

Name of the _Whorl_

The Whorl list — 4 messages, 2 voices, 14 May 1998

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/470>

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Peter Westlake — 14 May 1998, 11:26

Is there any special reason for the _Whorl_'s name?

It doesn't seem like an obvious choice for a hollowed-out asteroid.

The only idea I have about this is so infinitely improbable that I really hope someone will tell me it can't be true ... it's a starship run by computers, so I wonder if it's related to the ship's computer with the very similar name in a series almost, but not quite, entirely unlike Wolfe? On a ship owned by the two-headed **pho*?

Was Silk making a really hot cup of tea when Pike's ghost appeared?

-- Spectacled Bear, aghast at finding how well this hangs together, except for the Cup of Tea, which was a joke.

Michael Straight — 14 May 1998, 09:56 · follows Peter Westlake

On Thu, 14 May 1998, Peter Westlake wrote:

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It doesn't seem like an obvious choice for a hollowed-out asteroid.

For the travelers, Starcrosser is their whole World, but since it spins, they call it the Whorl.

There are lots of passages where people use the same syntax as if they were going to say "world" but say "whorl" instead. Stuff like, "She's the most beautiful woman in the whole Whorl!" or "Unlike Pas and Scylla and the other gods, the Outsider exists outside the Whorl."

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Oh my. "Two-headed **pho*"! I love it! Someone really needs to confront Wolfe with that one.

-Rostrum

Peter Westlake — 15 May 1998, 11:59 · follows Michael Straight

At 09:56 1998-05-14 -0400, Rostrum wrote:

On Thu, 14 May 1998, Peter Westlake wrote:

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That's a natural confusion arising from the name, though, surely?

I wondered why the ship had been called "Whorl" in the first place. Of course, you get whorls of cloud around a typhoon. Maybe that's it: an offshoot of Typhon and his empire.

Spectacled bear.

Michael Straight — 15 May 1998, 09:18 · follows Peter Westlake

On Fri, 15 May 1998, Peter Westlake wrote:

At 09:56 1998-05-14 -0400, Rostrum wrote:

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Hmm. Maybe I was answering the question "Why did Wolfe name it 'Whorl' than why did Typhon name it 'Whorl'. But maybe not. Typhon knew he was creating an artificial world, complete with artificial societies and religions, and it whorls around, so thus 'Whorl'.

-Rostrum