

Babbie's 20-20-20-20 vision

The Whorl list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 12 Mar 2001

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/1267>

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 — 12 Mar 2001, 23:19

Patera Nutria, my fellow quinquagenarian, having asked:

<3. I cannot recall evidence that Neighbors have two heads. Neither Babbie nor any of the other indigenous lifeforms of Blue do, do they?>

Not sure. How do you interpret the scene on dream-Urth that Hoof describes as following:

"Our boat was water, and Babbie was a hairy man with thick arms and real big shoulders, and glasses, and a couple of Babbie's eyes (the little ones)."

(Note also how Hoof describes Horn as looking more like the father he remembers from Blue.)

Will I now be damned if I theorize that Babbie has at least tetra-ocular vision--half of which apparently needs correction by spectacles?

By Pas's bright four eyes, I'm almost sure of it!

Robert Borski

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

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 13 Mar 2001, 08:29 · follows Robert Borski

Further Borskianism:

How do you interpret the scene on dream-Urth that Hoof describes as following:

"Our boat was water, and Babbie was a hairy man with thick arms and real big shoulders, and glasses, and a couple of Babbie's eyes (the little ones)."

...

Will I now be damned if I theorize that Babbie has at least tetra-ocular vision--half of which apparently needs correction by spectacles?

You aren't even damned for thinking the Neighbors have two heads, or seven if it makes you happy; just wrong (or at best unsubstantiated). But you are quite right about Babbie (and thus presumably other Bluvian critters, including the Neighbors) having four eyes. This fits the general theme -- elephants with eight legs & two trunks, etc.

(BTW, I noticed the two trunks long before I picked up the octopedality, and had a rather nightmarish flashback to FOOTFALL, the last book by either Niven or Pournelle I bothered even trying to read. Niven shot his wad as a writer long ago; and Pournelle never had one.)

Again: I can't offer direct evidence that Neighbors, Hus, octodiles, etc., don't have two heads apiece; I have only my argument that, if they do, one head does not constitute the "person" in the same way that Typhon's transplanted head "is" Typhon.

[H'mmmmm. PiaTyphon, I think, has to be added to my list of blesshed people in the SUN books. This "theme" looks bigger every time I look at it. One thing for sure about Typhon and Piaton: it wasn't syzygy...]

(Note also how Hoof describes Horn as looking more like the father he remembers from Blue.)

Thanks for reminding me of this. There was something that bothered me about Hoof-and-Hide's decision that Silkhorn is not their father: this scene is what was niggling in the back of my head. You'd think he'd (or they'd) have more of a clue that, yep, Dad's in there.

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