

Horn as Inhumu and Silk as suicide?

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 22 Aug 2000

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Roberson, John — 22 Aug 2000, 14:26

Greetings! Hope this reaches everyone.

1. The description of Silk circulated by Horn was from the postscript to TBOLS copies circulated by Horn and Nettle after they landed on Blue, not by the Rajan of Gaon Horn/Silk amalgam who should know, if nothing else, where Silk's body is.

2. Unless Horn as TBOLS narrator was so hero-worshipful that he's another unreliable Wolfean narrator, I don't think suicide out of despondency is an option for someone of the character of Silk, given that he rejected it on the airship. But using himself as a funeral sacrifice for Hy would be in character. (Then again, maybe Wolfe is saying that Silk was too idealistic and fooled-by-young-love/lust to be the Beautiful Person and only after merging with the more realistic, selfish, imperfect Horn could he/them become what Horn believed him to be initially through the rose-tinted glasses of his youth. Either that, or I'm full of it.)

3. Just noticed that (forgot the page no) Jahlee, when posing as Incanto's housekeeper, is mentioned as snuffling around and coughing like Incanto, after he's slept in her house for some time. I wonder if she's been having a midnight snack of Incanto on rye? This would explain Incanto's lack of appetite if the identity-fluid transfer from victim to inhumu works both ways, as some have supposed. This would be more palatable to me than Incanto actually being an inhumu...

4. With regard to the Horn-Babbie identity confusion at the end of OBW, I initially thought this was just a psychic bonding caused by Horn's Neighbor-granted psychic abilities asserting themselves (like suddenly being a perfect shot and picking his way through dense foliage, etc), perhaps caused by the fact that I believe Mucor frequently possessed Babbie on their journey and he was linking with her/it. She does tend to pop up whenever he exercises his astral projection ability. Maybe not, though...

What do you wiser heads think?

Still in the schola, nowhere close to Patera-hood,

Ram

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