

cold 'uns & hot

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 07 Mar 1997

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/147>

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.

m.driussi — 07 Mar 1997, 02:08

Reply: Item #5703701 from WHORL at LISTS.BEST.COM@INET01#

Quill,

Welcome aboard!

Last things first. Re: what is rust? Well, it is a highly addictive drug that makes the user happy for a while. Similar to cocaine, let's say. But if your question really is "from what substance is it derived?" then I don't know--it does sound like it is extracted from chems, though, doesn't it?
<g>

Spoiler Alert!<<

(Turn back! Avert your eyes! <brzst> Too late--I've invaded your mind through your profaned Sacred Window!)

Re: speculation on Blood's dad, you wrote about Rose "she promised not to reveal his identity," which might be true, I'm not sure. But the more important quote I am sure of is, "He [Blood's father] never knew" (III, ch. 10, 363). Which sort of removes your torture scenario from the picture since the biological father (who ever he is) remains unaware of his offspring in the form of Blood.

Now jump to the front: I agree, there is something odd about Mint that could be answered by her being another cold one (in line after Auk but before Incus). Which is certainly easier than trying to make her into some new sort of chem (I guess it would amount to her being a homunculus, a synthetic human, with a hair's difference between that and an embryo-that's-been-tinkered-with or an embryo-that's-really-a-clone-of-somebody).

Right, which means I'm back on that tired hobby horse, wondering about how Mint can merge with Marble/Rose. (GRANTED: the three of them are weird sisters/norns to Silk.) Now, for those readers who read NIGHTSIDE when it first came out (or before!), remember back with me now: how from the very beginning there was this Marble/Rose thing, right from the enlightenment, and we all puzzled over it until lo, it was shown how it happened. Now then, what I'm saying is this: notice how, just as we're all comfortable with this incredible Marble/Rose deal, here comes a hint or two about Marble/Mint; we are back at square one, at the same puzzled moment when Marble/Rose was first introduced, but there are no more "squares" left ahead of us!

Think about it for a moment.

Thanks!

Okay. Now back to "the game of tracking Wolfe." As you read and re-read some of the critical essays (especially John Clute's) written about Wolfe's work, it becomes ever more clear how encrypted Wolfe's work is. One bit in Horn's "My Defense" that makes me laugh out loud:

"Fewer than I had expected have found fault with Silk's assertion that she [Mint] took her warlike character from the Goddess of Love, although it seems implausible to me" (p. 373).
Hear that

thwak!< of smilin' Gene hitting the reader upside the head? Poor
Gene is getting a tad frustrated waiting for people to catch up, so
he's taken to teasing them. <g>

Of course, this opens up the vista of "the adversarial relation between Gene Wolfe and the hapless reader." Some readers, understandably, are very uneasy about the way Wolfe is sneaking around in the bushes all the time. They seem to take it personally, like it is all some kind of test or something. (I base this on having talked to people who said as much.) If people read for recreational pleasure, and reading Wolfe is too much work, then they won't read Wolfe. If re-reading Wolfe is like doing a crossword puzzle, then some readers are happy enough to fill in as many as they can on the first pass and then quit when that pleasure expires. And there are probably a lot of people who feel uneasy about crossword puzzle makers in the same "adversarial" way that some readers feel about Wolfe. I suspect that to these readers, Wolfe's lure/plea for more oracular reading (which I posted a few days ago) is taken as a cheap trick to fool the reader (who falls for it) into searching for "hidden meaning"; the trick being "cheap" because, to this way of thinking, there is no cryptic engineering going on at all, it is all just a trap to mess with the (gullible) reader's mind--and Wolfe is laughing at those who fall for it.

Other funny bits about Horn's defense: "I had planned to call my account _The Book of Silk_, and not Starcrossers' Landfall or any of the other titles (many equally foolish) that have been suggested" (ha!); after "My Defense" comes "Afterward," a cunning play on "Afterword" (which is what it is); "Afterward" contains this gem: "From the summit of the tor, he had a clear view of the strait" (ha!).

Back to the previously scheduled message: on to the twist of having Kypris subsumed by Hyacinth. While I acknowledge the two-way nature of god/mortal intercourse (this fact has been a cornerstone to much of my speculation), I think that, by "the rules" that seem to be in operation, if Ky was really Hy then the goddess would lose her powers and be instead like a fresh new godling learning how to grow into a goddess. (For example, track Mucor's development in this regard.) Which would probably mean "Road Kill" in the Whorl's highly-charged, no-second-chances, god arena.

Re: Quetzal's religion. IMHO, basically Q has the same "religion" that the Fliers have; which is the one Doctor Crane probably would have adopted if he had ever faced the concrete reality of the gods.

Re: Quetzal being "instilled [with] an urgent need to get the people of the Whorl down to a planet," if he was instilled with anything it would appear to have been the opposite, since he seems to be firmly in the Anti-Landfall Camp (of Many Strange Bedfellows).

New tangent (?): We question the cold ones. Are they a "representative sample" of the population? We have three clear cases: Mucor (a creepy Tinkerbell), Silk (an unknown factor), and . . . a pride of lynxes. Hmmm. Focus on the humans--are they supposed to be "fixers" like the Sleepers (who are to be woken up to fix things that have degraded accidentally or by malicious activity)? Possible, but long term--embryo must be brought to term, raised, educated, etc.--yet this is the way they talk about Tusah's adopted heir, like some sort of "secret weapon."

Given that the Window Technology was built in by Typhon, Granted that possession of bios and chems via Window was a part of this package rather than any sort of unforeseen later development; it stands to reason that the embryos are specially designed "god mounts" for the Virtual Reality, Artificial Intelligence entity "gods" to ride once they reach the target planet or

any time before then if a crisis emerges. This fits in quite well with the "secret weapon" aspect of the cold ones and discards as being silly the idea of them being craftsmanish "fixers" like the Sleepers.

Just a thought. And like most of my others, I'm not particularly welded to it.

=mantis

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