

The Light Outside and Kypris

The Whorl list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 10 Jun 1997

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/338>

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Michael Straight — 10 Jun 1997, 09:01

On Fri, 6 Jun 1997 m.driussi at genie.com wrote:

Re: light of ship's engines. Hmmm. 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.

As others were confused about this, I'll mention we're talking about the scene in Lake where Silk is down in one of the landers and sees the stars and the outside of the Whorl. He then sees a bright light at one end of the Whorl and then the entire Whorl is shaken in a manner that makes Silk think the hand (or just the finger) of the Outsider has shaken it. Silk's description of the shaking makes it seem like a singular event, not something Whorl inhabitants are used to experiencing, which is what made me think that the ships engines were firing for the first time in many years. Which made me think "The ship has arrived at its destination!" Which puts a kink in the idea that the Whorl has been orbiting for a long time (an interpretation that otherwise appeals to me).

Mantis continues:

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.

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!

I think the key passage (and I don't know where it is - either Exodus or the end of Calde) is where Silk speculates that the more Kypris becomes a true love goddess, the more she will become like the Outsider. Which makes me think that Horn's comment at the end of Exodus about a love goddess not being able to make Mint a warrior was meant to highlight the difference between a "Love Goddess" conception of Love (being all about romance) and a Christian conception of Love (exemplified by one who endures suffering for his beloved). Christians sometimes picture God's love as a consuming fire which devours evil.

So, I read the Horn's comment as a poke by Wolfe saying, "Ha! Were you thinking like Horn that Love is all perfume and roses? Think again!" It certainly goes along with Silk's disillusionment

when he realizes Hyacinth can be a nasty fighter when she needs to be.

Someone else speculated that Kypris is just the digitized personality of a concubine, who would know very little about being a military leader, but I think that there's a lot of evidence that possession grants the possessed person abilities far beyond what the original digitized person was capable of. Are we to believe that Kypris the concubine could throw a knife as Chenille does? Or that Typhon the tyrant was able to understand and repair any mechanical device as Auk does?

-Rostrum

Derek Bell — 11 Jun 1997, 14:56 · follows Michael Straight

In message <199706101304.GAA08404 at lists1.best.com>, Michael Straight writes:

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Even if it were a ship's engine firing, it could be to change the orbit slightly. (I include retro-rockets in "engine", as they would have to be huge to alter the orbit and certainly capable of shaking Silk's Whorl as well as his whorlview.)

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<speculation>Maybe the different deities were programmed to have abilities the originals didn't so each deity would have an advantage over the others in one area - after all the cities were designed to be fairly isolated from each other, both geographically^[1] and culturally to prevent them uniting against Mainframe, so it could be that the deities were programmed to discourage them fighting, at least until they reached their destination.</speculation>

Of course, that's not proven, just a (IMHO) plausible scenario
- and we know how many of Silks' plausible scenarios were wrong! ;-)

Tercel

[1]I know, it's not the most appropriate world - maybe "whorlographically" would be better.