

RTTW up to pg. 81 SPOILERS

The Whorl list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 03 Feb 2001

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Sheila Herndon — 03 Feb 2001, 07:50

I'm sorry, I just can't help myself - I am enjoying reading the book so much that I feel I must talk about it with someone, even though I don't normally post here much...

spoiler space

I'm keeping a piece of paper with me while I read to jot down page numbers for scenes or thoughts I really like...

p. 47. The "Silent Shout" section. I am betting this just has to be a reference to something that I don't have the background info for, if someone can enlighten me? thanks. but even without getting the allusion, I love this section. It's beautiful. And I love how Pig looks at him (I mean, not really looks at him) and says basically -hey, didn't you ever hear nothing that didn't make a noise before? and didn't someone hear it with you? (like as if he's trying to say, calm down buddy, it's ok) (and this is a nice allegory for saying how some people beleive in god, some don't. some hear the noise, and agree on it, some don't.)

speaking of allegory, there must be a lot I miss, but there is some stuff I get - e.g. if the blind lead the blind then they'll both fall into a ditch, but Wolfe makes a wonderful gentle joke here and has the literally blind guy guide Horn away from falling into a (shallow (hmm?)) ditch - the literally blind guy can see ...oh maybe that's obvious, but I love it.

and then there's Pig figuring out they're in a forest, and expressing doubt, but Horn not - a role reversal from the ditch scene - I'm thinking Wolfe is telling us to think of the opening passage of Inferna

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in a wood wandering - this is just too cool! that role reversal I mean. I love how the roles of guide are not fixed. maybe this is just me, sorry.

but another thing I like about all these levels in the story - some authors do this and it seems contrived and as though they're beating you about the head. but it doesn't seem that way to me here - especially given all the previous books. It's not like an author grabbing my face and looking into my eyes and saying "You **will** think of Dante because I am so clever" not a bit. Some authors write like that, imho. This is like someone walking up to Jesus on earth and asking him what he does and he says, oh, I'm an apprentice carpenter, I help my dad in his shop. That's one level, sure.

or, I guess I am tempted to draw other parallels in my attitude - the tea ceremony - performed with humble implements. outside of the ceremony, it's just a raw cup. that's the truth. but it's not the whole truth. and it's not contrived to point that out.

that's how I feel about reading this section. it has many pleasant layers.

p. 48 The scene where he explains what the Neighbors called the place. "Ours" and then Oreb says "No cry!" wow. that is just the most amazing scene. Wolfe has made me long to know what this place is - maybe you only get this from reading all of the books? maybe you are thinking - I'm finally going to know - it's Ushash (spelling, sorry) - it's Urth - it's etc. Horn is going to tell us which words the Neighbors used. Wolfe has made this suspense build up - what Horn is going to say next is very important to us. And then when he actually reveals the word - "Ours" Wolfe is a magician who has switched the target - saying - see? I made you want to know what this place really is. and I'm telling you now. You just don't know I'm telling you. This answer is the important one.

and Horn cries, because he wants something to be "His". maybe?

and incidently - wow, when I read the first page and saw the shift to 3rd person. floored. and so it was even more cool to be able to read about this scene first hand **and** second hand when he mentions it in his journal later.

p. 60 "It's something we get from you, a need to become more and more like you, until we're as human as we can possibly be."
"We feel it too," I told her, "though not always

as strongly as we should."

I've gone on and on too much so I'll stop here instead of rambling about this scene, but just to say, wow, I love it.

I don't really participate enough to merit a name, though I suppose if I were to pick one - does anyone know the name of the little fern-like looking plant that grows on the side of roads and when you touch it the leaves react and fold up? that's a cool plant.

anyway, back to lurking, and I'm looking forward with great anticipation to reading what everyone else has to say after I finish the book. If anyone follows up to this, and is going to refer to anything that happens after p. 81, please let me know which page numbers you're going to be using, because I absolutely don't want to be spoiled. thanks.

Peter Westlake — 05 Feb 2001, 10:33 · follows Sheila Herndon

At 07:50 2001-02-03 -0800, Sheila wrote:

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p. 47. The "Silent Shout" section. I am betting this just has to be a reference to something that I don't have the background info for, if someone can enlighten me?

I don't have the book with me, but I recall taking it to mean the sunrise.

Spectacled Bear, with a new email address.