

[blue, spoilers, read only when finished] More on Blue

The Whorl list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 28 Sep 1999

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/641>

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Alex David Groce — 28 Sep 1999, 14:39

I finished Blue last week, but have remained silent until now, waiting for someone else to speak first. My awe is the same--considering that NEW SUN, URTH, LONG SUN and SHORT SUN are, in a sense, Wolfe's "future history" (though nothing so un-subtle), I think Wolfe is moving, finally, into the home stretch of one of the most powerful and evocative examinations of life ever expressed in fictional form.

Various random points:

(1) The three stars struck me early on as having some significance, and I was pleased to see "Horn" explain them as Blue, Green and the Long Sun Whorl (and, of course, the three books of Horn's narrative, and (since this is Wolfe) perhaps the three SUN uber-novels and even the Trinity...)

(2) Horn, by the time the ongoing narrative (which will presumably merge into a single conclusion at the end of RETURN TO THE WHORL) starts is a tall(er), white-haired, one-eyed man with a staff and good ol' Oreb on his shoulder: Odin. I suspect that we will later learn that in some sense Horn has traded his eye for wisdom.

(3) I think I have a guess at the secret of the inhumi, but there's probably some startling aspect I haven't considered--it seems obvious that they only are intelligent because they drink the blood of intelligent creatures. I suspect that more than this, they in some sense take their "person"ality from the first person whose blood they drink--and that Krait was the inhumi whose first feeding was on Sinew, and thus he really is Horn's son, in a perverse (but in the end transfigured into something wonderful) sense. If this is so, I wonder if Quetzal might have fed on Silk (or maybe Silk's father)?

(4) Mucor is still creepy, she's just not adolescent and creepy. It would be strange to expect twenty years with Marble not to have been better for her than her previous upbringing.

(5) I'm trying to think if Wolfe has ever portrayed a protagonist who was faithful to his wife during his wanderings--here, of course, Horn has the Odyssey to live up to, but Severian, Nardan from "Seven American Nights," etc. (Latro if he is married).

(6) I think the resurrection Horn keeps giving us hints about happened on Green--where he received his "fatal" wound (I don't have my copy so can't reference exactly where he says this).

(7) Also, now that I've (almost completely) dismissed my Urth is Blue theory, I'm wondering how Severian's going to make his supposed appearance.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32

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Patri10629 — 28 Sep 1999, 23:12 · follows Alex David Groce

In a message dated 9/28/99 4:42:03 PM, Alex_Groce at gs246.sp.cs.cmu.edu writes:

<< I think I have a guess at the secret of the inhumi, but there's probably some startling aspect I haven't considered--it seems obvious that they only are intelligent because they drink the blood of intelligent creatures.>>

Interesting. Possible. But "intelligent blood"? Some sort of alzaboish transmogrification--if that's the word. I dunno.

<< I suspect that more than this, they in some sense take their "person"ality from the first person whose blood they drink--and that Krait was the inhumi whose first feeding was on Sinew, and thus he really is Horn's son, in a perverse (but in the end transfigured into something wonderful) sense. >>

Interesting, too. But Krait seems to deny this in the text.

P 205 (HC):

Horn says:

"One of you nearly killed my son."

His head wagged. 'That wasn't me.'"

Interesting. He denies "nearly killing" Sinew. He doesn't say "I didn't bite him." or "I never touched him." Perhaps he's lying. Perhaps he's saying the child wasn't in mortal danger. Or perhaps Krait had the first taste and another Inhumu drained the child to the brink.

O dear, it's thickening. But perhaps we should wait...

Best

Patrick O'Leary

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