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

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Alice K. Turner — 11 Jun 1997, 23:55

"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.

Well, how interesting. My own interpretation, from the first time I looked at the passage, is much simpler. I assumed that he saw the sun beginning to rise from the rounded horizon form of the hollowed asteroid that is the Whorl. For that's exactly how the sun looks, especially on a somewhat smoggy day, from a plain or the sea, like a gold-red sliver of a giant fingernail tip here on Earth.

As for Chenille-Kypris's knife-throwing abilities, I think we could easily assume that any supernatural being would have supernatural powers of accuracy and strength, and rhythm too. To quibble about whether these fit the image of the god's regional attributes is (a) silly when you're talking about computerized god programs (someone has pointed this out); (b) not consistent to what we know about ancient gods---look at mighty Hera, supposedly a domestic goddess, or at fearsome Inanna, sometimes a love-goddess; (c) face it, mortals, a bit sexist. (Not that I think you're a sexist group---I don't, you're not.)

-alga-