

Pike's Ghost; Crane's Campaign

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 27 Jan 1997

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Alice Turner — 27 Jan 1997, 18:19

With regard to Quetzal and his possible appearance at "Pike" David Lebling writes:

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?

Well, we know that Quetzal (a) wears makeup (b) knew Pike (c) has a reason to check Silk out (the "Silk for Calde!" graffiti beginning to appear). One old man in priestly raiment glimpsed for only a second (his face, that is) looks a good deal like another, and later on during the battle Silk does mistake Quetzal for Pike for a moment. The creaking in the bedroom would indicate that Quetzal, in addition to borrowing Pike's calotte as a "disguise" is also doing a hasty make-up job.

3) Who was writing "Silk is Calde" five floors up? From the context, early in _Calde_, it might have been Quetzal, or maybe Mucor.

I think it's pretty clear that this campaign is started by Crane and his spy gang, Hossaan and the others. Hossaan operates the floater, five stories is no problem for him. There are two places where this is indicated, first when Crane is writing his report to Trivigaunte and says that the graffiti have appeared "everywhere but the Palatine." He's not completely sure of this because popular support is snowballing and others have taken up the slogan, but he's pretty sure because he directed exactly where the initial writings should appear. The second is when Crane and Silk are imprisoned by the Ayuntamiento and Crane admits that he has supported the "Silk for Calde" movement because it will rally the populace to overthrow the Ayuntamiento and thus divide and weaken Viron. Sorry I can't supply page numbers as I'm away from the books.

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