

This little piggie stayed home

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 10 Feb 2001

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/1125>

Exported from an unofficial mirror of a public mailing list. Copyright in each message remains with the person who wrote it. Email addresses are obscured as `user at host`, the form the original archive published. This file was rebuilt from parsed fields rather than retained headers, so it is faithful in content but not byte-exact.

Robert Borski — 10 Feb 2001, 12:46

Shortly after Pig, Hound, and Horn reach New Viron, Pig confesses to a terrible crime: in one of his looting sprees, he's killed an augur. This, he professes, took place before he was blinded; thus when Silent Silk via a Sacred Window attempts to possess him, he is successful--and Pig is changed benignly forever, although he soon loses his "een." It's his hope of recapturing the peaceful feeling and joy involved that sends Pig in search of various Sacred Windows--or so Horn incorrectly reasons.

What Pig does not tell us, and Horn does not realize, and we readers must figure out, is this: the augur Pig kills is none other than Silk in his manse. Silk, at the moment of expiration, does not die, but rather is transfused with the spirit of dying Horn, translocated by means of Neighborly technomagic. Apparently, Hyacinth has recently died (given their lack of children, and Hyacinth's history of prostitution, it's easy enough to speculate that some sort of sexually-transmitted disease may have been involved. At any rate we've been told earlier that she's sick.) Enter Tartaros--he "sees" Hyacinth lying in her coffin--so he admits to Hound--but claims Silk himself is absent, although the very next people he meets are Horn and "H'Oreb." In my opinion, these are lies, and in this respect Pig resembles Seawrack, who, at least if we are to believe Krait, is equally mendacious (she too, in a sense, harbors somebody, but I'm getting ahead of myself here.) What really happens in the manse is that Pig has killed Silk. (Silk having a Sacred Window might also help explain how Horn is downloaded from Green.)

When Horn finds himself relocated on the Whorl in Silk's body, he notices numerous cuts. These same cuts prompt the nameless farmer at End Road to ask Horn if he's received his injuries trying to fight off a godling. "A godling would've killed him," says the farmer's wife. To which her husband responds, "Big one would've." This implies differently sized godlings, Pig/Tartaros being, as I've speculated, on the smaller end of these.

When Pig confesses he's killed the augur, he also tells Horn that he's cut down the augur with his blade--again consistent with Horn's injuries.

But why would Tartaros--or perhaps more properly Passilk/Mainframe--want Silk killed? And can the Neighbors be totally innocent in all this--out of all the thousands of people on the Whorl, just very conveniently happening to merge Horn with the one person he has been attempting to find since leaving Lizard and Blue at the moment of both their deaths?

Robert Borski

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