

Digest whorl.v011.n039

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 07 Sep 2000

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/1019>

Exported from an unofficial mirror of a public mailing list. Copyright in each message remains with the person who wrote it. Email addresses are obscured as `user at host`, the form the original archive published. This file was rebuilt from parsed fields rather than retained headers, so it is faithful in content but not byte-exact.

Alice Turner — 07 Sep 2000, 18:52

Said Dr. Gevers:

I commented a while back on the likelihood that Horn et al visit Urth in IGJ on the day of Severian's swimming expedition at the start of THE SHADOW OF THE TORTURER. Quite a few people have concurred. Some mention has also been made of parallels between Silk/Horn and Severian: the wielding of a numinous black sword, the Claw-style light given to Horn by the Neighbour on Green, the lochage concluding that Horn is a Master of the Torturers' Guild. What I infer from all this is that the career of Silk/Horn is the template for Severian's career: the Hierodules and others shape Severian's life to resemble Silk/Horn's, because the latter's progressively benevolent pattern will make Severian a likely bringer of the New Sun. Silk/Horn is Severian's precursor: his arrival on Urth, just as the action of THE BOOK OF THE NEW SUN commences, is the inspiration the higher powers need for their successful manipulation of Severian's timeline.

I'm not sure about the swimming expedition, though it's perfectly possible and nicely tidy. Nor does Sev's life seem to me to resemble Silk/Horn's in any real way (other than within the necessary confines of an adventure fantasy). But I am sure that Silk/Horn's visit to Urth will be remembered as a visit from the Conciliator exactly because of the parallel clues you cite. Legend will thus conflate them (unbeknownst to Sev, of course, at least so far as we know). It remains to be seen whether any further conflation will occur--it seems to me that it would be damn difficult to do in the course of a single book to come. But I love surprises.

-alga

*This is WHORL, for discussion of Gene Wolfe's Book of the Long Sun.