

The Pas Perplex: Two-Headed Tyrants in Generation Starship Fiction

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 24 Feb 1997

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Ranjit Bhatnagar — 24 Feb 1997, 17:54

[sorry about the title; I just couldn't resist!]

Dominus reminds me that a major character in that other classic of Generation Starship Fiction, Heinlein's *Orphans of the Sky*, was a two-headed mutant who led a small group of colonists, previously unaware that they lived on a spaceship at all, off the ship to the destination planet.

Have any of you seen the teevee scifi series "Starlost?" Pretty dreary, but I was quite fond of the MONITORS, exquisitely polite and sometimes helpful entities who appeared on screens when summoned (by the colonists... unaware that they lived on a spaceship at all...)

Someone asked on the net if there's ever been a story about a generation starship where the colonists DIDN'T forget their history and mission, and managed to settle the target planet without a hitch. Now that I think of it, Gregory Benford has written a few stories in which the colonists didn't forget, but I don't think they ever made it to their destination in any of them. The Whorl could be unique in having a cargo deliberately kept in the dark. That they're referred to as cargo at all...

Anyway...

viscacha:

[Kypris] and Tartaros worked fulfill the Plan of Pas by getting a lander launched from Viron. Why Viron? Because it's a godless (in both senses) city -- no theophanies for 30 years.

That's great! Finally an answer for "Why Viron?"

But if Quetzal wasn't primarily responsible for this shortage of gods in Viron, um, who was?

mantis:

maybe it had to do with the switch to card currency?

But isn't there evidence that cards are used outside of Viron too?

The Lemuroid conspirators?

Yeah, they seem to have the technical knowledge and resources; though I've suggested that they might have motives similar to the gods on a smaller scale, they still might not like having the gods hanging around and meddling.

-rabbit

Questions or problems to whorl-owner at lists.best.com