

Pike/Quetzal & Questions

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 10 Apr 1997

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/178>

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Kieran Cleary — 10 Apr 1997, 11:43

(I'm resending this as it didn't seem to get through yesterday. Apologies if you already received it.)

Hi Vance:

I have to say I agree with you re Pike/Quetzal: I don't find the previous explanations satisfactory, while not having a better one myself! Many people have referred to Quetzal as a shape-shifter, though the only shapes we see him assume are that of the winged serpent and old man. Sometimes it reads as if the serpent has donned the shell of a human body (in fact, I don't see any other way since I don't consider Q a Shape-shifter) which he can discard and resume at will. It's also in bad shape: Q has to continually touch it up with powder to make it appear alive. On my first reading, I wildly thought that this body was originally Pike's and that somehow, a la Marble/Rose, some sort of Q/Pike convergence was happening. The timeline doesn't really bear this out: Q was Prolocutor for many years while Pike was alive. I presume, though, that 33 years before Silk arrived at Sun Street, that Q looked 33 years younger. Perhaps he needed to acquire an older body to avoid questions about his continued youthfulness (i.e. the kinds of questions that Loris, Lemur et al had to answer). Just a thought, though. Be ruthless!

As for your questions, roughly as far as I recollect:

1. I think that Rose sometimes imagined herself as Echidna, and the daughter referred to in that passage was actually Scylla. 2. The White Headed One was given to Blood by Musk. Blood clipped its wings and put it on the roof, where it "forgot that it couldn't fly" in the fight with Silk and fell to its death. 3. Not really sure: I think that Urus was once part of Spider's knot and told Saba where to find Auk & co. when they were abducted and taken to the airship.

alga:

FWIW I also agree completely that, at least at some level, the Outsider passages refer to Severian, who at this time is also the New Sun zooming towards Urth, who can manipulate Severian's Urthly body like a puppet from great distances. If we're seeking some kind of consistent explanation of how Severian is affecting affairs on the Long Sun, then I think that's probably it. The Increate in tBotNS isn't a personal god: there is a complicated hierarchy of beings who serve the Increate in the temporal universe. In no case does the Increate explicitly intervene in human affairs, relying instead on the holy slaves to interact with humans.

Lasrach

Kieran Cleary Senior Research
Engineer North West Labs Finisklin Industrial Estate Sligo Republic of Ireland

Tel. +353 71 69441

Fax. +353 71 69451
email kcleary at nwlabs.com
