

The Revelation: John Clute to the Whorl list

The Whorl list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 16 Aug 2000

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Nicholas Gevers — 16 Aug 2000, 11:10

Earlier today I asked John Clute to clarify or substantiate his speculation as to Horn being an inhumu; this is his reply:

--- John Clute wrote:

Dear Nick,

Thanks for message.

1) My guess that Horn/Silk might be an inhumu, as well as

sharing other conditions of being as his Corridor branches, is the kind of tentative shot you lay into the dark in the midnight middle of a Wolfe novel.

2) I kept getting haunting echoes of The Fifth Head of Cerberus, and before I reread the entire Book of the Short Sun as part of the process of reviewing the final volume, I'm going to try to reread Cerberus too. Specific haunt: at what point does Horn/Silk begin to find it difficult to eat human food? It would be a moment like (but almost certainly not identical to) the moment in Cerberus when the shapechanger native takes over the human's diary and records his difficulty with handwrtng.

3) When Horn/Silk warns somebody (Hide? don't remember at the moment) about inhumu, he specifies identifying signs, such as a disinclination to eat normal food, a moment which has all the ring of a Wolfeian revelation.

4) Obvious things like his calling Krait and Jahlee his son and daughter. Obvious counterindications: hair on head.

5) My reading of the Short Sun is very superficial, so far; what do you guys think is going on?

Best,

John Clute

Jim Henley — 16 Aug 2000, 15:26 · follows Nicholas Gevers

:> -----Original Message-----

:> From: Nicholas Gevers [mailto:vermoulian at yahoo.com] :> Sent: Wednesday, August 16, 2000 2:11 PM :> :> Earlier today I asked John Clute to clarify or :> substantiate his speculation as to Horn being an :> inhumu; this is his reply: :> :> --- John Clute wrote: :> > :> 1) My guess that Horn/Silk _might_ be an inhumu, as :> well as :> > sharing other conditions of being as his Corridor :> > branches, is the kind of :> > tentative shot you lay into the dark in the midnight :> > middle of a Wolfe :> > novel.

This will sound pissy of me, but why the _fuck_ does Clute turn the privately-acknowledged "shot in the dark" into the publically-proclaimed "it is 'reasonably clear' that Horn/Silk is himself an inhumu?"

By gum, it's more annoying even than people whingeing about the covers!

Best,

(Heated) Plasma

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