

About the secret of the inhumani, again (RTTW)

The Whorl list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 19 Apr 2001

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/1376>

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.

James Jordan — 19 Apr 2001, 15:12

At 02:52 PM 4/19/2001 -0400,

Wombat wrote:

B. If I am correct, it seems to me that this detail is supposed to be a major revelation about the nature of the secret, and key to understanding how the humans on Blue and Green could fight the inhumani. But I keep failing to see how this detail transforms what we knew into "a weapon too big to wield".

There've been a couple of suggestions.

1. Wiping out the inhumani would be so cruel that people would not be able to bring themselves to do it. Or, it would require so much work that humans would not be able to do it.
2. Human beings are too wicked to treat the inhumani rightly, saving and transforming them by offering our blood. Along these lines, I think Adam's fine post "Dangling Thought Threads" makes some good points, and I'm coming around to his point of view on Horn and Silk.
3. One can view this as both true, as horns of a dilemma, and as an explanation of why the Neighbors departed.

Nutria

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

Spectacled Bear — 24 Apr 2001, 13:29 · follows James Jordan

At 15:49 2001-04-20, Adam Stephanides wrote:

on 4/19/01 1:52 PM, Kevin J. Maroney at kmaroney at ungames.com wrote:

In _Return to the Whorl_, Jahlee tells Nettle a secret about the inhumani, which, because of the structure of the story, we are led to believe is *the* secret which has been sketched out in the first two volumes. The only detail new to her revelation is that it is the children of the inhumani who gain intelligence from the blood rather than the predators themselves.

A. Am I correct that this detail was not present in any of the earlier open discussions of the secret?

I believe so. I don't recall it, in any case (though iirc a couple of passages can be seen in retrospect to hint at it); nor do I recall any of our discussions of the secret mentioning it.

That detail wasn't mentioned directly in the text, I'm sure, but we did discuss it here. Have a look around August 2000 in the archives. Adam, you drew attention there to the Neighbour who takes Horn to the sewer saying that the Neighbours wanted to wake humans up, not to their danger but to their safety. Horn only understands this after Krait tells him the Secret, though it doesn't appear that the Neighbour is talking about that directly, but about some other implication of the sewer. No idea what, though.

Peter.

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