

Brother and Sister

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 08 Apr 2001

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Robert Borski — 08 Apr 2001, 02:47

William Ansley, in a curmudgeonly mode, having written:

<What do I mean by "loose ends"? Well, if I had the time and energy (which I currently do not and almost certainly will not) I believe I could make up an impressively lengthy list. To take just one example, the "brother and sister" section toward the end of OBW. Is there anyone here who understands it? Is there anyone here who feels that the book/trilogy is a better work because this passage is in it?>

Well, for starters, the Brother and Sister section at the end of OBW is but one of many in the SHORT SUN trilogy where disparate individuals who are not actually related by blood are still able to forge loving, familial-type bonds.

Horn, for example, has a number of pseudo-children, from Brother and Sister to Krait and Jahlee to Fava and Mora.

HornSilk, meanwhile, has Hide and Hoof (and vice versa), while the Mother has Seawrack and Maytara Marble has Mucor--even as Fava and Mora love each other as much as sisters, just as Pig and Horn do brothers. Ditto for Greater Scylla and the Mother. And Brother, if he really is Fava's Bricco, is adopted by a highborn lady of the Vanished People as a son.

It's a very Christian theme, this notion of community--love thy Neighbor (heh) as thy self--and it has repercussions all through the three books that constitute SS, being a major leit motif.

So, yeah, obviously I disagree about your assessment of the Brother-Sister section, believing it to be important, vital, and integral to the series.

Robert Borski

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