

Inhumi secrets

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 26 Oct 1999

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Allan Lloyd — 26 Oct 1999, 04:12

I've got this theory... I know, everyone has a theory, but try this for a series of deductions.

First, whatever happened to Horn in the pit was one of the most significant events in the novel. Horn says "With that fall the best part of my life was over. The pit was its grave." He may have been speaking of the betrayal of his wife to save himself, but I think it was more than that. When he was unconscious after falling I think Krait took much of his blood. The deal with Krait involved being given a transfusion of mixed blood from Krait. We know that inhumi can do this because Jahlee offered to return blood to the cow that she had fed from. (Horn didn't believe her, but he's a cynical, rather unpleasant person who sees the worst in everyone).

After a transfusion, the personalities and appearances of the donor and receiver tend to merge. Krait had previously eaten from Sinew, and Seawrack tells Horn how similar the three of them are, more so than just father/son resemblance. Also, after the pit experience, Horn's eyesight improves and he becomes a surprisingly good shot. So is the sharing of blood in some way good for humans who survive the experience?

Seawrack gives Horn a ring. This fairly trivial event gives a whole chapter its title. She tells Horn he must wear it because "he might fall in the pit again". Horn says that he never would have guessed that it would save his life on a ruined lander on Green. Does it protect the wearer from the vampiric Inhumi? This seems a bit simplistic, but could Wolfe be playing with the silver cross/vampire thing? The ring is made of some silvery metal that did not tarnish as pure silver would have. It also had a white stone that was very old.

The other thing that puzzles me is the dialogue on page 353 where Sinew claims that no-one gets bitten in Pajarocu. They agree that visitors do but natives of the town don't. Could it be the home brewed beer that is mentioned!

I know that this is not a solution, but I do think the ring is important.

Allan Lloyd

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