

The writing on the walls; Mucor; Timeline

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 10 Feb 1997

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David_Lebling — 10 Feb 1997, 10:00

mantis,

I've reread the segment you referenced [I, 217], and now I see your point. For those who don't have the books directly at hand, Quetzal's reference to Silk's name being written five floors up almost certainly means the writing Silk did himself as part of his attempt to cure Teasel, who had been bitten by an inhumu. This also gives a semi-plausible explanation for why Quetzal "went wide" when he saw the name; the purpose of the name (Pike's was included as well) was to ward off the devil who had bitten her.

This was good detective work, mantis.

On the other hand, as you predicted, even your additional reference doesn't convince me of your thesis about Mucor is the literal child of Molpe, much less of Heirax. As Freud said, "sometimes a cigar is just a cigar." Besides, even if it was what Silk meant (on even the third level), we have to remember that sometimes he is dead wrong.

On the subject of the ages of the godlets, I think the reference to Scylla being "a few years from womanhood" is ambiguous. Does this mean "a few years from menarche" or does it mean "a few years from marriageable age"? I.e., is she about 11 or about 16 or 17? I think the latter. This makes the children even younger, which (I think) bolsters my argument that the Pas/Typhon timeline is implausably short.

However, I haven't read your _Lexicon_ supplement 2, so I will reserve judgement. You hint in your message that Urth is the backwater of the solar system, which I find a provocative position. One then envisions Typhon's conquest of Urth being followed by brainwashing and deportation of those who resisted; perhaps even on religious grounds.

As further timeline evidence, I point to Marble's memory of how servants (chems) are dressed: like twentieth century French maids. Ninety-nine thousand years in the future? The mind boggles.

Dave

ps: When I get something wrong, don't assume malice, assume ignorance!

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