makes allusions to Lovecraft but does not resurrect the whole Lovecraftian pseudoscientific context for winged flight. So even just arguing from literary suspension of disbelief is problematic.

From this perspective, the claim is not dissimilar from a character saying he goes from house to house delivering gifts via chimneys, or claiming he has a ring to control the world, or claiming that only he can provide eternal life, or ... In other words, it sounds like a folkloric lie used to scare children, one which is in this case slightly out of place. Some things we tell ourselves about vampires (inhumi) are true, and some are not. Given Wolfe's fixation on the "truth" of myth, this seems to fit: Vampires don't fly through space---they lie and deceive and strike at night when you are alone and unprotected. This is where I end up.

From: "entonio at gmail.com" <entonio at gmail.com>
To: The Urth Mailing List <urth at lists.urth.net>
Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2012 8:57 AM
Subject: Re: (urth) Inhumi's secret and numbers on Blue

Didn't Anne McCaffrey have some such filiform beings land on a planet as well?

I find the insistence on the unfeasibility of inhumi travel misguided, except when it aims to point out that they may be lying (that's what they and their hosts do, after all). We keep discovering creatures here on earth living lives formerly considered impossible, and I mean impossible, not unlikely. To hold on to what we know to dismiss what we don't is what flat-earthers did. Still, I'm inclined to think the inhumi? can't cross the void the way we're told they do.

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DAVID STOCKHOFF — 28 Nov 2012, 15:09 · in reply to Lee Berman

Nice point.

From: Lee Berman <severiansola at hotmail.com>
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Andrew Mason — 28 Nov 2012, 15:23 · follows DAVID STOCKHOFF

Antonio wrote:

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I think the strongest evidence that the official story of the inhumani's travel is false is that Horn, in trying to explain it, says that light objects fall less quickly, as is shown by the example of feathers, (and so inhumani won't burn up on entering the atmosphere at speed, as landers do). That's not just something that breaks the laws of physics, as things in what is partly a fantasy work may; it's a misunderstanding of how the laws of physics work, even in normal circumstances, and what is more it is a notorious schoolboy error, which we are proud of having

got beyond, as told in (perhaps apocryphal) stories about Galileo. So I think by saying this he is sending an implicit message to the (real) audience, 'This explanation does not work'.

On the other hand Jahlee does seem to confirm the story and offer evidence, when she says:

"If you lack endurance?" She shrugged. "Only your frozen corpse gets to Blue. It crosses the sky there, a little scratch of fire. No doubt you've seen them. I have." (RTTW 3). (And the Rajan nods, as if he had indeed seen this.)

So in short I don't know either.

Daniel Petersen — 28 Nov 2012, 15:53 · in reply to DAVID STOCKHOFF

DAVID STOCKHOFF <dstockhoff at verizon.net> wrote:

'a character claiming that only he can provide eternal life' = 'a character saying he goes from house to house delivering gifts via chimneys' = 'a folkloric lie used to scare children'

Sure. You bet.

Anyway, it's funny on the inhumi flight through space and transmogrification issue for me: I'm staunch that the Solar Cycle world is one open to supernatural and paranormal causality, but I've never instinctively felt those two characteristics of the inhumi were anything but 'normal' 'scientific' phenomena as yet unknown and unexplainable to the understanding of the world of Wolfe's readers. (And I'm undecided on whether the inhumi are telling tall tales about their flight through space or whether they literally do that - but the latter possibility is not at all ruled out for me.)

-DOJP

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So why do people on Blue believe that the inhumi fly through space? Is

this just a case of the inhumans themselves knowing how to start rumors, and wanting that particular piece of misinformation in wide circulation on Blue?

Nate.

Lee Berman — 28 Nov 2012, 16:23 · follows Daniel Petersen

Andrew Mason: That's not just something that breaks the laws of physics, as things in what is partly a fantasy work may; it's a misunderstanding of how the laws of physics work, even in normal circumstances, and what is more it is a notorious schoolboy error

So far, so good....

On the other hand Jahlee does seem to confirm the story and offer evidence, when she says:

"If you lack endurance?" She shrugged. "Only your frozen corpse gets to Blue. It crosses the sky there, a little scratch of fire. No doubt you've seen them. I have."

Grrrrrr!

I am tempted to argue that a frozen Inhuman body surely lacks the mass and density to create the visible light display we can see from a large meteor, hundreds of miles up in the sky. Thus Jahlee is lying when she says she's seen examples of Inhumans burning on re-entry...using real shooting star sightings to bolster the lie...

But that just furthers the debate, keeping doubt about the falseness of the Inhuman travel story alive. And as long as there is doubt....

I could be wrong but I really think Wolfe is trying to make a point with this. Most of us humans are mostly honest and we operate on the default principle that what most other people say is mostly true.

But there is a certain "species" of people who exploit this. We have all experienced the words of a suspected liar who repeats a lie over and over with such deep sincerity that we can't help but start thinking, "maybe this is true..". They they've got you.

I see the Inhuman as a lupine parable about such people. We should be able to identify such liars and we should be able to suspend our normal assumption of truthfulness and honesty and assume the opposite- that everything such a person says must be assumed to be a lie. The occasional truth that is produced must be viewed only a stratagem so that the next lie will be believed.

This is a difficult view to take of another human being (especially a family member- thus the Krait-Sinew connection). But I think Wolfe is urging us to be cognizant of such people and to not fall victim to them.

DAVID STOCKHOFF — 28 Nov 2012, 16:54 · in reply to Andrew Mason

From: Andrew Mason <andrew.mason53 at gmail.com>
To: urth at lists.urth.net
Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2012 10:23 AM

Subject: (urth) Inhumis secret and numbers on blue

Antonio wrote:

I find the insistence on the unfeasibility of inhumis travel misguided, except when it aims to point out that they may be lying (that's what they and their hosts do, after all). We keep discovering creatures here on earth living lives formerly considered impossible, and I mean impossible, not unlikely. To hold on to what we know to dismiss what we don't is what flat-earthers did. Still, I'm inclined to think the inhumis? can't cross the void the way we're told they do.

They don't seem to have anything like a cell wall either, so no hypothetical? plant-like abilities. Otoh, theres their shapeshifting thing (which I find no one protesting!), so all bets are off.

I think the strongest evidence that the official story of the inhumis travel is false is that Horn, in trying to explain it, says that light objects fall less quickly, as is shown by the example of feathers, (and so inhumis won't burn up on entering the atmosphere at speed, as landers do). That's not just something that breaks the laws of physics, as things in what is partly a fantasy work may; it's a misunderstanding of how the laws of physics work, even in normal circumstances, and what is more it is a notorious schoolboy error, which we are proud of having got beyond, as told in (perhaps apocryphal) stories about Galileo. So I think by saying this he is sending an implicit message to the (real) audience, 'This explanation does not work'.

---This argument parallels the one I just made: Krait's claim mixes the known falsehood with the truth. Even living on the Whorl, Horn should grasp that feathers are not just lighter versions of rocks.

On the other hand Jahlee does seem to confirm the story and offer evidence, when she says:

"If you lack endurance?" She shrugged. "Only your frozen corpse gets to Blue. It crosses the sky there, a little scratch of fire. No doubt you've seen them. I have." (RTTW 3). (And the Rajan nods, as if he had indeed seen this.)

---Whether true or not, this confirms that in the flight theory, inhumis are moving fast enough to burn up, and only the unfurling or motion of their wings can save them. An object with high drag slows down faster than an object with low drag---unless you're in space. High drag will not prevent burnup if you're moving too fast to begin

with, and wings don't help you slow down in space. I don't know whether to imagine inhumis skipping and settling slowly into the atmosphere or diving in and pulling up. Neither quite works. Why would Wolfe tell us this?

Another issue that hasn't come up is how spaceflight would evolve. Perhaps the inhumis's ancestors flew mindlessly toward Blue the way a moth flutters around a lamp, and a random few made it. But the only way this could confer advantage is if (a) Green's population was dying or (b) Blue was an advantageous place to carry out part of the life cycle and return more powerful than before or (c) Blue fundamentally changed the species in some way. Well, we already know the answer would be "c" (and thus also "b").

Here's another question: why would Wolfe set up the Blue-Green system so that the planets came close to one another in the first place, only to reveal the supposed significance of this as false? That's a deep game to play. (A species with landers might make the crossing more easily, just as it is easier

for us to get to the Moon than to Mars, but this distinction would be lost on readers who never even see a Neighbor lander and who already have accepted star travel.)

DAVID STOCKHOFF — 28 Nov 2012, 17:07 · in reply to Lee Berman

From: Lee Berman <severiansola at hotmail.com>
To: "urth at urth.net" <urth at urth.net>
Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2012 11:23 AM
Subject: (urth) Inhumis's secret and numbers on blue

On the other hand Jahlee does seem to confirm the story and offer evidence, when she says:
"If you lack endurance?" She shrugged. "Only your frozen corpse gets to Blue. It crosses the sky there, a little scratch of fire. No doubt you've seen them. I have."

Grrrrrr!

Yes. Jahlee either confirms the flight story or confirms that all inhumis lie about it. We can't tell which. But we can examine her story.

Sergei SOLOVIEV — 28 Nov 2012, 17:47 · in reply to Lee Berman

Maybe you are right - it could indeed be about lying -

Sergei

Lee Berman wrote:
Andrew Mason: That's not just something that breaks the laws of physics, as things in what is partly a fantasy work may; it's a misunderstanding of how the laws of physics work, even in normal circumstances, and what is more it is a notorious schoolboy error
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But there is a certain "species" of people who exploit this. We have all

experienced the words of a suspected liar who repeats a lie over and over with such deep sincerity that we can't help but start thinking, "maybe this is true..". They they've got you.

I see the Inhumans as a lupine parable about such people. We should be able to identify such liars and we should be able to suspend our normal assumption of truthfulness and honesty and assume the opposite- that everything such a person says must be assumed to be a lie. The occasional truth that is produced must be viewed only a stratagem so that the next lie will be believed.

This is a difficult view to take of another human being (especially a family member- thus the Krait-Sinew connection). But I think Wolfe is urging us to be cognizant of such people and to not fall victim to them.

nate jarvis — 29 Nov 2012, 02:14 · in reply to DAVID STOCKHOFF

Another issue that hasn't come up is how spaceflight would evolve. Perhaps the inhumans' ancestors flew mindlessly toward Blue the way a moth flutters around a lamp, and a random few made it. </David Stockhoff> Wasn't there a theory that Neighbors on Green sent inhumans to Blue as part of a war between Neighbors on Blue and Green.

Nate.

António Pedro Marques — 29 Nov 2012, 02:16 · in reply to DAVID STOCKHOFF

I think I'm very much in agreement.

Let's see what we know of it, after all:

- the inhumans fly, apparently also at high altitudes
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- the inhumans seem to appear in great numbers during conjunction
- conjunction itself exists
- outside conjunction, the settlers seem not to be overly fearful of the inhumans

It's natural for the settlers to assume that the inhumans come from Green, and for want of a better explanation, they 'jump'. It needn't be the inhumans' invention, it's a conclusion the settlers would reach by themselves.

It would also seem necessary that they are able to go back to Green, since that's where they hatch after having fed while on Blue.

Unless they are native to Blue and don't make the trip at all, they do make the trip. Yeah, they could turn into wood after having set themselves on course. But for some reason that explanation doesn't fly for me. There's a mystery here to solve and I feel it should unlock something else.

No dia 28/11/2012, às 15:08, DAVID STOCKHOFF <dstockhoff at verizon.net> escreveu:

You're absolutely correct: We're not talking about hard SF here. Some basic reasons to give the inhuman space flight theory a break are (1) they are aliens whose physiology we have only the smallest clues about (2) we do indeed keep expanding our understanding of the limits of earthly life (although to be fair bacteria don't quite count) (3) as you suggest, we know they have the powers of glamour and inhumanity, so why not Cthulhu-like "flight" between "the stars"? (Tzadkiel seems to do it.) I've argued for the first two; the last bothers me because I'm not really sure I accept the

shapechanging powers.

Still, winged flight between planets requires ether to swim in. Wolfe does not propose an ether. He makes allusions to Lovecraft but does not resurrect the whole Lovecraftian pseudoscientific context for winged flight. So even just arguing from literary suspension of disbelief is problematic.

From this perspective, the claim is not dissimilar from a character saying he goes from house to house delivering gifts via chimneys, or claiming he has a ring to control the world, or claiming that only he can provide eternal life, or ... In other words, it sounds like a folkloric lie used to scare children, one which is in this case slightly out of place. Some things we tell ourselves about vampires (inhumi) are true, and some are not. Given Wolfe's fixation on the "truth" of myth, this seems to fit: Vampires don't fly through space---they lie and deceive and strike at night when you are alone and unprotected. This is where I end up.

From: "entonio at gmail.com" <entonio at gmail.com>
To: The Urth Mailing List <urth at lists.urth.net>
Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2012 8:57 AM
Subject: Re: (urth) Inhumi's secret and numbers on Blue

Didn't Anne McCaffrey have some such filiform beings land on a planet as well?

I find the insistence on the unfeasibility of inhumi travel misguided, except when it aims to point out that they may be lying (that's what they and their hosts do, after all). We keep discovering creatures here on earth living lives formerly considered impossible, and I mean impossible, not unlikely. To hold on to what we know to dismiss what we don't is what flat-earthers did. Still, I'm inclined to think the inhumi can't cross the void the way we're told they do.

They don't seem to have anything like a cell wall either, so no hypothetical plant-like abilities. Otoh, theres their shapeshifting thing (which I find no one protesting!), so all bets are off.

Ant?nio

No dia 27/11/2012, ?s 22:57, nate jarvis <natejarv at gmail.com> escreveu:

If the Neighbors sent/brought the inhumi to the Whorl to judge what humans are like based on how the inhumi parasitizing them behaved, then how did they do so? If the Neighbors on Green were shipping inhumi to Bue as part of their war between Green and Blue, what was their method of shipping?

Climbing a mountain--even one that pokes up out of the atmosphere like our own Olympus Mons--and then flapping your wings really really hard to fly through vacuum just seems silly. The inhumi obviously do use human tech to travel--that's how Krait and Horn get to Green--but they might also still be using Neighbor tech to travel during the events of Short Sun.

David Stockhoff lists:

- (1) Vacuum rupture
- (2) Radiation
- (3) Heat/cold variation
- (4) Navigation/propulsion
- (5) Reentry/landing
- (6) Food/air

Micrometeorite impacts should maybe also be included.

If inhumi have a means of going into protected stasis then #4 and

likely #5 present insurmountable obstacles. If they were being fired out of cannons, that might address #4, but I don't recall any hint of space guns on Green, nor any reason to believe that the inhumi are capable of calculating where they would like to aim a space gun, let alone manipulating controls to do so themselves.

So why do people on Blue believe that the inhumi fly through space? Is this just a case of the inhumi themselves knowing how to start rumors, and wanting that particular piece of misinformation in wide circulation on Blue?

Nate.

António Pedro Marques — 29 Nov 2012, 02:23 · in reply to Sergei SOLOVIEV

The problem with Jahlee lying about re-entry burn-up is... How would she, or anyone else apart from the Whorl's Crew, know there is such a thing as burning up on re-entry?

No dia 28/11/2012, às 17:47, Sergei SOLOVIEV <soloviev at irit.fr> escreveu:

Maybe you are right - it could indeed be about lying -

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Lee Berman wrote:

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Grrrrrr!

I am tempted to argue that a frozen Inhumani body surely lacks the mass and density to create the visible light display we can see from a large meteor, hundreds of miles up in the sky. Thus Jahlee is lying when she says she's seen examples of Inhumani burning on re-entry...using real shooting star sightings to bolster the lie...

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But there is a certain "species" of people who exploit this. We have all experienced the words of a suspected liar who repeats a lie over and over with such deep sincerity that we can't help but start thinking, "maybe this is

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This is a difficult view to take of another human being (especially a family member- thus the Krait-Sinew connection). But I think Wolfe is urging us to be cognizant of such people and to not fall victim to them.

David Stockhoff — 29 Nov 2012, 03:22 · in reply to nate jarvis

On 11/28/2012 9:14 PM, nate jarvis wrote:

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</David Stockhoff>

Wasn't there a theory that Neighbors on Green sent inhumans to Blue as part of a war between Neighbors on Blue and Green.

Nate.

Yes. Any evidence for it would tend to destroy any flight theory.

David Stockhoff — 29 Nov 2012, 03:32 · in reply to António Pedro Marques

On 11/28/2012 9:23 PM, António Pedro Marques wrote:

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No dia 28/11/2012, às 17:47, Sergei SOLOVIEV <soloviev at irit.fr> escreveu:

Now there's a brain-tickler. She certainly doesn't report it as though someone just told her. But since inhumans talk to each other as well as to humans when they are among them, and since the Neighbors used landers as well, it could be regarded as common knowledge. However, even the humans would only know about it if they saw a lander burn up.

Jerry Friedman — 29 Nov 2012, 15:04 · in reply to David Stockhoff

From: David Stockhoff <dstockhoff at verizon.net>

On 11/28/2012 9:23 PM, António Pedro Marques wrote:

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Maybe the Neighbors knew what meteors are.

David Stockhoff also wrote:

Yes, I agree. Science realism is after all impossible, if you are proposing scientific impossibilities such

as FTL.

Or that aliens could get human characters or atmans or whatever--not just what's in the DNA, but what is affected by the person's moral decisions--from the person's blood.

Jerry Friedman

Jerry Friedman — 29 Nov 2012, 15:13 · in reply to Lee Berman

From: Lee Berman <severiansola at hotmail.com>

Andrew Mason:

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Other way around--typical visible meteors are pebbles. ?To judge by the Wikipedia article, inhum meteors would probably reach the surface of Blue, though too broken-up to make craters.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meteorite>

I agree that Jahlee is probably lying, though. ?Most of the meteors Horn has seen would be natural (unless the Blue-Green system is short of debris or something). ?I'd think inhum meteors would be amazing fireballs in the visible and infrared ranges, not little?scratches (great word).

Jerry Friedman

DAVID STOCKHOFF — 29 Nov 2012, 15:18 · in reply to Jerry Friedman

Yes, a much better example. Literal moral infection is pretty unscientific.

From: Jerry Friedman <jerry_friedman at yahoo.com>

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

Sent: Thursday, November 29, 2012 10:04 AM

Subject: Re: (urth) Inhum's secret and numbers on blue

From: David Stockhoff <dstockhoff at verizon.net>

On 11/28/2012 9:23 PM, Ant?nio Pedro Marques wrote:

The problem with Jahlee lying about re-entry burn-up is... How would she, or anyone else apart from the Whorl's Crew, know there is such a thing as burning up on re-entry?

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Jerry Friedman

DAVID STOCKHOFF — 29 Nov 2012, 15:20 · in reply to Jerry Friedman

If they are in essence dried-up or frozen wood, they would burn fast. But bright. Too bad we can't run an experiment---I've got lots of firewood behind my house.

From: Jerry Friedman <jerry_friedman at yahoo.com>
To: The Urth Mailing List <urth at lists.urth.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 29, 2012 10:13 AM
Subject: Re: (urth) Inhumis secret and numbers on blue

From: Lee Berman <severiansola at hotmail.com>

Andrew Mason:

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Jerry Friedman

Marc Aramini — 29 Nov 2012, 15:29 · in reply to DAVID STOCKHOFF

Of course they are. They are flying, as?Yggdrasil the world tree no doubt floats between worlds, somehow.

--- On Thu, 11/29/12, DAVID STOCKHOFF <dstockhoff at verizon.net> wrote:

From: DAVID STOCKHOFF <dstockhoff at verizon.net>
Subject: Re: (urth) Inhumis secret and numbers on blue
To: "Jerry Friedman" <jerry_friedman at yahoo.com>, "The Urth Mailing List" <urth at lists.urth.net> Date: Thursday, November 29, 2012, 7:20 AM

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Gerry Quinn — 29 Nov 2012, 15:45 · in reply to Jerry Friedman

From: Jerry Friedman

From: Lee Berman <severiansola at hotmail.com>

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However I still think we are intended to believe that the inhumis do indeed fly between worlds.

- Gerry Quinn

Andrew Mason — 29 Nov 2012, 16:08 · follows Gerry Quinn

Antonio Pedro Marquez wrote:

I think I'm very much in agreement.

Let's see what we know of it, after all:

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Unless they are native to Blue and don't make the trip at all, they do make the trip. Yeah, they could turn into wood after having set themselves on course. But for some reason that explanation doesn't fly for me. There's a mystery here to solve and I feel it should unlock something else.

That they do indeed come from Green is also suggested by:

Quetzal certainly wanted humans to go to Green.

The inhum in Pajarocu want humans to go to Green.

Jahlee has previously been on Green, since astral travel can only take you to a place where you, or a companion, have been before, and Jahlee takes the Rajan to a place on Green - the tower on the cliff face - where he has certainly not been before.

DAVID STOCKHOFF — 29 Nov 2012, 16:48 · in reply to Gerry Quinn

I've wondered about the speed they would be moving at. Even if they are dead, they would have had to launch from Green at a speed at least = escape velocity. Then you have Blue's velocity, unless they don't come at Blue from that angle. If they are slower than meteors, then it seems plausible that they could---somehow---avoid burning if alive and burn up if dead.

From: Gerry Quinn <gerry at bindweed.com>

To: Jerry Friedman <jerry_friedman at yahoo.com>; The Urth Mailing List <urth at lists.urth.net>

Sent: Thursday, November 29, 2012 10:45 AM

Subject: Re: (urth) Inhum's secret and numbers on blue

From: Jerry Friedman

From: Lee Berman <severiansola at hotmail.com>

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- Gerry Quinn

Sergei SOLOVIEV — 29 Nov 2012, 18:12 · in reply to António Pedro Marques

It could be a legend existing among inhumite - known from Neighbours and since very old times. That is, it may be not true that the inhumite burn at reentry, but they may know that meteors burn, and think that they themselves burn also - it is sort of "heroic", "luciferian" -

Sergei

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I could be wrong but I really think Wolfe is trying to make a point with this. Most of us humans are mostly honest and we operate on the default principle that what most other people say is mostly true.

But there is a certain "species" of people who exploit this. We have all experienced the words of a suspected liar who repeats a lie over and over with such deep sincerity that we can't help but start thinking, "maybe this is true..". They they've got you.

I see the Inhumani as a lupine parable about such people. We should be able to identify such liars and we should be able to suspend our normal assumption of truthfulness and honesty and assume the opposite- that everything such a person says must be assumed to be a lie. The occasional truth that is produced must be viewed only a stratagem so that the next lie will be believed.

This is a difficult view to take of another human being (especially a family member- thus the Krait-Sinew connection). But I think Wolfe is urging us to be cognizant of such people and to not fall victim to them.
