

Pike's Ghost; Hyacinth _is_ a spy; "Silk _is_ Calde"

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David_Lebling — 27 Jan 1997, 16:09

1) Charles Dye suggests that Patera Pike's ghost may have been an aquastor, which is a beguiling interpretation, particularly as it would strengthen the feeling that we are still in the universe of _New Sun_. Silk remarks at several points that there is a glass in the manse (but a non-working one, alas), so we potentially have the requisite computing power available nearby.

However, I don't think aquastors turn into small dark things that fly out windows, so to me it's not quite an adequate explanation. On the other hand, Quetzal never appears in the shape of any human but himself, at least to my knowledge.

We see him as (1) himself, most of the time, (2) by implication as "an old man with wings" (Teasel), (3) by implication as a large snake (Villus), (4) obscurely in winged serpent form when he slithers out the window into his tamarind tree. Others?

So that's why I'm still puzzled about Patera Pike's ghost.

2) On a completely different (and old) subject, I note that when Silk and Crane are imprisoned in the submarine, Crane admits that Hyacinth was working for him. So at least indirectly she was a spy for Trivigaunte, and it's easy to imagine she might still be one later.

3) Who was writing "Silk is Calde" five floors up? From the context, early in _Calde_, it might have been Quetzal, or maybe Mucor. What physical abilities does she have during her out-of-body experiences?

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Questions or problems to whorl-owner at lists.best.com