

Digest whorl.v011.n027

The Whorl list — 6 messages, 6 voices, 24 Aug 2000

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/974>

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Roberson, John — 24 Aug 2000, 10:10

From:

whorl-errors at lists.best.com[SMTP:whorl-errors at lists.best.com]

Reply To: whorl at lists.best.com

Sent: Thursday, August 24, 2000 9:22 AM

To: whorl at lists.best.com

Subject: Digest whorl.v011.n027

Spectacled Bear wrote:

The Secret:

The speculations here about the secret of the inhumani being to do with willing sacrifice are very interesting, but don't address Horn's assertion that it could be used to reduce the inhumani to mindless animals, not better but not worse than crocodiles. And how does that fit in with the general theme that we ought to be **nice** to them?

My thoughts on this go as follows:

If humans offer themselves willingly to the inhumani, who then develop something of their soul/spirit of not harming others and being self-sacrificing, then those inhumani will quit feeding on other humans. Feeding from only non-sentient animals, they would lose their sentience and revert to blood-sucking croc vermin. While this would get rid of the inhumani problem, it would be somewhat contrary to Incanto's ethical stance, since he believes the inhumani spirits to be developing "souls" and to do something that would revert them back to beasts would be "killing" their human-like spirits.

-Ram

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

Kevin J. Maroney — 24 Aug 2000, 18:33 · follows Roberson, John

At 06:13 PM 8/24/00 -0400, alga wrote:

This may well be true in "The Night Cough," which only you and mantis seem to have read.

I read it, but I didn't come away with the same understanding that Robert and mantis did. I need to re-read it in light of their discussion.

It's the hus, the whole hus, nothing but the hus.

Oh, you wicked woman.

Wombat, a.k.a. Kevin Maroney kmaroney at ungames.com
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akt — 24 Aug 2000, 18:13 · follows Kevin J. Maroney

Said William:

Of course I eventually realized that the reason no one else had mentioned this idea before me was that everyone else had figured it out already and thought it was too obvious to mention.

Not so; we'd all been counting eyes, but you got there first.

Mr. Borski:

Note the very last line from "The Night Chough" that I quote. In the original text the word "Scylla" is italicized. But it's what follows that's important. "That was the bird. And not the bird." In other words, Oreb is saying "Scylla," but it's actually Scylla (and not the bird) that's providing the information. My argument: that if you're a god and you're using a bird for your mouthpiece, you're riding it.

This may well be true in "The Night Chough," which only you and mantis seem to have read. But there's not a tweak of evidence for it in the five books we have all read. Scylla has apparently been there (for the story), done that and skedaddled.

Mr. Ansley then writing:

<It is *completely* certain to me that an eight-legged creature one-third(?) the height of a man will look more like a cluster of (shorter than a man) boys or two men on their hands and knees (short - because doubled over - and with eight leg-like - because of position - limbs) than a Neighbor, who is as tall as or taller than a man and has only four leg-like limbs (and, of course, four arm-like ones).>

All right, just for the sake of argument, let's say you're right here.

The

8-legged thingie is merely some indigenous, but anonymous, member of Blue's faunal kingdom. What possesses it to jump from the cliff to the sea?

If

directed by Mucor, what has she done so? In other words what are we make of this leap in a broader context? Also: when last seen, the eight-legged thingie has plunged into the water and disappeared very near to Horn's boat. Just coincidentally, when Babbie first appears upon the scene some few hundred words later, it's also in the water very near to the boat. I just think the simplest most elegant solution is to assume both are one and the

same. If I'm wrong, I still need to understand the 8-legged beastie's motivation for jumping--possibly even to its death, since according to you (or at least I'm inferring this) we never see it again.

Nice to have you back in the Devil's Advocate Position, William!

Oh, don't forget me, Robert! It's my favorite Position, and I think with William that your tortured explanations are completely *unnecessary.* The 8-legged thingie is Babbie, whom Mucor has sent to be Horn's companion and guardian. That's why he jumps and swims. Why do you need to drag Neighbors or some anonymous critter into what seems perfectly obvious? It's the hus, the whole hus, nothing but the hus.

-alga

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Alex David Groce — 24 Aug 2000, 18:41 · follows akt

Alga spoke thus:

This may well be true in "The Night Chough," which only you and mantis seem to have read. But there's not a tweak of evidence for it in the five books we have all read. Scylla has apparently been there (for the story), done that and skedaddled.

Although I think we're all waiting for the other shoe to drop and reveal what all the Scylla foreshadowing in Short Sun so far is about. But if it turns out to be Oreb, I'll be (right now I think) unpleasantly surprised.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32

--

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William Ansley — 24 Aug 2000, 23:02 · follows Alex David Groce

At 6:13 PM -0400 8/24/00, alga <akt at attglobal.net> wrote:
> Nice to have you back in the Devil's Advocate Position, William!

Oh, don't forget me, Robert! It's my favorite Position [...]

And you hold it much more gracefully than ever I could, alga. <g>

William Ansley

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Adam Stephanides — 28 Aug 2000, 14:47 · follows William Ansley

Roberson, John wrote:

If humans offer themselves willingly to the inhumu, who then develop something of their soul/spirit of not harming others and being self-sacrificing, then those inhumu will quit feeding on other humans. Feeding from only non-sentient animals, they would lose their sentience and revert to blood-sucking croc vermin. While this would get rid of the inhumu

problem, it would be somewhat contrary to Incanto's ethical stance, since he believes the inhumu spirits to be developing "souls" and to do something that would revert them back to beasts would be "killing" their human-like spirits.

And if humans offered themselves knowing that it would result in the inhumu losing their intelligence, they would not be acting in the spirit of not harming others, so the inhumu would not imbibe this spirit, so they wouldn't stop feeding on humans, so they wouldn't lose their intelligence, so the self-sacrificing humans wouldn't be harming them, so...

--Adam

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