

5HC: abo debate

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 05 Jun 1998

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m.driussi — 05 Jun 1998, 18:38

Thesis (official colonial): there are no abos (never were or they were killed by the French)

Antithesis (from behind the mask of "Veil," i.e., mystery, hidden, occult): the French were killed by the abos, and said abos have since blended among the subsequent French colonists as faux-French. (Which comes perilously close to saying that there are no "French.")

Synthesis (Liev or something else?): the excluded middle of the above arguments? I.e., maybe, yes and no, some but not all.

Personally I think the texts weave in and out and around through these three points.

It might not be possible to apply any one to the trilogy with a hermetic fit. It is proving quite difficult to apply it to characters who appear in more than one of the novellas.

Perhaps we can narrow the range down to one character and one novella. For example, the "Maitre" reading and judging in "V.R.T." He is presumably not an abo, nor a brainwashed clone of 666, and he is filtering through a criminal case--he is probably the most reliable character we have. What is his attitude towards abos (official, Veil, or other)? How many theories does he have about the prisoner, and do any of them include a notion that the prisoner is an abo?

The assassin theory seems to be that the prisoner got his training and instruction from "the junta" of Sainte Anne and came to kill somebody important, but not Number Four. With a heavy rifle at long range with one shot. A sort of Lee Harvey Oswald scenario.

The attitude toward Number Four revealed in the interrogations seems to be that he was secretly in league with the government of Sainte Croix, as spy and surgeon.

But the officer also seems to notice the shift in handwriting from Marsch to V.R.T. This by itself does not mean that the officer believes in abos, since impersonation by humans exists; V.R.T. as a human can still murder and replace Marsch. Does the officer think that V.R.T.'s abo-ness is just a symptom of insanity in a human man?

What about the officer's reaction to the Poe visitations? When was he at a graveyard? Who was buried, what was his involvement such that the cat has followed him back?

And what about that damn book, the Field Guide? Is it one of the few books Marsch brought from Earth, or one of the many he bought when he first arrived at Roncevaux (and then presumably listed in the excised section of the journal)? V.R.T./Marsch implies that he brought it from Earth--the officer responds by saying he doubts the prisoner has ever been to Earth. The officer =doesn't= say, "This book was published on Sainte Anne," which would be the answer to the prisoner's implication that the book originated on Earth (and by analogy so did the book's

owner); the officer refutes the analogy rather than addressing the implication.

(Robert, re: the scarred prostitute in Roncenvoux, thanks for the note. I sense that this was during the second visit to Roncevaux, when V.R.T./Marsch was living there for a year before going to Sainte Croix. If Marsch was homosexual [well gosh, what, 100% gay I guess] and V.R.T. was not [say 100% heterosexual], then Marsch wouldn't have hired a female prostitute, whereas V.R.T. might have [re: mom caught me with that girl; the love-object-women of "A Story"]; this might also help to explain the sexual confusion suffered by V.R.T./Marsch as a sort of "50% bisexual dysfunctional" as per the prostitute of Roncevaux, the tea and sympathy chats with Dr. Veil "I'm looking for a mature man to talk Plato with . . . a mentor to provide a role model I could grow into . . . " <g> and the nasty remarks about C.E.)

=mantis=