

DIALECTICAL JOURNAL EXAMPLE

The Water Mirror Ch. 1 Dialectical Journal

Quotations

p.2 "The promoters had advertised that the boats would be drawn by more mermaids at once than ever before."

p.4 "The second big difference [between humans and mermaids] was the one that humans feared most—was that hideous mouth that split a mermaid's face like a gaping wound."

p.5 "Junipa was blind. 'You feel sorry for the mermaids?' Merle asked. The blind girl nodded. 'I could hear their voices a while ago.'"

p.8 "The soldiers had not been able to protect the city from the Egyptian Empire—instead the Flowing Queen had done that..."

p.14 "The last carnival of Venice ... had taken place over four decades ago. That had been in 1854, three years after the Pharaoh Amenophis had been awakened to a new life in the stepped pyramid of Amun-Ka-Re."

p.14-15 "...the woman was wearing a mask ...It covered the lower half of her face and shone like porcelain."

p.20 "It was a hand mirror, about as large as her face."

Questions/Comments/Observations

Why are mermaids pulling boats?
It's strange that people would advertise an event with mermaids.

Why are humans afraid of the mermaids?
Do the mermaids have sharp, spiky teeth, too?
This contradicts my own image of a mermaid.

How did Junipa lose her sight? Is that why she was placed in the orphanage? I feel sorry for the mermaids, too. It's unfair that they should be captives and forced to pull boats and live in polluted water.

When is this story taking place?
Why were the soldiers in Venice unable to protect their city?
How did the Egyptians develop an empire that could take attack Venice?
The FQ must be quite powerful to protect a city from an attacking army.

Now I know when this is all happening—some time after 1894. And this Amenophis person in Egypt was awakened in 1851.
Why did the carnivals stop? Did Amenophis have something to do with this?

Why is Eft wearing this strange mask?
Is she ugly or hiding a scar?
Maybe Eft just likes wearing masks because it's a carnival tradition and she is sad that there have been no more carnivals.

Why did Merle's parents leave her at the orphanage with a mirror? It might be magical. Maybe Junipa will sense something about it that will help Merle.