

The Light & Murk

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 11 Jun 1997

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/339>

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m.driussi — 11 Jun 1997, 00:47

Reply: Item #9645979 from WHORL at LISTS.BEST.COM@INET03#

Rostum,

The "light outside" is LAKE ch. 10, last page.

"Craning his neck to look behind him, he saw a thin crescent of blinding light at the utmost reach of the plain. At that moment it seemed to him that the Outsideer had grasped the entire whorl as a man might grasp a stick--grasped it in a hand immensely greater, of which no more than the tip of the nail on a single finger had appeared."

Please grasp a cylinder--a pencil will do, or a soupcan. No thrusting, just rotate it along its axis so that the crescents of your fingernails slowly appear over the top. Or, more accurately: look at the can, then grasp it so that just your fingernails appear (i.e., no rotation--just grasping). That is how I interpret the passage.

You write:

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?

But your analogy is a bit mix 'n' match: because "Kypris" is a minor goddess (of Love and prostitutes, but not specifically "dagger throwing") based upon Typhon's un-named mistress, a mortal we know nearly nothing about (she's blonde, twenty-three years old, seems put off by mass executions, likes parties); Pas is a major god who has "pan mechanical" power as his job description as creator of the whorl but is based upon Typhon (whom we know has mind control powers, but we don't know if Typhon has supreme engineering skills).

IMHO it isn't "possession" so much as it is digital deification that makes the =gods= have possibly different skills than their mortal models had; or possibly cross pollination between the gods as they fight and play; but possession would appear to grant powers from a specific god or goddess rather than open access to a third "warehouse of skills and powers" party.

Furthermore, I'm sure we can agree that it is one thing to throw a knife well (Kypris in Chenille) and another thing to lead armies (Kypris in Mint). We might well imagine a prostitute learning the former as defense against rough customers and criminals; the latter skill, while clearly within the category of "martial arts," is contextually so far removed from the world of the prostitute that we are at a loss to explain how she would learn it--and we imagine, don't we, that it would be considerably more study involved than that for knife throwing.

Most of the possessions are murky. Mint is possessed by Kypris, very clear and straightforward, but it is a botched operation in that a fragment is left behind. How is this different from "normal" possession? Or am I misremembering it--maybe it was a normal theophany which botched into a possession?

(Then again, a possible vector for the third party "warehouse of skills" could be the worshippers during a theophany. If the god or goddess really goes into their minds, looks around, and comes back out with information, this would offer the god a chance to pick up free new skills. Is there a general in the house during a theophany?)

(Oh ye Gods! Who were all those fellows tumbling with =Hyacinth=?!)

(heh, heh, heh.)

<lick finger, draw a one in the air.>

{Russario: Well, the good news is that mantis continues to find himself amusing.}

In any event, Mint didn't parade around as the Goddess Incarnate, which is how Chenille was while possessed by Scylla. (This could well be just a personal choice on the part of the respective goddesses--Scylla would be that way, after all; and hunted Kypris would be quiet as a churchmouse. <g>) And the military genius didn't bloom until Mint refused to look Echidna in the eye. Before a big battle, Mint sees in her mind's eye "a naked woman with yellow hair--a wild eyed fury . . . wielding a scourge" (CALDE ch. 5).

"Yellow hair" matches Kypris; "naked woman" matches Kypris; but "wild eyed fury"? "Wielding a scourge"? ("Ah, yeth--that would be a lether known manifethtation--Kyprith the kinky dominatrix.")

And where =is= Sphigx, anyway (whom Silk calls a tawny virago--which is a nice way of saying "yellow haired dominatrix")? And why hasn't anybody seen her since the rebellion, hmm? <g> (I remain curious as to this constellation of factoids.)

Re: Hyacinth as a nasty fighter when she needs to be. Fact is, she's just plain nasty whenever Silk isn't looking!

Re: Mint the warrior inspired by Kypris as a paragon of either sensual pleasures or Christian Love "exemplified by one who endures suffering for his beloved"? I'm afraid you've lost me there. The one who endures suffering would be Silk, clearly. Mint is out there meting out pain--promoting suffering for her beloved!

=mantis=