

"Blood Drinkers of Planet Blue"

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 29 Sep 1999

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/643>

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David_Lebling — 29 Sep 1999, 09:31

(That's the Ace Double reprint of On Blue's Waters, of course. Blurb: "They crossed the stars to drink human blood, but he loved one like a son!" The cover illustration I'll leave to your imagination. The flip side, of course, is something by Kenneth Bulmer.)

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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 inhum, 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.>>

The relevant passages that I found most intriguing come near the end of the book, where Horn says something on the order of "If we would only help each other, the inhum couldn't harm us." The other is by Krait, who says that if humans knew the secret they could make the inhum into animals, or make them be animals again. (My copy isn't with me, so bear with me).

My speculations have been along the same lines as Alex's, but these comments seem a stumbling block. The secret must be something humans could act on to return the inhum to an animal state, or otherwise use to protect themselves.

That being said, I still think the guess isn't far from the truth, I just don't know what direction to go to find it.

The depiction of the relationship of inhum to humans is one of many wonderful things in a wonderful book. For example, soon after we meet him, Krait says "You are our cattle." As the book progresses, we slowly remember that there's more to being cattle than hamburger.

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Obviously Gaon is India (in the sense that Viron is South America and Triviguante is Iraq or Persia) and Han is China. What about the other towns? Wijzer is apparently from the same town as Yoda...

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In a previous post I mentioned some elucidated mysteries. There is, for example, Marble's remark re Maytera Rose, that "I took parts of her processor." Wolfe has a way of dropping these things into an otherwise normal conversation, and only after a moment do you do the

double-take and realize what he is talking about. (Compare _Hannibal_.)

When is _Green_ scheduled for? Tell me it's next week, please!

Dave Lebling
(aka vizcacha)

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