

Another victim; The dinner party; Who's the spy?; Moly

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 20 Jan 1997

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/32>

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.

David_Lebling — 20 Jan 1997, 09:15

Finished my second reading of _Exodus_ this weekend. Here are some things that I noted.

Towards the end of Exodus, we learn of another victim of the inhumani; a boy called Villus, who reports having been attacked by an extraordinarily large snake. The second victim, of course, was Mattak, Colonel Oosik's son. The first was Teasel. Any others? What was the business about the sores on the convict's legs, anyway? Mint dismissed them, which is usually a good bet there was something more to it...

There's another interesting event at the dinner party in the Calde's palace. Clams are one of the dishes, and Silk encourages Oreb to eat as many as he wants, but Oreb (in spite of a fondness for clams), won't move from his perch until Chenille takes the platter and serves him. Why is this? Well, Wolfe goes to great trouble to tell us the exact seating arrangement at the meal. Silk is at one end of the table, with Siyuf next to him and Quetzal next to her. The plate of clams is too close to Quetzal for the bird's comfort! Note also in this scene that Mattak remarks on how much better he feels when Quetzal leaves.

Next, we come to spies. When the soldiers are meeting with Siyuf (after Silk's parley with the Ayuntamiento where he "surrenders"), they are doing a little verbal sparring. The soldiers reveal that Silk has surrendered. Siyuf is unimpressed. She says she already knew, because Colonel Abanja has a spy in Silk's household. Now, the obvious thought is that this spy is Willet/Hossaan, but he wasn't there during the peace parley; he bursts in at the end with some goons and goonettes to try to capture everyone. So, who is the spy? Given all the suspicions expressed in this group toward Hyacinth, it's most interesting that she is one of the attendees. Who else "in Silk's household" would be a suspect?

Finally, as yet another spur to reading the Dramatis Personae, I urge you to check out the entries for Marble and Moly. In fact, I need do no more than note that there are two entries... I can't say that her deception fooled me (maybe it wasn't intended to), but this would have confirmed it. In fact, another minor mystery: Marble/Maggie says she was abandoned by her husband. I didn't see anything else about that (did I miss something?). Did Hammerstone twig that she was lying? What happened to their daughter?

Dave Lebling
(david_lebling at avid.com)

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