

changelings

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 31 Aug 2000

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/991>

Exported from an unofficial mirror of a public mailing list. Copyright in each message remains with the person who wrote it. Email addresses are obscured as `user at host`, the form the original archive published. This file was rebuilt from parsed fields rather than retained headers, so it is faithful in content but not byte-exact.

Robert Borski — 31 Aug 2000, 01:36

alga:

Here's another plot-point perhaps for your changeling theory.

From p.42 of OBW: "Have I said how closely Sinew resembled me? Perhaps not? There was something devilish about it."

Given that the Gaonese call Green the Devil's Lantern and the Vironese had to borrow the name inhumu from another town, "because we didn't know they existed in Viron and had no name for them but 'devil,'" devilish seems a rather interesting choice here.

But I'm also still puzzled by chronology. Are you suggesting that Krait's mother, already gravid, makes the long swim through space to Blue, and then takes sup on little Sinew? Because again this makes little sense reproductively, especially if the inhumi are oviviparous and must return to Green to lay their brood nests. What would be the point of such a trip if she's already gravid? And since in nearly all oviviparous species, once an ovum has been fertilized, the time between fertilization and the actual egg-laying is very brief, it's hard to believe an inhuma would have the time to twice undergo the hazardous journey between planets (let alone the energy).

<And yes, there's plenty of evidence--I'm not going to look up page numbers just now--that they can make the trip at conjunction.>

If and when you have the chance, I'd love to have said pages pointed out to me. Because unless there's something Wolfe hasn't told us yet, I will always maintain such notions are strictly the stuff of either older, more lurid, science fiction or the latest issue of the National Inquirer. ("Vampires Invade Stratosphere--Fly Here from the Moon!")

Robert Borski

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