

Welcome Rostrum

The Whorl list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 06 Jun 1997

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/331>

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m.driussi — 06 Jun 1997, 16:34

Reply: Item #0562550 from WHORL at LISTS.BEST.COM@INET#

Rostrum,

Welcome aboard! I'll try to answer a few of your questions, let's see . . .

Re: light of ship's engines. Hmm. Now I could'a sworn that what Silk was seeing was the short sun "rising" over the "horizon" of the spinning Whorl. Silk makes the (quite Platonic, imho) leap of associating the Outsider with the short sun, the big white fire that fills him with fear.

Re: death of bird Hierax as being due to Mucor. Interesting. Might tie in with the fact that Hierax is the one name that will scare Mucor . . . then again, that fact might indicate that bird Hierax was instrumental in keeping Mucor somewhat contained, i.e., bird was a prison guard on behalf of the god (for real or just symbolically).

Re: voided cross of lower-case gammas. Every "voided cross" picture I've seen has been with capital gammas. (Aside: the image I'm referring to is the one used by the German Army during WWII. Not the swastika--true, this can be called a gammadion, but this form's other name is "twisted cross" rather than "voided cross." Rather than swastika, I mean the "friend or foe" symbol emblazoned on airplanes and tanks; just as a white star stood for USA, a bullseye stood for Britain or France [depending on the colors], a licitor's axe stood for Italy, a red star for USSR, etc.) True, in order to make jewelry of this form requires the addition of other pieces to hold the four gammas together in such a way that the cross of the interior is still more or less empty.

Re: gods and the powers they grant. This is a tricky issue, wondering how a Love goddess can be a War goddess. It is clearly one of the important puzzles of the series. And, as we've been discussing, it seems that there is give and take among the gods and between gods and humans, etc., further blurring identities and abilities.

However, just as a fog cutter tonic, let's take the hard line: in the Greco-Roman set up (and we all agree that the Whorl pantheon is pretty Greek), Aphrodite/Venus is =never= a combat specialist, though she doesn't avoid watching a war, especially if she kinda sorta started it (e.g., the Trojan War). Now Athene, she wears the soldier's gear; and Artemis, she has the hunter's bow and violent streak; but neither Athene nor Artemis is a Love goddess. Division of powers, by definition, separates the gods and goddesses into their various niches.

(True, we can take the angle of "all goddesses are simply aspects of The Goddess" or the staunchly humanist "all goddesses are simply aspects of womankind," but such statements end in themselves or tangential arguments <g>, so we'll skip it/them for the moment.)

Back to Earth: there are in fact goddesses of Love & War, but they aren't in the Greco-Roman playset. We have cases from the Middle East. But again, they are defined as such--they aren't

War goddesses who are taking night classes in kama sutra, for example.

But this presupposes a static system. The only growth in character we see in the Greco-Roman set is when young gods reach maturity: little Hermes, cattle rustler and prankster, grows up into the god of such things--no surprise there!

If what we are seeing on the Whorl is a non-static system, or a system seeking stasis (equilibrium), then we are witnessing the evolution of gods. This pattern is reinforced by the progression of Pas (Greek) into Tammuz/Osiris (Sumero-Egyptian)--the first role was ad hoc, the second role was earned.

So Kypris may be evolving towards becoming a full blown Love & War goddess, like Inanna (which would dovetail [heh] quite nicely with Pas as Tammuz). And there is =no= question that this Love Goddess is a powerful, forceful, absolutely fearsome being. Just ask Adonis! Or Gilgamesh! Or Robert Graves!

How I go on!

=mantis=

P.S. "Wolfe as an Infocom game designer," LOL! (No offense intended, vizcacha--I'm just imagining the parser: "I'm sorry, I don't know what a DAGGER is." Then the poor player tries to spell "misericorde" correctly! <g>)

=m=

Michael Richman — 09 Jun 1997, 00:35 · follows m.driussi

From: m.driussi at genie.com
Subject: (whorl) Welcome Rostrum
Date: Fri, 6 Jun 97 16:34:00 GMT
BestServHost: lists.best.com
Sender: whorl-errors at lists.best.com
Errors-To: whorl-errors at lists.best.com
Reply-To: whorl at lists.best.com
To: whorl at lists.best.com

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I believe a member of the crew explains that flash as a restart of the Long Sun, which can only be started at full power.

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Kypris isn't really a God of Love; she is a cybercopy of Typhon's courtesan. The real Kypris was probably a confident and uninhibited person; two personality traits Mint was sorely lacking. It is Mint's own intelligence and courage, the borrowed cajones, and the public endorsement of a goddess and of Silk that make her an effective general.

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