

Tierra del Fuego

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 29 Mar 2001

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j e — 29 Mar 2001, 12:21

From: "Robert Borski" <rborski at charter.net>

Subject: Re: Windcloud

Unless, of course, the testifying alien is none other than Pas himself, since "Windcloud" is essentially what Typhon/typhoon means--("A whirlwind, cyclone, tornado; a violent storm of wind, a hurricane," OED)--plus we already have the depiction of Pas as a whirlwind from as long ago as the LONG SUN series. What, if not a cloud-of-wind, is a whirlwind, cyclone, tornado, etc.

Interesting to think that this might be the only on-stage appearance of a major player from both the latter SUN series.

But then this would also mean that Pas was a Neighbor and we all know how ludicrous a notion that is, right?

Robert Borski

Pas as Neighbour? Or is it a doubling of names. There is a Neighbour named Horn who (pg 260 OBW) is of the party giving Blue to the people of the long sun whorl. The only connection to Windcloud we read at this time is the section before where Horn and Barsat and Hari Mau and others visit the Neighbour house near Gaon and Horn finds the cup given him by Windcloud (who mentions the gift at the trial in Dorp). Is Windcloud present when Horn receives the "godlike" gift of Blue? Probably, but if he's Pas why isn't he giving the whorl himself instead of as a group of equals beings?

I said before I was going to look into connections with Tierra del Fuego. Cape Horn was named by the first European to sail around the cape. He was a Dutch captain named Willem Cornelius Schouten and he named it for his birthplace Hoorn which incidentally means horn. I'm not sure Wolfe intends a connection with Patagonia (Land of Giants) or Tierra del Fuego (Land of Fires) but the cold and the terrain he describes could fit. The aborigines wore capes like the Neighbours and lit enough fires to blacken the sky but were exterminated by the colonists from Europe, not driven into _mirror-space_ by a species of "plastic people".

The first contact between the peoples of Tierra del Fuego and the Europeans was made by Magellan, who found a passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific that's named for him. An MS-Encarta search on Ferdinand Magellan yields little in the way of possible connections. He's credited as being the first to circumnavigate the globe but he never lived to complete the voyage which was finished by one of the ships in his command. He died during an attack on an island in the steamy Philippines (Mactan) and only circumnavigated the globe by having passed the most easterly point he'd reached on an earlier voyage.

Crateowl