

# RTTW (spoilers)

The Whorl list — 7 messages, 7 voices, 03 Feb 2001

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/1092>

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james.kellar — 03 Feb 2001, 10:52

have I understood correctly, do you think, that the Neighbours sent representatives to the Whorl when it arrived in the Blue/Green system? do we have any clues as to who these might be? I wonder if they could be connected with the (horrible) godling?

gerbil

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

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michael braithwaite — 03 Feb 2001, 19:26 · follows james.kellar

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<html><DIV>
<P>Gerbil wrote<BR><BR></P></DIV>
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<DIV></DIV>&gt;when it arrived in the Blue/Green system?
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connected with the
<DIV></DIV>&gt;(horrible) godling?
<DIV></DIV>&gt;
<DIV></DIV>
<P>&gt;gerbil </P>
<P>&nbsp;</P>
<P>Horn says that the Neighbors sent the inhumis to the Whorl before Windcloud and other
Neighbors went there (p235). The godlings seem&nbsp;  to be controlled by Mainframe
so&nbsp; they probably came from embryos like Silk, Mucor and Pig.</P><br
clear=all><hr>Get Your Private, Free E-mail from MSN Hotmail at <a
href="http://www.hotmail.com">http://www.hotmail.com</a>.<br></p></html>
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Ian Smith — 06 Feb 2001, 19:53 · follows michael braithwaite

Just finished RTTW and heartily confused at the ending. Will someone who is more able please alleviate my stupidity by explaining exactly what happened in that last scene with Remora, esp. what the 'Hyacinth' passage from the writings indicated?

Having read the posts, I also have a couple more pennies-worth of my own to stick in:

From Nacre's post:

"I would never have used it while

Nettle was alive", confused me, Jahlee  
didn't kill Nettle, did she? Didn't  
Nettle go with Silk and Marble?

[snip]

For the most part, I agree with David DiGiacomo's answers. For the question above, though, I'd suggest that it's another example of Horn's and Silk's memories mixing. "It" is the azoth, if I recall correctly (I don't have the book here to check); he says "Nettle" but means, I think, Hyacinth. Note, if you will, that this error is the opposite of the ones he was making at the beginning of OBW; at that time, Hyacinth's name often appeared when he meant Nettle, but by this point, the substitutions have entirely reversed themselves."

I checked back, and it's the method of communicating with the Mother which the narrator "would never have used while Nettle was alive". At the time of reading I presumed he was speaking in the past tense because he was convinced he was about to die (or at least 'cease to exist') and so would never get to use it. However, presumably Silk subsequently did, as Seawrack then appears pretty quickly afterward.

And from cephalothorax:

"> "I would never have used it while Nettle was alive",

confused me, Jahlee didn't kill Nettle, did she?  
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No and No."

I understood Nettle DID sail with the rest back to Pajorocou, which is why Nettle is "making her own"[goodbyes] whilst Horn/Silk is talking to Daisy [p411] and why Daisy hopes "he and his eerie young woman, Nettle the old sibyl, and their bird [are] on course upon a greater sea" [p412]. Of course, as I've already admitted I don't understand the end, I could just be plain wrong...

and another from cephalothorax:

"Persnickety: Are we really meant to believe that Severian, who writes about Master Ash, and the Green Man, and being a white fountain hundreds of years before he's born is going to consider "Horn" too much of a stretch for his readers to believe because he's got the love-vibe and walks through walls?"

On this I'm no more certain, but I got the distinct impression that the apprentice Severian was under the impression that Horn / Silk's spirit was actually Malrubius' ghost (hence his comment to Gurloes about Oreb), which of course does get mentioned frequently throughout TBOTNS( & he certainly pairs Malrubius with Triskele a fair bit). Whether Wolfe has managed the phenomenal task of tying the ends up, we won't know until someone has the energy to re-read TBOTNS looking for them. Surely such a thing is impossible, but I'm trying not to make the mistake of under-estimating Wolfe...

Ian

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mark millman — 06 Feb 2001, 16:15 · follows Ian Smith

At 07:53 PM 06-02-01 -0000, Ian Smith wrote:

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Jahlee didn't kill Nettle,  
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For the most part, I agree with David DiGiacomo's answers. For the question above, though, I'd suggest that it's another example of Horn's and Silk's memories mixing. "It" is the azoth, if I recall correctly (I don't have the book here to check); he says "Nettle" but means, I think, Hyacinth. Note, if you will, that this error is the opposite of the ones he was making at the beginning of OBW; at that time, Hyacinth's name often appeared when he meant Nettle, but by this point, the substitutions have entirely reversed themselves."

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[snip]

Ian

Whoops! Thanks for the correction, Ian; and so much for my decaying memory.

Nacre

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Adam Stephanides — 07 Feb 2001, 23:18 · follows mark millman

on 2/6/01 7:53 PM, Ian Smith at doctoriancsmith at hotmail.com wrote:

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writings indicated?

The person we have been thinking of as Horn in Silk's body is actually Silk with Horn's memories. Silk could not admit to himself that he was Silk because that would mean admitting that Hyacinth was dead. The Hyacinth passage enabled Silk to accept this.

I have to admit I was caught completely by surprise. Now, of course, I'll have to reread all three volumes in this light.

--Adam

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Spectacled Bear — 08 Feb 2001, 18:04 · follows Adam Stephanides

At 19:53 2001-02-06 -0000, Ian wrote:

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I checked back, and it's the method of communicating with the Mother which the narrator "would never have used while Nettle was alive". At the time of reading I presumed he was speaking in the past tense because he was convinced he was about to die (or at least 'cease to exist') and so would never get to use it. However, presumably Silk subsequently did, as Seawrack then appears pretty quickly afterward.

Yes - it's definitely Horn speaking at the time, and he never does use it. It's Silk who does that. I don't know exactly what happens to Horn when Silk recovers himself, but it's pretty terminal: he anticipates Remora's return as that of an executioner, and Silk talks to Daisy about having more or less killed Hoof and Hide's father.

Spectacled Bear.

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David DiGiacomo — 08 Feb 2001, 10:29 · follows Spectacled Bear

From: Adam Stephanides <adamsteph at earthlink.net>

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I would just add to this that the Neighbor told Horn "I can send your spirit into someone else" - spirit, not memories.

In retrospect, Fava's afterlife was a good clue.

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