

The Secret

The Whorl list — 3 messages, 3 voices, 29 Jan 2001

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/1076>

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Michael Straight — 29 Jan 2001, 14:54

I'm guessing that the secret has something to do with how Horn seems to have given Jahlee a human soul. Or that all of the inhumis whom Horn has shown kindness to have found themselves unable to kill him, or even fully devoted to him.

There's also that bit in IGJ where Horn mentions that the Vanished People made the inhumis their slaves and that that led to their downfall.

Maybe the secret is that the humans can enslave the inhumis by loving (showing kindness to?) them. That seems slightly more practical and unsettling than the idea we rejected before that maybe if humans changed their nature and all loved each other, the inhumis would cease to be monsters (why would the inhumis fear that?).

-Rostrum

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

James Jordan — 12 Mar 2001, 16:16 · follows Michael Straight

Maybe I'm having a Senior Moment (more and more since I passed 50), but did we ever "decide" what the Big Inhumis Secret is? Surely it's not what Jahlee tells Nettle, that they get their intelligence from our blood; we've known that all along.

My guess would be that The Secret is the actual and true way that inhumis get from Green to Blue, though we're never told what that is.

But what have I forgotten.

Patera Nuttier and Nuttier

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Adam Stephanides — 12 Mar 2001, 21:37 · follows James Jordan

on 3/12/01 4:16 PM, James Jordan at jbjordan4 at home.com wrote:

Maybe I'm having a Senior Moment (more and more since I passed 50), but did we ever "decide" what the Big Inhumis Secret is? Surely it's not what Jahlee tells Nettle, that they get their intelligence from our blood; we've known that all along.

Though Jahlee's words aren't entirely clear, it seems to be a little more than just that: each inhumis/a derives its "mind" from a specific human whose blood its parent drank.

I agree it's a disappointment, and somewhat inconsistent; but I think we're stuck with it. The theory that Horn substituted a fake secret to protect Nettle from the inhumis doesn't hold up: the inhumis know that Horn knows the secret, and they would be able to figure out what he had done. If he thought he would be endangering Nettle by writing down that she had been told the

secret, he would have omitted it completely. (When he wrote these words, he would have expected to be able to excise anything dangerous from the manuscript if it ever was published.)

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get from Green to Blue, though we're never told what that is.
But what have I forgotten.

This doesn't work any better as the secret. It doesn't fit the revelation scene with Krait in IGJ.

--Adam

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