

Deus Ex Machina

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 05 Feb 1997

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m.driussi — 05 Feb 1997, 06:55

Reply: Item #9024562 from WHORL at LISTS.BEST.COM@INET01#

<<Spoiler Warnings>>

Talon,

Good tracking re: Horn's horning in, tooting his own horn, etc. I also get the feeling he's trying to give Scleroderma "equal time" as author of her own ("shorter") account. That's one thing about Nettle and Horn--they're both sharp as tacks.

Henry Rathvon,

I'm afraid you have the ghostpike sequence a little jumbled--it isn't first Pike then flitting thing, but the other way around, and there is other stuff before and between. Here, let me chart it out for you (II, 28):

(1) Silk is having an erotic dream featuring Kypris, who morphs into "Hyacinth (though Kypris still)."

(2) Silk awakens and sees something fly out the window, then he sees naked Mucor. She fades to mist and is gone.

(3) Silk goes downstairs to interrogate Oreb, further waking himself up (or dreaming more deeply?).

(4) Silk hears the creak of Pike's bed upstairs (II, 30). He confuses his "real" life as being a dream, splashes his face with cold water. Remembers that Pike died. The bed creaks again.

(5) Silk goes up the stairs and sees Pike (II, 33), who then smiles (compare with Quetzal's toothless smile [III, c. 102]), waves and dissolves in silvery aquastor-esque motes, except for his beanie ("calotte") that flutters to the floor.

(Points 4 & 5 are somewhat similar to Auk's experience with Bustard. Mucor seems to herald Mainframe activity with all her mucking around--maybe Mainframe is just following her around, like a rentacop trailing a girlganger at the shopping mall? Or she's just activating everything in her passage.)

Algae,

Re: manteion in Limna, oh, okay--right. I remember that spot now. Sorry! I guess I took it as being she thought she was in a manteion but it was (dreamlike dissolve) actually a tavern. But no, there is a manteion there. (And you already know: I think

Kypris made her duck in there in order to get out of Chenille before being spotted by enemy Scylla's giant screen, the Lake. Like how Echidna spots Mint-carrying-Kypris in the big crowd, etc.)

Re: Kypris (actually, the young woman who was originally scanned into Mainframe as the Virtual Reality Artificial Intelligence identity known as the goddess Kypris) as the biological mother of Silk. I don't want to impose a reading on anybody. Just remember, you read it here first. <g>

About that near-death vision of the four parents; how does the non-aquaster crowd (i.e., ghostpike is a returning Quetzal rather than a physical ghost) interpret this brush with eidolons? Don't let me put words in your mouth! But I think the aquastor/eidolon rules allow that, if there is an external agency involved, it is reading the target's mind and supplying the appropriate puppets to convey the message. So a fairy godfather like Malrubius or Pike; or a glimpse of a parent or two.

Even if you are going to take Dr. Crane's point of view, I think both sides must agree (as if there is ever any agreement!) that the images originate in Silk's mind. So either this is real reality, "metaphysical certitude" provided by the Outsider ("yes, your father is a small statue"), or this is some form of dream, originating in Silk himself or being concocted by some other agency for his edification. Which is why Tussah looks like a bust rather than a flesh and blood (ooh, did I say "Blood"? man--this is dream logic using easily recognized props. And of course Silk imagines his blonde mom and his blond dad (even though, genetically speaking, one or both could be brunette and still produce an Aryan love god such as Silk--and this =without= genetic tinkering), because blonds are semi-rare in Viron (3/100, wasn't it?), and Silk was teased about his hair/eyes as a boy (we remember that discussion re: "how I deduced Crane is a foreign spy" in the manteion arbor, right? Where Kypris did all of the talking for Chenille?), and Silk's surrogate-mother is small and dark. So at this late date (1) Silk thinks his biomom and dad are blond, and (2) Silk is putting in faces and props in dreamland as they come to hand.

Now then, how many blonds has Silk met in the course of the four books? Who might be being used as a "stand in"?

Well, there's big blonde Kypris, with her dark blue eyes. And she also happens to be the first best candidate for Short Sun egg donors for the ubermensch class of (frozen embryo) cold ones. (But the neat thing is, she doesn't even have to really be the biomom--it might be enough that Silk thinks she is, or might be, or hopes that she is.) Since fellow cold one Mucor is the daughter of Molpe (I, 128) and Hierax (III, 73), it seems fitting that Silk also have such a lofty and dignified parentage. <g> (You can guess who the blond stud is.)

Re: Hyacinth, well sure she's a Triv spy. That is established in the arbor briefing. Thing is, she is certainly not just a dupe courier like Chenille--she's at the very least a real "agent" agent, maybe even Crane's boss. This doesn't affect the argument that she is being ridden by Kypris non-stop (Sphigx is a loyalist, Scylla is a rebel, Kypris is an outsider/loyalist). As for Tartaros dealing with Kypris, if you like just take all the dirty double- and triple-dealing going on among the mortals (especially the demigods of the Prosimian Conspiracy: Lemur, Loris, et ali.) and multiply it by a god factor--that's my impression.

Compare Kypris/Chenille's dagger skill (II, 83) and Scylla/Chenille's "thumbs-into-eyes" combat and acrobatic stunts (II, 274) (II, 275) with those of Hyacinth (IV, 323) (III, 311). Note similarities and dream up a ninja training camp for her to attend during her free time. <g>

Whaddaya think, algae, is Dr. Crane lying (II, 339) about the gemstone (and by extension, who

the pricy gift was really for) on the azoth or not?

Here's a new one--I know I'm chucking a lot of stuff at you all, but oh well. When Remora lets Gulo name Chenille as the ubermensch they are looking for, we might think that he is making a mistake. We might be falling for the notion that there is only one heir. If CASTLEVIEW teaches us anything, I think it would be that there are many (perhaps even too many) Arthurs running around. Waiting to be activated. I know it seems like these possessions happen to ordinary people, but it may well be that they only happen to the chosen few. The ubermenschen. (algae might like this one, since she likes talking about the Severian "spares" littering the landscape like a clone arranger's dream).

For those puzzling over how Quetzal "lied" to Silk about his condition or what was said about same after the floater crash in CALDE (circa p. 322), note how a similar death and resurrection happened for Auk (circa p. 59). Same last rites, same out of body experience (Auk remembers Bustard later, similar to the way Silk remembers more of the enlightenment as time goes by), same return to life from death. But no Quetzal for Auk, nor any Outsider; and the spirit guide is his dead elder brother instead of a parent (then again, this is another character with mystery . . . he looks like a wolf or a bear [I, 78] . . . speaking of how "eyes spoke truth," Lily [name of Auk's mom {III, lists}] in cant means "truth" . . . called Mint his mother . . . well, you get the picture).
<g>

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Questions or problems to whorl-owner at lists.best.com