

the problem with de-evolution

The Whorl list — 4 messages, 4 voices, 25 Apr 2001

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/1402>

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maa32 — 25 Apr 2001, 10:12

If the inhumani all refuse to feast on human blood since they become "good" from good humans, then their offspring would return to mindless animals. There is nothing to prevent the mindless animals that are the children of good inhumani from sucking off of the people, especially with a colony of humans on Green. They would have no scruples, then their children would be intelligent. It would just be a threat to humans with alternating generations of inhumani. I don't like this golden rule idea.

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

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 25 Apr 2001, 11:03 · follows maa32

If the inhumani all refuse to feast on human blood since they become "good" from good humans,

A debatable premiss, but consider the result as if it were a given.

then their offspring would return to mindless animals.

Correct so far.

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Also correct. But Horn does not say the secret will make the inhumani non-dangerous, only that it will make them no more dangerous than crocodiles.

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Intelligent, yes, but (_ex hypothesi_) benevolent. So you would have the "alternating generations" situation you suggest, but the threat would be greatly reduced, as the dangerous inhumani would be the mindless animals.

(As a side note, how many people are _actually_ attacked by alligators and the like in a given year? I presume that proper precautions could make the threat from non-sentient inhumani no greater than that from crocodilians.)

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Kevin J. Maroney — 25 Apr 2001, 14:51 · follows Dan'l Danehy-Oakes

At 11:03 AM 4/25/01 -0700, Blattid wrote:

(As a side note, how many people are _actually_ attacked by alligators and the like in a given year? I presume that proper precautions could make the threat from non-sentient inhumani no greater than that from crocodilians.)

My understanding is that the number of human attacks from crocodilians is very low. They're much like wolves that way--feared as human predators all out of proportion to the actual danger

they present. Which isn't to say that they can't sometimes be very dangerous, indeed.

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Michael Straight — 25 Apr 2001, 16:00 · follows Kevin J. Maroney

On Wed, 25 Apr 2001, Kevin J. Maroney wrote:

At 11:03 AM 4/25/01 -0700, Blattid wrote:

(As a side note, how many people are _actually_ attacked by alligators and the like in a given year? I presume that proper precautions could make the threat from non-sentient inhumis no greater than that from crocodilians.)

My understanding is that the number of human attacks from crocodilians is very low. They're much like wolves that way--feared as human predators all out of proportion to the actual danger they present. Which isn't to say that they can't sometimes be very dangerous, indeed.

So how many people are _actually_ attacked by inhumis in a given year (not counting weddings)? Of those, how many suffer any permanent harm?

-Rostrum

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