

Chapter – III

Heroic Fantasy in “*THE DEEP*”

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THE DEEP is the first novel written by John Crowley. It is about an android visitor who arrives from elsewhere on a strange medieval world where the two factions, the "Reds" and the "Blacks", struggle for supremacy through battle, murder and treachery. When a war of succession plays out, the visitor becomes secretary, then recorder; and travels to the edge of the world. Finally he meets Leviathan, an immemorial creature who built the world to shelter his sleep from the heaven stones.

The novel is about the journey of the Visitor from the Sky to the Deep, and in his journey he comes across two societies, Reds and Blacks who fight with each other ceaselessly. These two societies live in dread of the Just-the stealthy murderers who prey only on the most high. The third society 'Greys' live in 'Inviolable'-the high mountain and who are knowledgeable and arbitrate the world's discords, and preserve the ancient, unfathomable teachings handed down from the commencement of time. Into this island, suddenly enters a Visitor from the sky. He is nameless, sexless, with some Purpose unknown even to himself. He makes the unthinkable journey outward – to the very margin of the Deep.

The novel begins with the discovery of the android Visitor, who is “neither male nor female,” by two Endwives, who care for the wounded in war. When the Endwives come to know that he is wounded, they bring him to their station to near the battlefield. That time they realise that his body is much different than a human being. The Endwives call him as a visitor. When the war is over, Endwives take him to their home. He lives there and learns much about human routines. Suddenly, one day the visitor starts to talk and he is speaking so fast. He explains them about his origin. The

barrel man takes him to the Defender Fauconred. Fauconred decides to meet protector with 'visitor.

The King's Citadel is situated in the centre of the city-Hub which is surrounded by water and the city appears as an island. One day the soldiers of Red Senlin enter to arrest Black Harrah but he run away and is killed by the waterman's daughter. At Goforth gate of city the Reds were already approached. Finally King little Black who is childless and has accepts Red Senlin as his heir. Perhaps the Queen is not ready to accept Red Senlin as a king because she loves Black Harrah and wanted to accept young Harrah as her heir. This is the main reason of battle between Reds and Blacks. As Black Harrah was killed the Queen Flee away and Reds enters the citadel.

Fauconred brings Visitor to Redhand at Reddown where he learns a lot from Caredd-wife of Redhand. At Reddown, they discuses on the names of seasons, the Just, guns of Just and the Grays. Here Visitor comes to know that, the Just are murderers while Grays have knowledge. Caredd tells to visitor that he might be possessed by a Possessor Blem, and he should know this thing from the Grays who live in 'Inviolable'- house in the mountain.

Learned Redhand-the Grey meets Mariadn the old Arbiter at 'Inviolable' and argues that the Grays should support the Red Senlin to be the king. Mariadn gives authority to Learned Redhand about this.

In a meeting at citadel Reds announces that Red Senlin will be King. King little Black is taken outside the city and imprisoned. Red Senlin and all the Reds come to know that Queen has gathered an army on the Drumskin. At the beginning of winter season, all the red army gathers at the Goforth gate. At this gate Redhand and his younger brother welcomes old Redhand. The old Redhand, Senlin and Redhand entered in the city with a proud.

When Fauconred and Visitor were going to 'Inviolable', Redhand comes and told that, King Red Senlin was killed by Queen. Hence they return back. The war still continues and Redhand got injured. Visitor brings him to Endwives for treatment.

The Queen's army killed some soldiers of red army and hence Red Senlin and Old Redhand come out to kill Queen's army. First the Red Senlin was killed while Old Redhand was captured and imprisoned for a day and then he was killed by bastard son of Farm the Black. By knowing this Redhand is frightens for two days.

All the Reds, as well as Endwives are amazed by the way and speed of learning different things so fast by Visitor.

Young Harrah surrenders at battle ground and meets to the King. He forgives him and arranges party for Young Harrah. Due to family clashes, Redhand separated from Reds family.

Waterman's daughter is Nod-the Just. She went to forest where she meets one person who looks like her named Adar. Further she met the Neither-Nor, the Just. Nod and Neither-Nor discusses about Redhand. The Arbiter Mariadn is dying so she told Learned Redhand to take her place.

Secretary promises Caredd about the care of Redhand.

In the party of Reds, King and Black Harrah insult the Redhand and demand the chain of his neck-the sign of master of city. Hence Redhand attacks on Black Harrah. Soon Redhand and Secretary run away from the party and Farin's bastard son following them.

Redhand, Fauconred and secretary with army goes to Forgetful with army.

Caredd and Sennred-King's brother are imprisoned by the king. Sennred gives moral support to Caredd. King kept Sennred away from Caredd in the city. At Forgetful Redhand accidentally meet his brother Younger. Younger shares his sorrow about

father's death, Redhand replies him that he has killed Young Harrah-his father's killer. Redhand demands his help for revenge.

Secretary come in search of his master Redhand at Forgetful but he see Nod there with her Gun-Suddenly. Quickly he captures Nod and makes her wounded with her Gun. He pointed her Gun towards her and made her ready to take him to the Leviathan. Thus his journey at The Deep is starts. When they were going in a boat through the river, they saw the Queen with her big army coming to Reddown.

Redhand and Queen make an alliance to fight with King Red Senlin's Son.

Sennred and King Little Black are imprisoned in the same jail from where they ran away. Secretary and Nod travelled in a boat driven by an old man through the river which flows through a deep forest. Finally they reaches at a lake where they came to know from bird snaring Grey men that, there is one person who lives in the last house of the world has spoken with Leviathan.

When Redhand suggests Learned to make little black the King Learned refuses, so Redhand imprisoned him. When Careed goes on the ride from the Citadel, she saw an army going outward and came to know that this army is of King Red Senlin's Son and they are going to punish Redhand and Queen.

The bird snaring Grey men left Nod and Secretary at the tower of last man at lake's outward shore. The last man told them to go on the tower hence Nod and Secretary Starts to climb the tower. On the top of the tower Secretary see large egg. In night, the wind talks with Secretary (Recorder) and told that he is Leviathan. He suggests him to go to his brother through vehicle which will take him to his brother. Further Leviathan told that he had made this world while his brother had brought the men in the form of seeds from elsewhere. He (brother) brings seeds, grains and grows a whole man. He had also brought seeds of animals and grown them on Leviathan's

world. Leviathan asks to Recorder about Nod. Recorder told that she has brings him up here because he doesn't know the way. When Recorder shouts he remembers all. He knows the whole plot he has been made for, the reason for his hideous strength, the blood-hero he is to have been and the long war that would never happen now. His screaming also opens the vehicle (the egg). The sound of wind (Leviathan) stops that is it runs away. It is a near dawn, Nod wake up. She hadn't heard anything.

Once again when wind blows, Recorder removes all his clothes and became naked so that Nod saw him and said that he is 'Neither Nor'. Finally Recorder left her on the top of tower and went away in the vehicle.

The King Red Senlin's Son has developed his city so well but he was afraid about the monument that Redhand will damage the monument; hence he thought to fight with Redhand.

Sennred calls Redhand alone to meet him at a secret place. When Redhand enters the secret place Sennred told Redhand that the King Black is dead so Redhand should quit the war. When Redhand was coming back he was shot with a gun Nod in the costume of a boy. Death of Redhand ends the war. In the cave of forest Neither-Nor told to Nod that she has killed Redhand properly. After death of King Red Senlin's Son Sennred makes his tomb near Harrah's monument and turns the old prison into a theatre.

As mentioned in the plot summary the novel is about the journey of the visitor. This journey begins at a battle ground after the skirmish between the Protectors and The Just. Two Endwives who takes care of wounded soldiers have found one wounded person who appears much different than normal persons near an egg shaped vehicle. Crowley has begins his novel with Fantasy. He begins the novel as,

“After the skirmish, two Endwives found him lying in the darkness next to the great silver egg. It took them only a moment to discover that he was neither male nor female; somewhat longer to decide whether he was alive or dead.....

They had thought to patch him up however they could in the usual way, but when they began working they found that he was missing more than sex. Parts of him seemed made of something other than flesh, and from the wound at the back of his head the blood that flowed seemed viscous, like oil. When the older of the two caught a bit of it on a glass, and held it close to the lamplight, she gasped: it was alive -- it flowed in tiny swirls ever, like oil in alcohol, but finer, blue within crimson. She showed her sister..... (*Otherwise-The Deep*, John Crowley 1975: 11)

The ‘Endwives’ are care takers-nurses, who take care of wounded soldiers in the war. On the battle ground the war has begun a week ago and since then the ‘Endwives’ are engaged in their work. Today they have found one, near the great silver egg whose head is seriously wounded. When they bring him to their station they found that, he is sexless, his body is made up of something other than flesh and his blood is viscous like oil with blue to crimson colour. Those characters of the visitor show fantasy.

About Visitor and about this novel Donn Seeley of University of Utah has said that,

THE DEEP is full of beautiful images and is a surprisingly satisfying book; what an impressive debut this

was... The title refers to the void which surrounds the world, from whose bottomless reaches rises the pillar of gleaming adamant that supports the circles of human existence, through whose limitless spaces the Sun must travel every night in order to return to its position in the East at dawn, and from which a mysterious traveller arrives on a day of battle. He is found injured; a sword has cut open his head and his memory has leaked out along with some of his curious blood. Thrust into the conflict between the Reds and the Blacks, two factions of the nobility who have perpetually struggled for supremacy, the Visitor must learn about the destiny of human beings before he can consider his own. (Donn Seeley, www.megalexoria.com)

Donn Seeley explains his views about The Deep. He has given the meaning of The Deep as a void (a large empty space) which surrounds the world and from where a pillar rises to support the world as well as human existence. Seeley also adds that the sun moves around the world through the spaces among the void and pillar. He has given brief story of this novel along with the fantasy written by John Crowley. According to him the entry of visitor to the world shows fantasy. The visitor is injured by the sword and his memory has leaked out due to opening of his head.

According to my opinion, it's true, because when injured Visitor was found by Endwives, he was sexless, his blood was oily and his flesh was different from human flesh. After treatment when Endwives brought him to their home they came to know that his memory is lost. He cannot memorize about himself or his origin, from where and why he is here?

Michael Andre Driussi a critical writer of various novels also supports above idea of 'The Deep'. His well known critical work on 'The Deep' entitled, "Off the deep end: A defence of the conclusion to John Crowley's first novel" is published in a book 'Snake's-Hands the fiction of John Crowley' edited by Alice K. Turner and Michael Andre Driussi. In this article he writes,

The Deep presents as literal a kind of world envisioned by ancient peoples, considered impossible by modern standards: the world is a disc, supported by pillar ("flat earth"); the sun and planets go around the world ("earth centered"); etc.('Snake's-Hands the fiction of John Crowley', Michael Andre Driussi, 25)

When the Endwives treated the Visitor, he was cured, but he remained calm and quite as like dumb and deaf. The End wives thought that he might be dumb. Suddenly one day he learned to speak and spoke fluently in a short time.

When the elder Endwives Ser entered the home, she saw that Visitor was talking with younger Endwives Norin. Crowley writes about the sudden speaking of the visitor in a manner of conversation between him and the Endwives Norin such as,

When she stepped through the door, she stopped there in the midst of a "Well . . ."

The Visitor was talking.....

"Your home," said Norin. "That star."

"You say a star," the Visitor said blankly. "I think, it can't have been a star. I don't know how, I know it, but, I do."

"But it circled the world. In the evening it rose from the Deep. And went overhead. In the morning it passed again into the Deep."

"Yes."

"For how long?"

"I don't know. I was made there."

"There were others there. Your parents."

"No. Only me. It was a place not much larger than the egg."

He sat expressionless.....

"I . . . don't know. Only, just today he learned to speak.

This morning when you left he began. He learned 'cup' and

'drink,' like a baby, and now see! In one day, he's speaking so!

He learned so fast . . ." (*Otherwise-The Deep*, John Crowley

1975: 13-14)

Thus the talking of Visitor is so sudden and fast. He tells about himself that he was made in star which arises in the evening from the Deep and pass in the Deep in morning. He also tells that he came here on the earth from that place through the big egg. Norin told to Ser that when she went out in the morning, Visitor started to speak few single words like 'Cup', 'Drink', etc. like a child. But soon in a day only up to evening he spoke so fluently that both the Endwives surprised.

Marion Deeds a short fiction writer criticizes above view saying that the Endwives have taught their language to Visitor. She writes her view as,

The Reds and the Blacks have fought over the crown for several generations. During the most recent skirmish, two Endwives, who come after the battles to bury the dead and minister to the wounded, finds a stranger. He is sexless, hairless, speechless, found next to a smooth man-high silver egg. He has

been shot. They nurse him back to health and teach him their language. (Marion Deeds, 2012: www.fantasyliterature.com *SFF Reviews*).

Marion Deeds in her complete article first focuses on the war between Reds and Blacks. Crowley has written on the battle between Reds and Blacks. She says that at first novel 'The Deep' seems like the novel 'The Wars of the Roses', but Crowley has said in interviews that he was inspired by the short reign of King Edward II. Further she tells about the Visitor that he is sexless, hairless speechless. She says that Endwives have taught language to visitor.

According to my opinion Crowley had written conversation between Endwives Ser and Norin about speaking of visitor that,

"I . . . don't know. Only, just today he learned to speak. This morning when you left he began. He learned 'cup' and 'drink,' like a baby, and now see! In one day, he's speaking so! He learned so fast . . ." (*Otherwise-The Deep*, John Crowley 1975: 14)

Thus speaking of the Visitor and his language shows fantasy.

When Endwives Ser, Norin and the Visitor were talking, suddenly the barrel man entered in their home. The barrel man took them to the Defender Fauconred. Fauconred is a soldier of Reds and is now with his army near the battle ground. He writes a letter to the Protector Redhand who is his leader. He writes about the fantastical characters of the Visitor. Visitor asks to Fauconred about the earth as he has lost his memory or he is from elsewhere. Fauconred explains him about the Deep from the book which he had.

Carefully Fauconred made out words:

"The world is founded on a pillar which is founded on the Deep."

Of the world, it is a great circle; its center is the lake island called the Hub and its margins are waste and desolate.

"Of the pillar, it is of adamant. Its width is nearly the width of the world, and no man knows its length for it is founded on the Deep. The pillar supports the world like the arm and hand of an infinite Servant holding a platter up."

He turned the page and with a finger held down its snapping corner. "The sky is the Deep above," he went on, "and as the Deep is heavy, so the sky is light. Each day the sun rises from the Deep, passes overhead, and falls again within the Deep; each night it passes under the Deep and hastens to the place where it arose. Between the world and the sun travel seven Wanderers, which likewise arise and descend into the Deep, but with an irregular motion . . ."

He closed the book. Up the rise came the red-jacketed man he had summoned. The rider pulled up, his horse snorted, and Fauconred took the bridle. (*Otherwise-The Deep*, John Crowley 1975: 19-20)

Crowley presented his fantastical idea about the foundation of world. He writes that the world is founded on a pillar which is situated on the Deep. The centre of the world is the lake island. According to Crowley the width and length of the pillar is uncountable. Similarly Crowley explains his ideas about the earth and sun. The sun

arises from Deep and also falls in the Deep. Further it passes under the Deep at night and once again arises from the Deep on next day.

Michael Andre Driussi in an article entitled "Off the deep end: A defence of the conclusion to John Crowley's first novel" says that, "Most of the characters in the novel are born to this world and show us their perspective, but a central character called 'The Visitor' an amnesiac from another world, is our twentieth century eyewitness: he knows that a world should not be flat. His study among the records dredges up truths that the Grays consider only myths, like the existence of Leviathan: but he also sees a non human web of theme in the world. In commenting upon the high degree of uniformity in the soft culture, the Visitor remarks:

"These images," the Visitor said, marking his place with a careful finger before looking up, "they're all of men or women. Why is that?"

"Well," Learned began, "the process of symbol-making"

"I mean, for the names of weeks, it would seem one at least would be, oh, a sheaf of wheat, a horse, a cloud . . ."

"The ancient mind . . ."

"Is it possible that these names were once truly the names of real men and women?"

"Well . . . what men and women?" The Gray idea of the past, formulated like their simple..... (*Otherwise-The Deep*, John Crowley 1975: 62).

According to my opinion, The Visitor has learned much faster than what is expected by the Fauconred, Redhand, Learned Redhand and others. Visitor's capacity

of learning new thing like-Caermon, Shen, Doth, Barnol, Athenol-the symbols used for the names of weeks is much greater than any ordinary human being. This reflects the idea of fantasy of John Crowley in 'The Deep'. Fauconred had first noticed his hearing, in the Throat-the entrance of the city Hub on island. The strength of lifting and carrying wounded Redhand had amazed the Endwives. Now Learned Redhand had observed him learn to read the modern and ancient languages in mere weeks -- and remember everything he learned in them.

*An image of Caermon: a man, crowned with leaves,
holding in one hand a bunch of twigs, and seated on a stone.*

*An image of Shen: a woman, weeping, seated in a cart
drawn by dogs, wearing a crown.*

*An image of Doth: a man carrying a lamp or pot of fire,
old and ragged, leaning on a staff.*

*An image of Barnol carries this motto: Spread sails to
catch the Light of Suns.*

An image of Athenol carries this motto: Leviathan.

(Otherwise-The Deep, John Crowley 1975: 61-63)

Crowley had used the concept of Fantasy about the Visitor's understanding of ancient languages by above mentioned examples. The Visitor reads this ancient language and understands it's meaning so fast that the Learned Redhand; the Gray failed to grasp what was marvellous in it. He found it much more compelling that the Visitor could cause a stone thrown into the air to float slowly to his own hand rather than fall on its natural course. As Visitor reads further very easily, Learned Redhand's head starts paining. Perhaps he really hadn't done it at all. This Visitor and the mystery of him grew quickly more exacerbating than intriguing, like an answerless riddle.

Fauconred and visitor with their horsemen are going to the Gray's 'inviolable' to request them, to accept Red Senlin as legal king. On the way Fauconred frightens of the hollowed who may be the Just. They are dangerous as they are invisible. His grandfather had told about this in his childhood. Crowley has mentioned this fantasy as,

He told himself, he told his men, that what made him afraid was ambush, the Guns of the Just.....

"My grandfather's half-brother was taking horses to the City once, on this same road, and saw a thing, about dawn, running along beside the road, in the trees, making no sound, a thing -- a thing as fearful as if you saw a great hooded cloak stand up and walk with no one in it, my grandfather's half-brother said . . ." The Hollowed, they said, were the bodies of the Possessors, abandoned by the Possessors themselves to their own malignant dead wanderings when the Strengths had driven the Possessors from the home places of men into the Deep. Here the bodies wandered, Hollowed, unable to rest, empty cups still holding the dregs of poison, drinking up what souls they could seize on to sustain them, insect, animal, man.....

(Otherwise-The Deep, John Crowley 1975: 50)

Crowley creates fantasy with the help of invisible things as he had mentioned above. The fear of such invisible things in the mind of Fauconred shows the child fantasy cited by Crowley in his novel 'The Deep'.

Alice K. Turner, Editor of 'Snake's-Hands the fiction of John Crowley', and writer of an article, 'Deep thoughts: John Crowley's 15th-century game of Kings', says that novel 'The Deep' by John Crowley is too cute. As it is the first novel by Crowley,

Turner says that he had thought of writing such a novel since his college days when he was in the hostel. Born in 1942, Crowley developed the characters since his hostel life and finally it was published after a long period of 33 years in 1975. Even though, 'The Deep' has artificial and overworked plot than his later novels it has its own charm, beginning with a good imagination and the skill of medieval conventions.

Further, Turner says that the novel is simply the 'Wars of the Roses' a story of the fight or war between two noble houses York and Lancaster of England for the throne of England. She compares all the characters and the theme of novel with the said fight. About 'The Deep' she had written that,

In this book, Crowley has turned the wars of the Roses, the intermittent 15th-century civil blood bath in which the noble houses of York and Lancaster struggled for thrown of England, in to a board game. That's not a figure of speech; he has literally turned it into a board game of his own invention, equitably laying out the rules and the players in first chapter so that, by page 12 or so, you have almost enough information to follow the play if you had the right board.

Turner compares Reds family with the York and Blacks with the Lancaster of 'The Wars of Roses'. Further she compares the Neither-nor of the Just with the Lord Chancellor of England. The two Justus Nod and Adar are compared to Irish Jack Cade populist rebellion of 1450. Not only characters but the place-Hub where the story of novel happens is compared with city London of England. Hub the city in novel is present in the lake while England has water on side and the countries Scotland, Burgundy, France and Ireland have fierce and illusive tribes that represents swamps, marshes, etc.

Along with all above similarities, Tuner compares the social and industrial development of 15th century with the novels plot. Use of Gun by Just is considered

hateful by other characters of the novel. But Turner remembers the development of matchlock trigger and handgun around 1425 which is the similarity reported. Use of pack of cards by Neither nor having 52 and 7 cards is related to 93 cards pack and 62 cards pack for playing at that time.

Crowley's main character of the novel is 'The Visitor', around which he had woven the fantasy in many aspects. In middle part of the novel namely 'Secretary' Visitor is with Reds family mainly Redhand. He tries to arbitrate the clashes among the Reds as well as between Reds and Blacks. When he comes in contact of Nod he tries to find his own identity. He forces Nod to come with him towards his creator. Crowley has written his journey through the river in the forest, then across the huge water body and finally on the flat top of the tower in a high descriptive manner. He has explained the beauty of forest, river and the water body.

When Visitor who is now called Recorder and Nod reached on top of the tower they saw a big egg like structure of human height. In the night the Recorder heard the sound coming from the wind. Here, Crowley represents high level of fantasy towards the end of novel. Crowley has written as,

"Yes," he said, and the wind snatched away his word.

The wind rose.

He went to the egg, touched the stars that seemed to cover its surface. The wind rose.

The wind rose, invaded him, filled him as though he were hollow, made him deaf then blind, then utterly insensate: calm in silence. The Blindness compressed itself into a voice, or the metaphor of a voice, speaking to senses he had not known he had; lovely, wise, murmur us with sleep.

You have come late, Recorder.

His being strove to speak, but he could find no voice.

Go, then, said his Blindness. Go to him, he awaits you.

Leviathan, he tried to say, Leviathan.

Blindness trembled, as though unsure, and withdrew in a
roar of silence.....

He pressed his naked cheek against the cold egg and
waited. Waited . . .

Blindness, angry, inchoate, whipped through him

Why are you not gone?.....

Who is he, then? Is he Leviathan?

*I am Leviathan; so men call me. He is. . . other than me. A
brother.*

Where is he? How am I to come to him?

*Where now? I cannot tell. Your Vehicle will find him. A
journey of a thousand years. More. Less. . . Only go. Open that
Vehicle. You have the key, not I.*

I have no key, said the Recorder to his Blindness.....

(Otherwise-The Deep, John Crowley 1975: 143)

John Crowley has created a beautiful fantasy at the end of novel. He had explained the end of journey of the Visitor on the top of a tower, where he meets the Leviathan. Actually a wind speaks with the Visitor now Recorder and tells that he is the Leviathan-the Creator of world, while Recorder has to go to his brother who has created all its creatures and the Recorder also. On the top of the tower presence of egg shaped vehicle and the screaming sound of Recorder as a key of that vehicle creates a peak of

the fantasy in 'The Deep'. About Just and Leviathan Donn Seeley of University of Utah had said that,

It's hard to say much about the plot without saying too much, since it is very complicated, but one interesting aspect is the existence of the Just, who are a secret society whose purpose is to destroy the nobility and bring about the rule of Leviathan, whose technique is assassination, whose weapon is the Gun, a tool which despite its crudeness seems beyond the technological level of the otherwise feudal society. The 'answer' to the riddle of the existence of world, when it comes, is really amazing. I liked THE DEEP a lot and I can recommend it as being of a quality far superior to the current boring run of medieval fantasies (Donn Seeley, www.megalexoria.com).

Donn Seeley focuses the creation of the world by Leviathan as well as the view of the Just to bring the rule of Leviathan on the earth.

This is also true because at the end of the novel, when Visitor and Leviathan discussed too much about the origin of earth, Leviathan tells to Visitor that he has created the world. Further, he tells that Visitor has special purpose so that he should meet Leviathan's brother. Hence, Leviathan sends Visitor elsewhere through the vehicle created by him, because he knows that Visitor has special powers so that he will dominate the earth. In absence of Visitor, Nod kills Redhand and The King Red Senlin's son so that Queen turned back from battle.

Further Crowley adds the idea of "seedships" which was arrived in the fantasy genre in 1970s. Crowley adds this idea of seedships to the whole fantasy of the novel as a crown of fantasy. About Seedships Leviathan tells that he had made this world while

his brother had brought the men in the form of seeds from elsewhere. He (brother) brings seeds, grains and grows a whole man. He had also brought seeds of animals and grown them on Leviathan's world. Leviathan also told that his brother had also made adjusters, war makers, peacemakers, idiots, card players and the just.

Michael Andre Driussi in his article entitled "Off the deep end: A defence of the conclusion to John Crowley's first novel" says that,

"Now I will focus on the motif of 'seedships' in science fiction: as near as I can tell, the idea of seedships arrived to genre in the 1970s. Before that time, there were two separate streams: the idea of 'Panspermia' and the idea of 'star faring human tailoring new humans to fit alien worlds.' Panspermia is nothing but the natural spores drifting through space and seeding planets- the idea first proposed by, Nobel laureate Svante Arrhenius in 1907. The idea of 'star faring.....' is first proposed in Seedling Stars by Blish in 1956." ('Snake's-Hands the fiction of John Crowley', Michael Andre Driussi, 25)

According to my opinion, Michael's above view of "seedships" is right. Leviathan has told to Recorder that he and all other creatures on the earth are brought from elsewhere in the form of seeds and they are grown here on the earth. The novel 'The Deep' is a science fictional "seedships": a computer driven vessel that crawls around at sub light speed until it finds a world to impregnate with colonel colonists.

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