

Names, animals and meanings (S)

The Whorl list — 2 messages, 1 voices, 03 Aug 1998

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mary whalen — 03 Aug 1998, 17:38

This is Sean Whalen (prion).

Saba. Arabic for youth. Also a cooking banana (*Musa sapientum*) in the Philippines, or the textile made from the fiber of the plant. Commander of the Trivigaunti airship.

Sand. Grains formed from the breakup of rocks. Also slang for courage. Sergeant in Vironese army.

Sard. Also sarda. Any fish species in genus *Sarda*. Also could be short for sardine (*Sardina pilchardus*). Also the name for someone from Sardinia or a type of chalcedony. Owner of a pawnshop on Saddle Street.

Scale. A flat, plate-like extension of an animal's body, made of various substances. One of Bison's lieutenants.

Schist. Also spelled shist. An easily split crystalline rock. Vironese soldier.

Sciathan. Irish word for wing, side, part, arm, or lid made of wicker. Spelled with an acute accent over the second a. Flyer captured by the Trivigauntis.

Scleroderma. Plural sclerodermas or sclerodermata. Greek for hard skin. A genus of fungi in family Sclerodermataceae. They have hard-skinned fruiting bodies that open irregularly. Also a disease causing skin to become stiff. The cats' meatwoman. Became a hero on Blue.

Scup. Either of two fish with large, close-together scales. *Stenostomus chrysops* or *Stenostomus aculeatus*. Captain hired by Crane to watch the Pilgrim's Way.

Scylla. Greek for either flayer or whelp. In Greek myth, Scylla was originally a beautiful nymph, the daughter of Cratais (or Ceto) and Phorcys or Typhon and Echidna or of others. She played with the sea nymphs and remained a complete virgin. Glaucos (Greyish green) the sea god fell in love with her and tried to get help from Circe (Hawk or Circle), but Circe fell in love with Glaucos and turned Scylla into a monster. The exact description of this form is disputed in myths. Basically, she had six heads with triple rows of teeth, twelve feet, a ring of dogs' heads around her waist, and immortal. She lived by the sea in a cave near the whirlpool monster Charybdis. She was immortal and could only be stopped by invoking her mother's name. She eventually was turned into a rock. A major goddess. One of the Nine and of the Seven. Goddess of water, river, lakes. Associated with fish, camels, and horses. Patron of the first day of the week and of Viron. Shown with eight, ten, or twelve arms. Supposed child of Typhon and Echidna. Strong-willed, bossy, egotistical, and nasty.

Serval. From Latin *lupus cervalis* (deer wolf). A feline related to lynxes. *Felis serval* (also *Felis capensis*). Looks like a thin bobcat with large ears and a small head. Captain who pretended to

arrest Silk in Limna. Was married to Hyacinth.

Sewellel. From the Chinook word meaning a blanket of sewellel skins (the name of the animal itself in Chinook is ugwulal). The mountain beaver (Aplodontidae *Aplodontia rufa*). The sewellel looks like a short-legged beaver with no tail. It doesn't actually live in the mountains. They dig the burrows in which they live. One of Spider's spycatchers, killed in the tunnels.

Shale. An easily breakable rock formed by the joining of mud, clay, or or silt. Also archaic English for shell or husk. A Vironese soldier.

Shell. A protective structure that is part of certain animals' bodies, made of various substances. Patera who knew Silk in school.

Shrike. Any species of family Laniidae, especially genus *Lanius*, including the butcher-bird. Birds with a strong notched bill hooked at the tip that often impale their prey on thorns. Scleroderma's husband. A butcher.

Sigada. The meaning of this word is given to Silk by Hossaan, but I don't remember it. Real name of Dr. Crane.

Silah. Daughter of the Rani.

Silk. A substance produced by various insects, especially silk worms, often used for cocoons, or the fabric made of those substances. Patera on Sun Street. Was a frozen embryo purchased by Calde Tussah. The books are about Silk's transformation (like animals do in cocoons). The name also relates to Tussah and Chenille.

Simuliid. Any species of family Simuliidae. The simuliids are small biting two-winged flies with larvae that live in flowing water. A Commissioner in Viron. He has connections to the Council. The part about larvae living in water reminds me of the pool scene. Since larva in Latin is a ghost, like a lemur, it gives further connection. I even have to wonder if Simuliid has been given a chemical body as well.

Sinew. Tendon, or strength. Nettle's eldest son.

Sirka. Officer in charge of the Trivigaunti advance party.

Siyuf. Reportedly this means swords in Arabic, but I can't confirm it. Commander of the Trivigaunti armed forces.

Skate. Any species of genus *Raja* and related genera in family Rajidae. Their side fins are very large and triangular, making them look like manta rays. Oosik's subordinate. Raja is the masculine of Rani, so it's possible this is a clue to his real loyalties, or that he is a spy for Trivigaunte.

Skin. Organ found as the outer covering of many animals. Bison's subordinate.

Skink. Any species of family Scincidae (Skinkidae). Lizards who live in dry, sandy places. Many burrow. Small, small scales, notched tail. Also archaic word meaning skunk. Also a soup made of beef. Insurgent leader who attacks the Palatine. Crippled.

Slate. A type of rock made of compressed clay or other rocks. Also a slab of stone used to write on. Vironese soldier.

Sphigx. Greek for throttler, strangler. Also Sphinx or Phix. A mythological monster with a lion's body, wings, and a woman's head. Child of Typhon and Echidna, or Echidna and Orthos. Sent to Thebes to plague the inhabitants. She was sent either by Hera, goddess of marriage, who wanted to Punish Laios (who was the father of Oidipous (Oedipus)) for kidnapping Chrysippos (Golden Horse) from his father Pelops (Chrysippos was a handsome boy who Laios had fallen in love with, and Hera didn't like this since Laios was married to Iocaste (Jocasta)), or by Apollon (the sun god) who wanted to punish the Thebans for neglecting his worship. She trapped her victims and then asked them a riddle (which went something like, "what animal walks first on four legs, then on two, and finally on three?"). No one could answer this and she would strangle them. About this time Laios was killed by Oidipous (who didn't know he was Laios' son). Creon (ruler), the regent of Thebes, offered the kingdom to anyone who could defeat the Sphinx. Oidipous came and solved the riddle (the answer is "a human"). The Sphinx then killed herself. A major goddess. One of the Nine and of the Seven. Goddess of war and courage. Associated with lions and other felines. Patron of the seventh day of the week and of Trivigaunte. Supposed child of Typhon and Echidna. Bad-tempered. Looking at the legend, it seems possible to me that Silk is meant to have some connection with Oedipus, and that his parents really are Typhon and Kypris, and that Kypris possessed Hyacinth, and (this is what I know for sure) he kills off the worship of Typhon (Pas).

Spider. Any species in order Araneida, especially in class Arachnida. Arthropods with eight legs that often secrete a strong silk-like substance to make complex webs. Potto's chief spycatcher. The name sounds like spy. He is in control of a web of informants and spies.

Sumaire. Irish for sucker, blood-sucker, leech, vampire, parasite, slow person. Written with an acute accent over the u. Flyer killed by the Trivigauntis. His name may be intended as mosquito, as that would fit in with the other Flyers, but it seems odd for him to have a name like this.

Swallow. Any of many species of a large group in family Hirundinidae. Small, long-winged, short-billed, forked tail. The swifts (family Apodidae) are also often commonly called swallows. Man in charge of the talus factory. It's possible that his name refers to chimney swifts, which get sooty because of fires in chimneys.

prion

mary whalen — 04 Aug 1998, 08:13 · follows mary whalen

This is Sean Whalen (prion).

Sigada. Apparently an Arabic word. Hossaan tells Silk that it means handsome and humble. Real name of Dr. Crane.

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