

# more questions

The Whorl list — 3 messages, 3 voices, 27 Oct 1998

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/555>

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Greg Neyman — 27 Oct 1998, 20:06

Thanks for answering Peter. Anybody have any ideas on Silk tracing circles on his cheek?

Anyhoop, where did the Whorl get it's energy from? At first, I thought the Whorl was an interstellar ramjet, collecting hydrogen with and electro magnetic funnel, which if fused in its long sun, and expelling the helium for propulsion. But ramjets have to be moving to work, and a) something would have had to accelerate the whorl in the first place, and b) it turns out that Whorl sat in the blue/green system for several years, which would have made any ramjet inoperable.

Which leads to the next question: how did the whorl propel itself?

Another question ... if chems had personal fusion packs to power themselves (when General mint charges in Calde, she swings her azoth, and the book describes how it goes through a soldier's fusion core), why did things like taluses and floaters still rely on fish oil, presumably for internal-combustion engines?

That's it for now ... more as I think of them ... if these answers are in the archives, and I've overlooked them .. I'm sorry ...

^^ Greg Neyman Greg.Neyman at gte.net

\_\_\_/\_\_\_\\_\_\_ <http://www.trailerpark.com/siesta/thehat/>

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\*This is WHORL, for discussion of Gene Wolfe's Book of the Long Sun.

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Peter Westlake — 28 Oct 1998, 10:28 · follows Greg Neyman

At 20:06 1998-10-27 -0800, Greg Neyman wrote:

Thanks for answering Peter. Anybody have any ideas on Silk tracing circles on his cheek?

Someone suggested that it was to do with his father's razor, which is mentioned from time to time; he might have a scar there.

Another question ... if chems had personal fusion packs to power themselves (when General mint charges in Calde, she swings her azoth, and the book describes how it goes through a soldier's fusion core), why did things like taluses and floaters still rely on fish oil, presumably for internal-combustion engines?

They're manufactured on board, where the technology is a lot lower than that of the society that launched the Whorl.

Spectacled Bear.

Peter Westlake, Harlequin Ltd, Barrington Hall, Barrington, Cambs CB2 5RG.

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Matthew Malthouse — 28 Oct 1998, 19:10 · follows Peter Westlake

Greg Neyman wrote:

Another question ... if chems had personal fusion packs to power themselves (when General mint charges in Calde, she swings her azoth, and the book describes how it goes through a soldier's fusion core), why did things like taluses and floaters still rely on fish oil, presumably for internal-combustion engines?

The chems were created before launch and on board before the human cargo awoke. Presumably their power source was a product of the culture that built the Whorl.

There \_may\_ have been some taluses with similar power that we did not see. The one's that we did see were presumably built by the people of the Whorl - and we get to see the foundry - and thus limited to the technologies they possess.

There is a gap however: chems can make children if they have the parts, how those would be powered is open to question. Maybe it is not the lack of knowledge but of working parts that limit the taluses to combustion power.

Matthew

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