

Shadow IDs

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 02 Jun 1998

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adam louis stephanides — 02 Jun 1998, 17:49

On Tue, 2 Jun 1998 mantis wrote:

Please correct me.

Wolf is the name for one Shadow child--he says so explicitly (140, Ace edition in which "A Story" runs from 83-146). The names for three Shadow children are Foxfire, Swan and Whistler (137), so the names do change completely at each stage. Two of the names for five are Hatcher and Hunter (136). There are names for seven,too, but we don't know them.

This leaves some questions unanswered:

1) Wolf refers to names for seven, five, three and one, but says nothing about two, four or six. Does he leave them out because Sandwalker never encountered groups of those sizes, or do no such names exist?

2) Wolf's statement is most naturally interpreted as you read it, that any lone Shadow child is named Wolf, every group of three is named Foxfire, Swan and Whistler, etc. But it's also possible, I think, to read it as saying that *each group* of Shadow children has its own names for seven, five, etc.

And of course we should keep in mind that this is all a work of fiction by V.R.T. I don't recall if V.R.T. even claims to have ever seen a Shadow child, much less what reliable information he would have about their naming habits (in the story, Sandwalker is surprised to learn that they even have names.

--Adam