

hush-OG vs Hus-HOG

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 04 Dec 2000

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/1051>

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Robert Borski — 04 Dec 2000, 10:48

Rostrum having weighed the evidence and decided:

<"hush.og"? Looks like a website for librarians. I suppose that's supposed to say "hush og"? And I guess you mean that the original word was 'hushog' (one 'h' in the middle) pronounced "hus hog"? Took me a minute to figure that out - more confusing than the Matera Mint typo in Exodus.>

Sorry for the confusion. The dot between hush and og was supposed to be up higher, on the same level as a hyphen, the way it's done in dictionaries, but apparently current web standards do not support all of the alternates in the Windows character map. (It also bothers me you can't italicize or underline words in forums like this.) Wolfe's letter had the dot, and it appeared in the proper place when I typed the e-mail, but when I sent it whorlward, it wound up dropped down like a period.

As you point out, I also put in one too many 'h's in 'hushhog,' there being only two altogether, one at the beginning, one in the middle.

Perhaps I should have written it as you did: hush og vs hus hog. Or: hush-og and hus-hog. At any rate the original word was hus plus hog, but apparently GW feared people like me would see it as hush+og and try to make a case for a Tolkein influence (ladies and gents, I give you Hushog, brother of Balrog).

I'd also be remiss if I didn't point out the potential connection between the second syllable of hushog and the soon-to-be-met Pig.

Robert Borski

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