

The Secret: protection, not conversion (actual evidence!)

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 26 Apr 2001

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Adam Stephanides — 26 Apr 2001, 13:49

I have to abandon my nice new theory on the Secret. I just noticed that on p. 350 of the hardback OBW, Horn says: "If only we protected one another, they would all be idiots or worse. As it is, they always get enough to keep them going." So it has to be boring old keep-everybody-safe, not the idea that the inhumani will become good by drinking the blood of good people, attractive though this is. (Unless Horn has in mind two different ways of reducing the inhumani to animals, and there's no evidence for this.)

This quote also puts the kibosh on the theory that when Horn talks about reducing the inhumani, he only means the ones who don't become human: he clearly says "all."

Disappointing as this is for me, it does support my view that Wolfe regards the inhumani as they are now, with human spirits in animal bodies, as monstrosities which should not exist. (This is the difference Jahlee's revelation makes to us, if not necessarily to Horn.)

--Adam

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