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The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 26 Feb 1997

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Alice Turner — 26 Feb 1997, 05:17

vizcacha-

Munch, munch...that's crow I'm eating, not night-cough. But I have to retort, weakly.

On the gods being active before Mamelta's repairs (_Calde_, p.156):

[Quetzal explaining to Silk:] "I'm in contact with religious leaders in Urbs, Wick, and other cities, cities where his children have boasted of killing Pas." ... "Echidna was at the center. ... Scylla, Molpe, and Hierax were in it. They've said so at various times."

It's possible, from the way this is phrased, that this boasting took place 25 (say) years ago, after they "killed" Pas but before they themselves were deactivated.

On Sphigx speaking to the Trivigauntis (_Exodus_, p. 182):

[Siyuf at the dinner party:] "A god speaks to us, also. Sublime Sphigx cares more for us than any other city. She alone of the gods speaks to us in our ancient tongue, speaking as we did in my mother's house, and as we speak in mine."

I bow. But why is Crane, then, so cynical about very existence of the gods? Is it possible that there's some arrangement in Triv whereby Sphigx speaks only to women?

Jerboa offering children (_Exodus_, p 230)? This one doesn't support my position, in light of rereading the earlier passage about the monkey. The monkey Jerboa sacrificed was at his first sacrifice, and he was leery of such already. So I'm no longer quite so sure he ever actually sacrificed a child. It's Maytera Wood who says "They remind him of children." I think that's what got me going, and I may have read too much into it.

I think you did, but it's understandable.

On Marble/Rose mixture (_Exodus_, p. 215):

[Marble, getting effusive towards Mint:] "If I'd had to live by myself in the cenoby with just Maytera Rose and that chem I couldn't have stood it. We'd have gone mad!"

One of the more perfect lines in the book!

I've held out against mantis on this front pretty stalwartly, but I have to admit that this is a heart-stopping moment...and one that caught me on my very first reading. I must have mentally suppressed it!

Vizcacha, you have undone me! Excellent work.

-alga-

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