

File under filler

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 12 Feb 1997

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m.driussi — 12 Feb 1997, 05:09

Reply: Item #0807072 from WHORL at LISTS.BEST.COM@INET01#

Dave,

No, you don't have to come up with a list of Silk's mistakes. I just mentioned the first one that came to hand, wondered if you were thinking of that one or any other particular one. That's all.

Re: who's on Blue, yes, there must be other cities and other enlightenments (or at least theophanies and adventures) as you speculate since (if we can believe it) there is only one piece of Pas in Viron and others hidden elsewhere.

Re: Silk's changing interpretation of his enlightenment, I agree with you, he is most reluctant--indeed, in the end he stays behind. The need for a man of action (like Auk) is quite apparent.

Something new--comparing Silk and Severian: well, both share a number of sacred king attributes. That's a similarity. But Silk is sunny where Severian is spooky . . . Silk cries easily, Severian cries only two or three times . . . Silk wears his innocence as a badge of his calling, and suffers as he loses it, Severian hides his and is strengthened by discovering it . . . Silk is cuckolded, Severian cheats on his girlfriend and then his wife . . . I get the impression that while Severian is on the up-escalator from rock bottom, Silk is on the down-escalator from the ground floor.

That is: Silk, while nice and sunny, thinks that he has a lousy station posting that he struggles to make the best of, but people still like and respect him; Severian really does have one of the worst jobs on the planet and he is loathed by most people who aren't demented. Silk, compromising his goodness (born of a flawed church), sinks into the muck of politics; Severian, betraying his wickedness (born of an infernal institution), rises to a position where he can reform it out of existence.

But still, it isn't like Silk is just a patsy--he has a difficult struggle. Even though in a certain light Silk's is more "realistic" in the sense of "real politics," I'm not sure if either is more realistic than the other. Something complimentary about the two, seems to me.

(Silk has a twin in Auk, a sort of co-hero; at first glance Severian doesn't have one, but then there is the long shadow of the "first Severian" that is a bit more "clone" [or "author" to "character creation"] than "twin," so maybe this is more a shared similarity than a difference.)

Spoiler Alert<<<

Dr. Gouvea,

Hey, good to see you!

Re: Blood's dad, to be honest I'm not sure ("sure" here being equal to "willing to entertain the possibility," see where it leads) but my sense is maybe the biochemical man once known as Loris, since replaced by a chem? (Quetzal seems to suggest this with his "Blood will tell" comment IV, ch. 13, 270) If not, maybe another prosimian? Pike would seem to be out (even though a lot of Rose's guilt points toward a handsome man of the cloth--but it also points toward a chem/bio fusion, which only seems odd at first) . . . of course, Calde Tussah would be a wonderful complication!

More important (at the moment, to me) is the apparent confusion between two characters: Grison, the driver who took Silk back to the manteion from Blood's mansion in NIGHTSIDE (I, 21), and was thus the fake fisherman Silk saw on the boat in LAKE (II, 325/331); an unnamed driver in CALDE who drives Hy to Ermine's (III, 279) and later assists with Hy's superhumanish leap from floater to floater (Hy remarks that Silk looks like he's seen a ghost [III, 311/312]), presumed to be Grison; and Willet/Hossaan, one of Blood's drivers (note plural) who is then repeatedly misremembered as doing "the Grison" things (IV, 211: this might be a test Silk is using on Hy) (IV, 218: this is Willet claiming to be the fake fisherman) as well as all the obvious Hossaan things (most notably, capturing the Rebels at the moment of Silk's surrender of the city to Potto).

Very curious. (I guess the easiest solution is that "Grison" is a second alias for the same spy? But why would Silk look like he'd seen a ghost? Did he think Grison had died? Or is it just the understandable shock that when Hy "took" the floater, she took the driver, too?)

=mantis=

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