

How Marsch Knows #5 Is A Clone

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 19 Jun 1998

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/832>

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Robert Borski — 19 Jun 1998, 00:03

Recently, Adam-Louis Stephanides, among others, has wondered:

"But even if V.R.T. had somehow inherited Marsch's knowledge, how would that tell him #5's a clone? He hasn't seen #5's father; all #5 tells him is "'I'm supposed to look a great deal like my father,'" something not uncommon among us non-clones, not "'I'm supposed to look exactly like my father did at my age'"; and as far as I know clones per se have no distinguishing marks. It's a strange passage (and has been so noted earlier on this list, IIRC). Maybe he saw a photograph of #5's father somewhere. Another, perhaps less likely, possibility is that V.R.T. has heard rumors that there is a wealthy family of clones somewhere on St. Croix, and when he meets #5 and hear his remark he thinks "Oh, maybe this is that family." I agree that it's best to stick as close to the text as possible, but I think the above suggestions are preferable in this regard to positing an otherwise unmentioned ability in V.R.T."

Several answers suggest themselves about Marsch's knowledge re the Number Five-Maitre clone connection:

In one of the transcribed interviews read by the junior officer assigned to Marsch's case, Constant asks: "You found its [the Maison du Chien] proprietor remarkable?" To me this implies at least more than a casual meeting between the two; but perhaps even more significantly, it's noted by Marsch/VRT that he's been invited by Maitre to intercede on the clonemeister's behalf ("...the brothelkeeper at the Cave Canem...had earlier that evening asked my help in dealing with his 'son'" [p.169, Scribners]) -- probably because Number Five has been talking murderously of Maitre during his drug-induced interrogations.

It really shouldn't have been that difficult to visually ascertain Number Five and Maitre were identical twins, even though separated by several decades.

But even had Marsch not met Maitre previously (meaning Marsch/VRT is lying in both cases above, the motives for which escape me), Marsch has met with Aunt Jeannine several times and certainly she could have told him of the clonal connection.

scolex/Robert Borski (who's been very busy converting CAVE CANEM to HTML, so he can spread his heretical notions about 5TH HEAD all over the electronic globe)