

The Dutch on Blue

The Whorl list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 13 Oct 1999

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/689>

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Robert Borski — 13 Oct 1999, 01:04

'Wijze,' in Dutch, means 'tune,' 'melody,' 'manner,' or perhaps most significantly, 'mood' (meaning here the grammatical sense, not the emotional--how, that is, a clause containing the verb in question [usually inflected] is related syntactically to other clauses in the sentence.)

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Robert Borski

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

Alastair Reynolds — 13 Oct 1999, 09:21 · follows Robert Borski

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"Wijzer" itself means pointer (according to my dictionary it also means the hand of a clock). I think it can also mean guide, as in the kind of leaflet you get in museums, but I'm less sure about that.

Re: Urth as our future Earth; doesn't Wolfe himself make this explicitly the case in TBOTNS appendix where he talks about photographing buildings which have survived many centuries of futurity? And I believe in one of q&a sessions I have read, either on this list or on the web somewhere, he said he envisaged Severian's time as being about a 1000 years from now (which always struck me as too short a span of time, but never mind).

I'm not sure there's much point trying to work out the flight time of the Whorl to great precision, as I suspect Wolfe didn't necessarily bother working all this out beforehand. After all, didn't someone on this list pretty convincingly show that the Whorl's size/rotation rate didn't make much sense?

I'm torn between reading posts and thinking I should delete them until I've got my hands on my own copy of Blue!

Al

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