

Return to the Whorl: Early Predictions

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 11 Sep 2000

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/1027>

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Robert Borski — 11 Sep 2000, 18:29

While Horn is still in Gaon as Rajan, a fortune-teller comes and makes a number of predictions about what is yet to transpire in his life. Writes Horn: "It was the usual mix of flattery and menace--I would lead three towns not my own to victory, would be tried for my life, would return as a stranger to my sons' native place, find new love, and so on and so forth. I will not put myself to the trouble of recording the entire rigamarole. When he had finished I asked how I--or anyone whose future he foretold--might know that his prophecies were valid; and he solemnly declared that the stars themselves confirmed them."

Obviously, the stars have accorded themselves very well, and no doubt the other events mentioned by the soothsayer will come to pass in RETURN TO THE WHORL. But to the above list I'd like to append my own early speculations; some build on theories I've already elaborated upon or had published elsewhere, others are the result of half-baked notions that never quite completely jelled; still others are pure fancy, the stuff of the coveted Borski award. You should take them with the same grain of salt as the Gaonese when told about the astral veracity of the fortune-teller's divinations. ("Everybody laughed.")

Quadrifons, allegedly, has four faces. I predict an ontogenic quartet of ape, shaman, scientist (complete with bug-eyed glasses), and robot. The crossroads with which he's associated is actually the juncture of the New and Short Sun series.

The Neighbors will have either two heads or be Janus-faced, linking them to Typhon the First, galactic homeboy returned. Alternate theory: some of them look like Horn. This is because Horn was purposely drawn by Seawrack's singing to sexually assault her--not the kind of special talent a sane person would desire, but one which does work to provide the Mother/Scylla and her exiled Mainframe cabal (the people in the underwater boats) with genetic material to work from. This artificial propagation ("My name is Horn, also") may well explain the Neighbor's quasi-mysterious remark about how "the Mother" is one of the sea goddess' name. I.e., Scylla's their clonatrice.

We will meet the oft-mentioned blind Pig, and the lesser mentioned Hound, Patera Grig and Tansy. Babbie, when he shows up, will have a defective or mending eye, and Horn will venture something to the effect that Babbie must have injured it in a fight with another Blue beast or scratched it on a thorn in his intercontinental travails.

Severian's sister, when met, will be told to fetch Incanto & Company something to eat or drink, and the Cumaean may be present.

The fact that the inhumani don't fly from Green to Blue and/or can breed on the latter are components of the Great Secret, but not its crux.

Robert Borski

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