

Short Sun notes: Inhumu and their sources

The Urth list — 7 messages, 5 voices, 07 Jul 2013

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/6394>

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Andrew Mason — 07 Jul 2013, 21:29

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Jahlee's, I agree with many people, is Chenille. There's several pieces of evidence for this; in astral travel she seems to have red hair; Mora, on first meeting her, says "She looks like a whore"; and when she is drunk in Dorp the Rajan mistakes her for Chenille. (It might be that Chenille is the woman she has just fed on, but I don't think so; she knows who Chenille is — "that lady on Green" — and doesn't recognise her as her victim.)

I do wonder in particular about Jahlee whether she might have a double source, which could explain how she can switch so easily between looking like an old woman and a young woman. (Fava can also look like both, but she has to feed on children to keep looking young, while Jahlee seems able to change at will.)

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one point described as looking like a woman who had been beautiful thirty years before.

Lee Berman — 10 Jul 2013, 14:23 · follows Andrew Mason

Andrew Mason: I suspect that for each featured inhumu/a we are meant to be able to work out who their source is.

I find the blended identities found within inhumu to be very confusing. Likewise for the merged identities within other characters like Babbie, Oreb, Pig, Kypris/Hyacynth, etc. I appreciate and admire your fortitude in trying to map these out.

I've been lazy, and content to take a broad-based interpretation of all that. For the inhumu I find them to be Wolefean allegory on the presence of blood-sucking parasites among us; the liars and criminals and drug addicts who only take from society without contributing.

The conflation of inhumu with Horn's children and surrogate children seems a bit like the Shakespearean lament: "how sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child". Since I think only Number 5 and Severian rival Horn as a Gene Wolfe literary avatar, I suspect there is masked autobiography going on here as well as a general statement on humanity and the difficulties of parenthood.

Marc Aramini — 12 Jul 2013, 12:58 · in reply to Andrew Mason

The scene on dorp when Jahlee is mistaken for Chenille also has two other weird things - the presence of auk's ghost and it is where Oreb brings a ring that changes to look like Horn's ring. Silk is also very concerned about the woman Jahlee just fed on, asking if she was dead, a big woman. Jahlee acts drunk because she just fed on someone who turned to drugs in her sorrow. The ring, auk's ghost, and suddenly being mistaken for chenille and feeding on a big woman, as well as a lander for silk to leave in at the end, tell me auk fixed the lander and chenille wound up bled in an alley by Jahlee in dorp. Time paradoxes are irrelevant. Astral travel is time travel. Silk could have not have freed them in his time line yet.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 7, 2013, at 2:29 PM, Andrew Mason <andrew.mason53 at gmail.com> wrote:
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Andrew Mason — 12 Jul 2013, 21:30 · follows Marc Aramini

Lee Berman wrote:

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merged identities within other characters like Babbie, Oreb, Pig,
Kypris/Hyacynth, etc. I
appreciate and admire your fortitude in trying to map these out.

Thanks! I hope to say something about some of these, especially Babbie, later.

I've been lazy, and content to take a broad-based interpretation of all that. For the inhumis
I find them to be Wolfian allegory on the presence of blood-sucking parasites among us; the
liars and criminals and drug addicts who only take from society without contributing.

I think I take a more two-sided view of the inhumis than that. I take it to be very important that they have human spirits, and are capable of human virtues as well as vices: Krait and Fava turn out nobly in the end. Jahlee doesn't, but that's not just because she's a monster, but because of the human emotion of jealousy. But of course if inhumis are people it follows that people can

also be inhum; that I take it is the point being made with Juganu and Gyr Falcon. (It has just struck me, by the way, that if Lemur is Juganu's source, it is quite likely that Quetzal - who, as Remora rather pointlessly points out, knew Lemur - is Juganu's father.)

The conflation of inhum with Horn's children and surrogate children seems a bit like the Shakespearean lament: "how sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child". Since I think only Number 5 and Severian rival Horn as a Gene Wolfe literary avatar, I suspect there is masked autobiography going on here as well as a general statement on humanity and the difficulties of parenthood.

Yes indeed. With Krait I think it's fairly clear what's happening - Horn adopts Krait as his son, and it turns out that he is in a way his son, through Sinew. I think that Horn is unfairly judging Sinew - perhaps because he reminds Horn of his younger self - and that through Krait he comes to appreciate him better. But Jahlee is a real mystery. Why does the Rajan see her, not as his sister - which would make sense if she is Chenille - but as his daughter? You might just say 'by adoption', and adoption is certainly taken seriously in the Vironese community, but there are suggestions there's more to it than that; he thinks in retrospect of Krait as his grandson, and wonders whether it was legitimate to adopt Krait in the light of that; yet the adoption of Krait happened long before he met Jahlee. But there's no suggestion that either Silk or Horn ever had a daughter. There's something here I'm not fathoming.

David Duffy — 13 Jul 2013, 00:40 · in reply to Andrew Mason

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Well Silk may feel in loco parentis to Horn...

antonio at gmail.com — 13 Jul 2013, 20:33 · in reply to Marc Aramini

Silk freed them?

No dia 12/07/2013, às 13:58, Marc Aramini <marcaramini at yahoo.com> escreveu:

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like a woman who had been beautiful thirty years before.

Marc Aramini — 13 Jul 2013, 20:47 · in reply to antonio at gmail.com

Off camera, in my opinion. A ring, auk's ghost, a big woman high on something victimized by Jahlee, after which she looks like chenille, and a lander all near Dorp match up with stuff supposed to be on green- the ring, the lander with horn's body, chenille, and auk. Echoes of all that stuff wound up in Dorp. And the ring changes appearance so that the narrator first says it is the same ring, then isn't. Everything there near Dorp says Silk will free them on his visits- the timelines don't have to match up as Silk and Oreb already showed up in the past in that woman's story at the start of IGJ.

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