

Teleporting inhumani

The Whorl list — 7 messages, 4 voices, 20 Apr 2001

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/1385>

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Nicholas Gevers — 20 Apr 2001, 18:44

Patera Nutria: no, I don't think the inhumani are teleporting from Green to Blue and then back again. If that were the case, Blue would be infested with them to a far greater degree than it is. I stick by my hypothesis, which is simply that the inhumani have been given a passive astral travel capacity, activatable only if a biological or honorary Neighbour is also present. This makes perfect sense textually; and teleportation adds nothing to my explanation of the Secret, the first explanation which is both fully accountable to the text and a sensible adumbration of the Secret as an offensive weapon.

--Nick Gevers.

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 20 Apr 2001, 12:10 · follows Nicholas Gevers

Patera Nutria: no, I don't think the inhumani are teleporting from Green to Blue and then back again.

Although it does offer us with yet another possible image for what the inhumani look like in their "natural" state -- lime green humanoids with antennae...

who's willing to bet that none of you has a clue what this was about...

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

Kevin J. Maroney — 20 Apr 2001, 16:01 · follows Dan'l Danehy-Oakes

At 12:10 PM 4/20/01 -0700, Blattid wrote:
Although it does offer us with yet another possible image for what the inhumani look like in their "natural" state -- lime green humanoids with antennae...

Sounds like the Great Gazoo to me.

Wombat, a.k.a. Kevin Maroney [kmaroney at ungames.com](mailto:kmaroney@ungames.com)
Kitchen Staff Supervisor, New York Review of Science Fiction
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Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 20 Apr 2001, 13:21 · follows Kevin J. Maroney

Sounds like the Great Gazoo to me.

Swish! One up, one away...

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James Jordan — 20 Apr 2001, 16:26 · follows Dan'I Danehy-Oakes

N. Gevers objected to my mooted tweak of his proposal:

Patera Nutria: no, I don't think the inhumis are teleporting from Green to Blue and then back again. If that were the case, Blue would be infested with them to a far greater degree than it is. I stick by my hypothesis, which is simply that the inhumis have been given a passive astral travel capacity, activatable only if a biological or honorary Neighbour is also present. This makes perfect sense textually; and teleportation adds nothing to my explanation of the Secret, the first explanation which is both fully
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the Secret as an offensive weapon.

Nothing humble about you, Nick! ;-)

Yeah, I don't suppose my thought adds to the Secret, but I'm not sure (yet) that I'm wrong. If inhumis can only teleport (on my supposition) in the presence of others who've been to Blue and returned, perhaps not that many would have made the trip. And after all, there are lots of humans on Green.

I agree with the other objection that there does not seem to be any indication in the text for my hypothesis. Problem is, since flying through space is out of the question, where is there any indication of anything else at all?

But back to your thesis. You're saying only Narrator can do astral travel, not just any human, because of his Neighborliness. Well, is it the ring? I'm not going to search 1000+ pages to find the allusions to the ring, but as I recall Horn left the first ring on Green with his corpse. But then he gets another. Is it the ring? And if so, maybe it's not inhumis + Neighbor that enables the travel, but inhumis + ring.

And how about magic rings in traditional literature?

I like your thesis, since it integrates the astral travel business with the nature of the inhumis.

Nutria

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Kevin J. Maroney — 20 Apr 2001, 17:44 · follows James Jordan

At 04:26 PM 4/20/01 -0500, Nutria wrote:

But back to your thesis. You're saying only Narrator can do astral travel, not just any human, because of his Neighborliness.

I wondered about that. Do Horn's sons ever initiate travel on their own?

If not, then I've already given a reason why the Narrator would have a Neighborly ability that no other human has--his life was completely remolded by the Neighbors' magic/science in a way that no other human's was.

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Dan'I Danehy-Oakes — 20 Apr 2001, 16:33 · follows Kevin J. Maroney

Say... doesn't the astral travelling only begin after Oreb brings the Narr back the ring?

-----Original Message-----

From: Kevin J. Maroney [mailto:kmaroney at ungames.com] Sent: Friday, April 20, 2001 2:45 PM
To: whorl at lists1.ba.best.com Subject: Re: (whorl) Teleporting inhumani

At 04:26 PM 4/20/01 -0500, Nutria wrote:

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