

potpourri

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 14 Jun 1998

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/777>

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J. Schultz — 14 Jun 1998, 11:14

Hello,

I'm back now that discussion has turned back to TBOTNS since I haven't read 5head. As the title suggests this is to hit on a couple of subjects that still trouble me.

The discussion about the mine and the "creature" awakened has been interesting. While some have suggested its Tolkien flavor, I saw a different author invoked. Because of this I came to a slightly different conclusion about the nature of the 'beastie.' If you turned Severian into a gentleman from New England at the turn of the century and called the account at the mine "The Saultus Horror" it would be indistinguishable from a work of H P Lovecraft's. Beastmen, ancient cities, dark passages, and an extremely large, ominous, demonic creature that is never seen but invokes sheer terror in the protagonist. Because I see the Lovecraft connection I have always seen the "creature" as being malignant and in league with Abia (who has more than a passing similarity to Chthulu). Severian hints at the possibility (although he could be wrong, as he so often is) that the creature is: 1) ancient 2) asleep for ages 3) woken by the claw. The question is whether the creature is awakened in the same spirit of the man-apes, in order to serve the Conciliator. OR whether the creature is awakened by the presence of something it wishes to destroy, its old enemy the Conciliator (much like the salamander was attracted to the claw). I find the latter more plausible. The fact that the ancient town and the man-apes are the property of the autarch and F. Inire does not mean that the "creature" must also be. The buried town existed long before both the autarch and Inire and its not hard to picture its halls being the home of some "ancient, sleeping evil. Too powerful to be removed by Inire, yet sleeping and causing no worries. I believe, as others have stated, that it may be Scylla or Arioeh. More likely Arioeh. Because.....

A theory about Scylla,

Keep in mind I have not finished reading the Whorl, and have not read any discussions in the other mailing list. Forgive me if I am repeating things discussed elsewhere.

Has anyone wondered if the Scylla mentioned in TBOTNS to be the same as the Scylla whose personality has been programed into the whorl's computer? This may be a jump in logic, but considering GW's habit of making unrelated characters and events tie in it seems a possibility. It's hinted that rebellion against Typhon was in part led by his children. And while Scylla is not the true name of his first born it is not unlikely that she could have chosen to be called that on Urth as well as in the Whorl. Could it be that after the defeat of Typhon she took the route of Baldanders? Becoming so large that the Urth could not hold her anymore and moving into the ocean? She seems a likely person to oppose the coming of the new sun. OR... Could Scylla be the young girl in the story that Jonas tells inside the wall of Nessus? The girl in the story is opposed to the Monarch yet carries with her small black seeds. She tells people to follow her or she'll drop the seeds in the ocean and destroy the Urth. Could the seeds be the embryos (larvae, or whatever) or Abaia and Erebrus? Casting them in the ocean would eventually bring about the end of the Urth, in a sense. In the story she is torn apart by the mob, but we don't know what becomes of her seeds. Could it be that in some myths she is mentioned as Scylla,

mother of Abaia and Erebus? It is a very interesting possibility.

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