

On top of the airship

The Whorl list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 02 Jan 1997

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/15>

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Peter Cash — 02 Jan 1997, 13:56

CoxRathvon at aol.com wrote:

Subject: on the airship

Date: Mon, 30 Dec 1996 19:38:52 -0500

If I'm not mistaken, somebody has asked about the conversation between Silk and Horn on the top of the airship. I'm not sure how many replies have been posted. But I do feel that that conversation is key, and I find it very enigmatic. Why is Silk suicidally depressed? And what happened at the end of that conversation--did Horn begin to fall and did Mucor save him?

Let me suggest that among other things Silk has begun to suspect corruption in Pas's plan. He may not specifically suspect alien involvement in the plan. But certainly--as he points out to Horn--he suspects that the cities of the Whorl have been separated and pitted against one another to prevent them from uniting against Pas. I think that in this late hour of the story, Silk has despaired of all the Whorl gods, and it takes a mighty effort for him to retain his faith in the Outsider's more remote designs.

Perhaps insight into the true amount of corruption in the Whorl--and Pas' plan--had a role in driving Silk to the point of suicide. I don't think that was the whole of it, though. After all, Silk's faith should have been in the Outsider, who "enlightened" him, and not Pas; the corruption of Pas and the other Gods is something Silk has had more than a glimmering of by this time.

No, I think what really drove Silk to the edge was something more personal. But I'm not clear about what it was.

But I do not understand the implications of Hycanith's falsity--that she overpowered a soldier and betrayed an ability (or something about her past) inconsistent with her claims about herself. What am I missing here? Can anyone help?

I wish someone would--I'm as puzzled as you are. There was also the bit where Hyacinth and Chenille reminisce about a fight they had when they first became acquainted. There's some import to this that I can't fathom.

Is Hyacinth perhaps an agent of the Trivigaunti? --That would put her relationship with the Trivigaunti general on the airship in a different perspective, and explain her hand-to-hand combat skills. Surely she would have been an ideal operative, considering her charms and her access to the ruling class of Vir. She was also in a position to work closely with Dr. Crane, without exciting suspicion.

And again, what is the culmination of this scene, when Horn appears to fall?

Yes, I'm still totally mystified by that scene. I originally got the impression that Horn was pushed--by Mucor, and Silk grabbed him at the last instant. But that doesn't really make a whole lot of sense. Was it really Silk who fell (or jumped)? Then why does Horn hide this fact?

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Die Welt ist alles, was Zerfall ist.
(apologies to Ludwig Wittgenstein)

email: cash at convex dot com (sorry, spam prevention) ~~~~~
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Questions or problems to whorl-owner at lists.best.com

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Rich Skrenta — 04 Jan 1997, 01:17 · follows Peter Cash

And again, what is the culmination of this scene, when Horn  
appears to fall?

Yes, I'm still totally mystified by that scene. I originally got the  
impression that Horn was pushed--by Mucor, and Silk grabbed him at the  
last instant. But that doesn't really make a whole lot of sense.

I assumed that Horn fell simply as a result of being possessed by Mucor. Balancing on the edge  
would require some effort and concentration, and this would be disrupted by the possession.

We were expecting the risk of sitting on the edge to come from turbulence. Mucor's appearance  
has the same risk-effect, but is from an unexpected source.

What kept me wondering was whether an airship would actually function normally in a  
false-gravity environment created within a spinning cylinder. I vaguely recall reading in one of  
the earlier books a mention that floater drivers had to take care, as they would lift off if they  
flew too fast anti-spinward, or slam into the ground if they flew quickly spinward. Would a  
balloon actually rise normally in that kind of environment?

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