

Tartaros Rex

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 16 Feb 1997

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Alice Turner — 16 Feb 1997, 14:43

Gosh, we're all getting so nostalgic and philosophical. I'll bite. I started with Oz myself at a young age, moved on to Kipling (another Wolfe fave). SF: C. Smith and Vance (Vance seems to be universal here). Never cared much for Niven and the hard-boys, but then I'm a gril. <g> Interesting though---in nearly any mini-survey of this kind someone will wax nostalgic about the Heinlein juveniles, and nobody has here. Does that mean that the Wolfe pack had a somewhat different juvenile taste from the majority? Hurray for us!

But back to the squabbling that I consider the essence of this group.

So based on the Pas no-show theophany, as well as the sudden and increasing powers of Tartaros toward the end, you divine that the rightful and dutiful son has ascended the throne of the Whorl? (Pas in Saturn-like retirement?) Good job! I like it.

Thank you, my dear mantis. Let me recap. The first Pas viewing is reported by Q as a sight of Pas's "ghost." Auk hears "ghost" at the second theophany (Incus takes Pas at face value, but he would, wouldn't he?). I'm using "puppet" as a stronger synonym. At the presumable third Pas theophany, there is no lightshow at all as the Jerboa "piece of Pas" is transferrred to Auk--via Tartaros alone, I'm convinced. At the fourth, comely Kypris waggles Pas as Miss Piggy might a temporarily unmanned Kermit. I wouldn't say that Pas is exactly Saturn-like, nor do I think Tartaros is dutiful--instead, he seems, like Q to be on the side of the humans and thus a traitor to his kind. But, yes, I do think he is in sole charge of Mainframe at the end, with kooky Kypris as a sort of ally. (Sort of, because she probably would feel safer with Big Daddy--she's probably about as loyal to Tartaros as Hy is to Silk.)

One more explanation: I'm of the opinion that the Whorl is a supply ship, that the Cargo, which consists of the dregs of Urth society, was sold to the inhum by Pas/Typhon as a food supply. Q was in effect a "shepherd," but over time he turned into something of a Good Shepherd, against his own nature. I don't expect everyone to agree however (continued butting up against mantis has made me philosophical).

-alga-

Questions or problems to whorl-owner at lists.best.com