

Playing Catch-up

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 16 Jun 1997

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/350>

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Joel Priddy — 16 Jun 1997, 14:58

Gosh, I come back from a week in the hinterlands, and look at all the excitement! A belated welcome to Rostrum, who seems to have been stirring things up. There's so much to respond to, including the answers to the Train, I'll just pick a spot and dive in...

rostrum say:

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.<< and then wolfe say:

11. "What changed Mint's character?" Kypris. What I was trying to

say is that there is more to love than doves and simpering.<<

Now that Wolfe has spoken, it's unnecessary for me to back up rostrum on this point. But I will just throw in that when I read Horn's statement, I thought of a lot of other Wolfe passages where he pretty much says women (especially when they're the focus of someone's love) are dangerous. Like in New_Sun where Severian says that everyone loves what they must destroy: torturers love their clients, soldiers love their enemies, women love men. I haven't read Pandora which may be the obvious exception, but Wolfe's women do seem to have a kind of limited repertoire: the Stand-In for Divine Love, the Sex Object, and Agent of Destruction. On the subject of where Mint's strategy ability comes from, Wolfe is on the record as saying that military strategy is not a talent, that it must be studied, isn't he?

mantis say:

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> <<

Too bad the kibosh has been put on further Mint-possession speculation, 'cuz I found this comment pretty interesting.

rostrum say re: C.S. Lewis Space Trilogy:

This seems so close to Silk's formulation of the Outsider's revelation, "I

am to receive no help, because I am help" that I'm inclined to believe it must have been an influence on Wolfe.<<

I'm glad you mentioned this, because I thought about the space trilogy several times when reading the books, but had forgotten about them by the time I found this list. Before I found this list, I didn't realize that Wolfe was an actively practicing Catholic, but I did read Long Sun as covering a lot of the same ground as the space trilogy, only... you know... interesting. I didn't make the Remora/Withers connection, but it strikes me now that you mention it. Think Withers was the point of departure for the character of Remora?

wolfe say:

14. "Is there a member (current, former, or future of the Order of

Seekers for Truth and Penitence on the Whorl?" I'm going to interpret this question in the broadest possible sense, since that seems to be what Parsons wants. Yes, there is. It is Silk.<<

Now, he's intentionally giving me fits...

This could mean that the actual torturers guild lies in Silk's future, 'cuz who knows what could happen in the course of a few more Wolfe novels, but I guess this is probably a literal answer, namely Silk seeks truth, and he seeks penitence. Unlike the torturers (but like Severian?), he seeks it from himself, not others.

mantis say:

But yeah, ambiguity: if Q is all for planetfall (another Infocom

title!), then what has he been doing to promote exodus for the last thirty years? Even if we grant as true the theory that the planetfall gods lost in the big war, even then Q seems to be acting to preserve status quo, albeit a kinder and gentler (no human sacrifice) version.<<

Okay, I know what I said when we sent that last train off to Wolfe: how we should give people who didn't get a chance to ask a question first priority. But boy, do I hope mantis slips this in to a second train, should there be one. Q strikes me as the big mystery now, since he's the person who could potentially shed a lot of light on the forthcoming series. I'm also still itching to hear my other question (the one about the timing of Typhon/Piaton's head job) because, for all the reasons I've outlined previously, it seems to be a key to the sticky issue of the Whorl/Typhon/Severian timeline.

I think I'm more or less caught up with the list now... Time to go see what's been happening on the Urth list. <g>

-cephalothorax-