

Zany Outsider clarification

The Whorl list — 3 messages, 2 voices, 21 Apr 1997

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/262>

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David Wells — 21 Apr 1997, 11:58

Mantis,

(apologies it this arrives twice, the first attempt seems to have bounced)

so Typhon had two gods engineered for himself: a
big daddy ghost in the machine and a bleeding heart vivimancer real
god ("real" in the sense of being outside Main Frame) on the side, to
be used in case of emergency only?

I didn't make the "zany" theory clear enough. The idea is that after being "cast out" of Mainframe, Typhon/Pas exists in several emergency backup forms (some of which we definitely know about). One of these forms manifests itself as the Outsider (which may be a low-power last-chance backup - hence its considerably more enigmatic influence than the very earthy/direct/"Greek" Mainframe Gods).

The idea that Silk's "enlightenment" - rejection of the false Gods, and belief in the Outsider - is yet another falsehood seems interesting, and in keeping with some of the dark nature of BOTLS (e.g. the "inhumi picnic" scenario). It's also very consistent with Silk's personality - it has been pointed out here many times that he has a superstitious tendency to leap to conclusions/explanations. Mainframe is full of false gods, so the next "god" he stumbles upon MUST be a true one. Mustn't it?

Your response raises an interesting question: "why should Typhon engineer two Gods for himself?" Why not? He is a monomaniac with aspirations to immortality!

Which brings me to another pet theory, which I don't think has yet been discussed here. The ability to transfer a personality to a machine and the further ability to "download" into a human host seems to have an obvious application, given Typhon's personality. When the Whorl arrives at Blue/Green, the Gods download themselves into suitable receptacles and lead the cargo/colonists as (demi?)gods.

Given that we know this to be technically possible, it seems inconceivable to me that this is not the Plan, although I don't recall any specific clues in the text(?). But the really interesting question is how the Gods would choose "suitable" receptacles. Store them as frozen embryos, perhaps.. With suitable genetic enhancements to suit the whims of the designer-"God". Typhon, for example, might well choose a receptacle who was charismatic, handsome, and unnaturally attractive to the opposite sex. (Things which I suspect Typhon himself was not). Oh yes, and supernaturally tough, a born sword fighter, etc. Hopefully this time it's clearer where this train of thought is leading.

I would dearly love to be able to interpret the "Pas-with-Silk's head" scene as being a confirmation of this idea, but I can't find a completely convincing match. (On the other hand, I have very little idea what that particular vision signifies at all). Again, the idea that the 'basically kind and decent hero' might come to understand that he is a deliberately-engineered construct intended as a receptacle for an appalling tyrant seems interesting. It even, perhaps,

links to the "zany Outsider" theory. If Silk is the (or at least _a_) proto-Typhon, then it makes sense that Typhon-emergency-backup-as-Outsider should choose him to "enlighten".

It also leads me to further speculation - which other frozen embryos (or those we suspect as such) seem particularly suited as which Gods' "fantasy embodiments".. There are some obvious potential matches, I think.

Dave W

(I suppose if I had to choose a Vironese name, "newt" would be a suitable choice)

Jim Jordan — 22 Apr 1997, 02:19 · follows David Wells

At 11:58 AM 4/21/97 +0000, you wrote:

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