

Horn as Silk?

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 16 Nov 1999

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Roberson, John — 16 Nov 1999, 13:11

Greetings, everyone. SPOILER WARNING below for those who haven't read *_On Blue's Waters_*, though most appear to have done so. I'm new to the list, but have enjoyed all the insightful comments that have gone before---all of you certainly take your Wolfe very seriously and delight in pouring over his beautifully-crafted stories and mining out all the gems. I've got two comments I'd like to hear/read your ruminations about:

1. As mentioned before in this column, there are numerous cases of identity confusion with Silk, on Horn's part, after he returns from the Long Sun Whorl. There's also mention of what we'd suspected for a long time: the possibility of Silk being scanned into Mainframe and probably merged with the Pas program (as well as mention of a surgeon who has perhaps grafted a Pas-Silk in the physical world?). Could Horn's identity problems result from the Pas-Silk amalgam program having transferred some of Silk's identity into Horn via "possession", in a similar way to that which turned Maytera Mint into the "Sword of Echidna"? This might have been the program Silk's only way of sending "Silk" to New Viron as a leader. This would explain the identity confusion.

2. What is the "secret of the inhumis"? Is it that they emulate men's feelings toward one another, such that they are able to prey on men because men prey on and hate each other? There is a passage to the effect that if we only cared about each other more, then the inhumis would be mindless beasts still (I assume, unable to prey on men and gain their intelligence through blood-sucking). I recall that Krait emulated Horn to the point that Horn thought of him as his own son and Seawrack said he resembled Horn, and the inhumis are chameleon-like creatures. This might explain why Quetzal developed his benevolent, guilt-ridden side while on the LS Whorl, to the point where he tried to avoid drinking blood...

Anyway, I'm interested in your views on this. Great discussion group!

-John Roberson

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