

questions about Vironese religion and smart

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, undated

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Richard Horton — undated

animals

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[Posted from WHORL, the mailing list for Gene Wolfe's Book of the Long Sun]

I'm new to this list, and treading somewhat warily in the face of such excellent, close, readers.

By way of a brief introduction, I'm a long time fan of Wolfe's work, coming originally from roughly his neck of the woods (Naperville, IL, a southwest suburb of Chicago in the sense that Barrington is northwest). I remember reading "The Fifth Head of Cerberus" in a Nebula collection when I was perhaps 14, and getting almost nothing from it, then rereading the novella and the rest of the novel when the latter came out in paper a few years later: what a rush of wonder and satisfaction when all of a sudden much came clear to me: and a good lesson about the necessity of rereading Wolfe.

Which I haven't yet done with Long Sun, and I must.

I confess to feeling much as someone did on this list (I read it in the archives) on approaching Exodus: a certain trepidation, knowing that Wolfe would really have to pull off a lot to make the whole thing work, followed by a growing sense that, yes, by golly, he's done it. And tears at both endings: Oreb crying "Silk! Silk! Silk!", then Horn's recollection of Silk catching the ball at the beginning of the books.

I had a couple of specific questions (I hope these haven't been hashed to death in the list before now):

1. What is the "Vironese religion" that Remora leads on Blue? Is it a continuation of the Vironese religion as it was practiced in the Whorl, with worship of Pas and the Seven, or is it, inspired by Silk, worship of the Outsider?
2. How did the intelligent animals such as Oreb and the catechrest become intelligent? Are they gene-enhanced, or mechanically enhanced, or are they possessed to some extent by the gods? (Without researching the text for specific clues, I'd lean to the latter view.)

Rich Horton, or, if we are signing posts with Vironese names, I will take one based vaguely on my last name:

- Tusk -