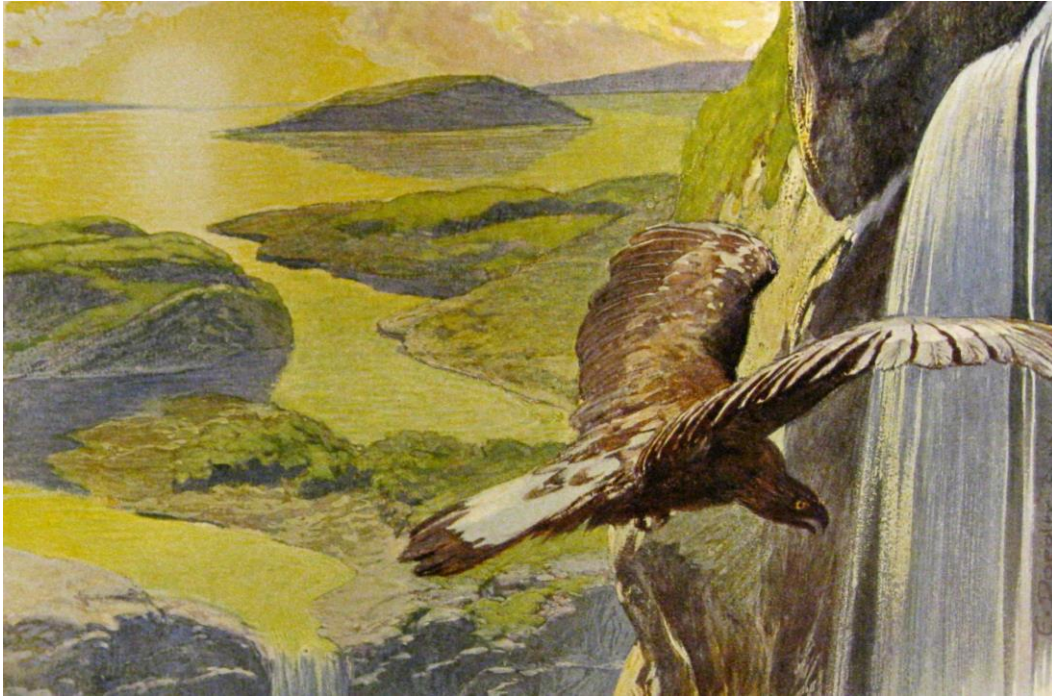


GIMLI THE UNUSUAL



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1. Recurring Appearances

In the Terro-Human Future History of H. Beam Piper, the planet Gimli seems rather unusual. Piper gives the impression that it's sort of 'average'—not a major civilized world like Terra, Odin, Isis, Ishtar, Osiris, Aton or Marduk. And yet, Gimli appears in quite a few of his tales—and not just in name.

In *Four-Day Planet*, Gimli is “the next planet out” from Fenris, suggesting that it's not too far away. A Federation destroyer is dispatched from Gimli to pick up Steve Ravick, and transport him from Fenris to Terra for trial over his enslavement of 20 to 30,000 Lokian natives, “most of whom were worked to death in the mines.” In addition to mass-murder, enslavement is a violation of the Federation Constitution.¹

In *Fuzzy Sapiens*, we learn that Gimli has its own native sapient race, and is “the nearest planet” to Zarathustra, where a highly unusual native sapient race (the Fuzzies) has just been discovered.²

In *Space Viking*, Gimli is merely one of Marduk's 14 trade planets, but it is where Princess Bentrík and her son Count Ravary escape to, before proceeding to Tanith, after Zaspár Makann ‘wins’ the Mardukan election. Gimli then becomes the planet where the allied fleet assembles prior to liberating Marduk from “the Leader” (dictator) Makann, plus his patron—and, though Makann doesn't realize it, replacement—Andray Dunnán.³ Liberating Marduk is a critical event, since the reinvigorated Mardukan monarchy later goes on to found the First Galactic Empire.⁴

And ten years before “Ministry of Disturbance”, Gimli is where the popular professor Van Evaratt was exiled to from Odin, and it is where he taught Klenn Faress. In turn, Faress went from Gimli to Odin, became an even more popular professor and made the first new major scientific discovery in 800 years. This paves the way for Vann Evaratt's triumphant return to Odin, where he is appointed Chancellor of the Imperial University in Asgard, while Faress becomes the head of a new “Imperial Office of Scientific Research”.⁵

With all these recurring appearances, was Piper giving subtle hints that Gimli is more important than it seems? Like dashes on a treasure map to follow, these clues about Gimli may lead to a destination of great significance, sometime in its future. So far, Gimli's characteristics seem pretty broad; including roles in force upholding justice, not to mention the Federation Constitution (FDP), connections with alien races (Lokians, Gimlians, Fuzzies), major military expeditions supporting civilization against barbarism (SV), and leaders in scientific research and education for the advancement of human knowledge. (MOD).

2. Post-Apocalyptic Paradise

Piper often related the name of his worlds to some planetary characteristic. Such as “Odin, with its two moons, Hugin and Munin”, named for the Allfather's two news-gathering ravens; “or Freya, where... the women were so breathtakingly beautiful”, paralleling the Norse goddess of beauty and love.⁶ Others include Agni, which “is a hot-star planet”, named for the Hindu god of fire; and Zarathustra, whose native Fuzzies don't appear to have an intelligible language, seemingly a play on Friedrich Nietzsche's novel *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*.⁷ Unlike most of Piper's Federation planets, however, Gimli is not named after a deity. It is the alternate form of Gimlé, the name of “The new heaven that will replace (or has replaced) Asgard after Ragnarok when there will be (or is) only a single God, the great God Almighty.”⁸

Gimlé is therefore a post-apocalyptic paradise, leading John Carr and William Taylor to deduce that Gimli is a planet of more-than-earthly beauty. “Since Piper often worked under the conception that—at least in the first six centuries of the Federation—that the founders used those gods that best described the discovered planet. Therefore, we can safely assume that Gimli was a beautiful world, more lovely than even Terra...In Norse mythology, Gimlé (alternately Gimli) was a place where the survivors of Ragnarök were to live. It is mentioned in the Prose Edda and Völuspá and described as the most beautiful place on Earth, more beautiful than the Sun.”⁹

I think they're right about Gimli being a very beautiful world, but there may be more to it than that. Because in Gimli's last appearance, “Ministry of Disturbance”, Asgard literally rules the heavens; being the capital city of Odin, itself the capital planet of the First Galactic Empire, which includes 1,365 inhabited worlds. In the story, Emperor Paul XXII and Prince Yorn Travann are seemingly successful in their attempt “to move the Empire out of its complacent rut”,¹⁰ but John Carr informs us that “despite Paul the Twenty-Second's Ministry of Disturbance, the Empire is destined to fall...because of the deterministic forces of history.” As two of Piper's self-reliant men, Emperor Paul and Prince Travann win the battle but will lose the war.¹¹

However, since Gimlé replaces Asgard as the new heaven after Ragnarok, in which Norse gods like Odin, Thor and Loki die, does the planet Gimli replace Asgard as the new paradise after the 'ragnarok' or Twilight of the First Galactic Empire? For in this massive and violent collapse, far greater than that which accompanied the fall of the Old Federation, the previously-untouched planet Odin, and many more of the Norse-named worlds, including Thor (home of the Galactic Emperor's household guard)¹² and Loki, are probably destroyed.

3. The New or 'Second' Heaven and its Resident Deities

Thus, humble Gimli, the next planet out from Fenris and one-time transporter of fugitive criminals, neighbor of the cute Fuzzies of Zarathustra, simple trade planet of Marduk and home of undescribed aliens and academic exiles, may later become the capital of the Second Galactic Empire. The center of "A New Heaven",¹³ or Universal State; the new planet which rules the heavens after the destruction of the old. If so, then Piper's model for Asgard as the capital of the First Galactic Empire, followed by Gimli as the capital of the Second Galactic Empire, would then be the Norse myths, in which Asgard can be considered the 'First Norse Heaven', and after Ragnarok, Gimlé becomes the 'Second Norse Heaven'.¹⁴

But that's not all. The Second Galactic Empire is undoubtedly larger than the First, and as we've seen, Gimli is probably an unusually beautiful planet. The result is a more beautiful planet ruling a greater empire, thereby eclipsing the once-mighty, and now-ruined, Asgard on Odin.

Assuming this line of reasoning is correct, then the Norse myths can help us discover some more 'inhabitants', or member planets, of the Second Galactic Empire. One of the most famous myths is the death of Baldur. Loki tricks the blind god Hoth (or Hodur) to shoot an arrow made of mistletoe at the supposedly invulnerable god of light. But mistletoe is Baldur's one weakness; he is killed, and his soul goes to Hel. His death is avenged by Vali, who kills Hoth. After Ragnarok, however, Baldur rises from Hel, and dwells in Gimlé with his brother Hoth, who is also resurrected, and with whom he is reconciled. On the green grass of Ithavoll, they find the golden discs, or dice, with which the Aesir once played.¹⁵

This myth suggests that during the new period of interstellar wars surrounding the First Galactic Empire's dissolution, the planet Hoth plays a role in the destruction of the planet Baldur. In fact, since the god Baldur dies before Ragnarok occurs, the destruction of Baldur should precede these 'Second Interstellar Wars', and may be the conflict which sets them off. But the planet Baldur is later 'resurrected' or rebuilt, becoming an important member of the 'second heaven' or Second Empire under Gimli.

In *Space Viking*, Hoth is an uncivilized planet that has been taken over by the piratical family of Evertard.¹⁶ Despite this—and despite its deduced later anti-Baldur role—Hoth may eventually become another important world under Gimli's rule, just as the god Hoth dwells in Gimlé, reconciled with Baldur.

Another planet which appears in *Space Viking* is Ithavoll, a former colony which seceded from Marduk three centuries ago.¹⁷ The Norse myths suggest that it, too, is a world which survives into the Second Empire. In fact, since Marduk was the Imperial capital before Odin, Marduk may suffer a fate similar to Odin's. Assuming Marduk is destroyed, or at least suffers serious damage in the Second Interstellar Wars, Ithavoll would then surpass its former colonial master, just as the United States surpassed its former colonial master, Great Britain. At least, by the way Piper described the declining Mardukan monarchy and its former colony Ithavoll, that was the historical model which came to my mind.¹⁸

Norse mythology can even provide details of the planet Odin's destruction. During Ragnarok, Odin is killed by the Fenris wolf, but he is avenged by his son Vidar (Vitharr), who kills Fenris, and then survives Ragnarok. This means that the lowly planet Fenris may actually play a role in the destruction of the capital planet Odin, while Vitharr (merely a trade planet of Tanith in *Space Viking*)¹⁹ is involved in the retaliatory destruction of Fenris, and later becomes another major world in the Second Empire.

4. The Second Heaven's Three Races

a) Of Humans, Gimlians and Fuzzies

In addition to being a more beautiful planet and ruling over a larger empire, an 'Imperial Gimli' would be superior to the planet Odin and its city of Asgard in another way—it would be the first Galactic capital with a native sapient race. Piper mentions the existence of Gimlian natives in *Fuzzy Sapiens*, as a

species that is given a reservation, only to be relocated to another one when uranium is discovered on their land.²⁰ He says nothing about their appearance, cultural level, or even their name. 'Gimilians' is merely my guess, using the Thorans and Lokians as a guide.

And there's more, for Gimli is the nearest neighbor of another planet with a native sapient race—Zarathustra. We've seen that Gimli is probably more beautiful than Asgard and Odin (the First Galactic capital) ever were, and coincidentally Zarathustra is "a better world than Terra [the Federation capital] ever was, even before the Atomic Wars".²¹ That makes three connections between Gimli and Zarathustra; adjacent locations, parallel alien races and superiority to current capitals. There's even a fourth. Zarathustra has a Terran Federation Space Navy base on its outer moon, Xerxes.²² And Gimli? "There's a Navy base there, and always at least a couple of destroyers available."²³ Unlike Xerxes, as well as the Moonbase of Marduk in *Space Viking*,²⁴ Gimli's navy base doesn't appear to be on a moon, but on the planetary surface. Nevertheless, having this installation can help explain why Prince Simon Bentrík orders the Royal Navy to rally all the loyalist Mardukan ships on Gimli—a reason omitted by Beam in the story.²⁵

Zarathustra's many parallels with Gimli suggest that it becomes another important world of the Second Galactic Empire (because it's so close to the new center, and has a military base to help defend it), and that the sapience of the Fuzzies is probably rediscovered (because the Gimilians were known to be sapient before the Fuzzies, plus the knowledge of their sapience was never lost). The proximity of Gimli to Zarathustra as central planets of the Second Empire would then parallel the proximity of Terra to Odin (which may orbit Alpha Centauri) as central planets of the Federation and First Empire.

However, if Gimli is the capital of the Second Empire, then the planet Zarathustra must be 'inferior' to it in some way. And the fact that the Fuzzies are not believed to be sapient during the First Galactic Empire suggests two things. First, that Zarathustra was hit hard during the Interstellar Wars, and the vast majority of scientific data concerning the Fuzzies was lost; and second, that because it was hit hard, Zarathustra is not an important planet during the First Empire. In turn, this suggests that Zarathustra is probably *not* hit hard during the Second Interstellar Wars following the First Galactic Empire's collapse—because not being a major civilized world, there's not much there to destroy. Thus, the planet's ecosphere has likely had more than enough time to recover from its nuclear bombardment in the First Interstellar Wars, and by the time of the Second Empire, the planet simply needs to be redeveloped.

And since Gimli is in close proximity, Zarathustra is probably an early acquisition on Gimli's road to Empire, meaning that Gimli itself may be the source of Zarathustra's industrial and societal renewal. Additionally, (human) Gimilians are probably the ones who rediscover the sapience of the Fuzzies, because they have experience with intelligent aliens.

b) The Three Races of Gimlé

The deduction that three races—Terro-Humans, Gimilians and Fuzzies—inhabit the center of Piper's Second Galactic Empire is supported by the Norse myths. After Ragnarok, Surtur sets fire to the world, and almost the entire human race—or what's left of it after the multiyear Fimbul-winter—is destroyed in the conflagration. The only survivors are a woman and man named Líf and Lífþrasir, who repopulate the regenerated earth.²⁶ This of course 'translates' into Piper's universe as the deaths of uncounted billions of people, who perish in great nuclear fires during the fall of the First Galactic Empire and the Second period of Interstellar Wars; eventually followed by a renewal of civilization by Gimli (and Ithavoll; see below), and a concurrent resurgence in the number of Terro-Humans.

After Ragnarok, however, the renewed earth is peopled by more than just human beings; two other races survive. "The dwarfs, ruled by Sindri, were said to occupy a hall in the Nida mountains, where they drank the sparkling mead, while the giants took their pleasure in the hall Brimer, situated in the region Okolnur (not cool), for the power of cold was entirely annihilated, and there was no more ice."²⁷

The surviving races of dwarfs and giants would therefore seem to parallel the Fuzzies and Gimilians, both of whom almost certainly survive into the human-established and -dominated Second Galactic Empire. The Fuzzies are indeed 'dwarfs'; being in their adult form only about two feet tall and weighing between 15 and 20 pounds.²⁸ Piper gave no physical details about the Gimlian natives, but I would now surmise that they are 'giants'; bipedal humanoids much larger than Terrans. Perhaps about 9 or 10 feet tall, which would be as much taller than humans as the Fuzzies are shorter.²⁹

Terry Glouftsis has suggested that Gimli is “a small Mars or Terra type planet”. This would support a taller race of aliens, since a smaller planet would have less gravity than the average Terra-type. That in turn could partly explain why a Federation Navy base is built on Gimli, as lower gravity would make it easier for Navy ships to operate from the planet, particularly if it lacks a moon to use for that purpose. Based on a proposal by David Johnson, Terry has also advanced the idea that Gimli is surrounded by “a majestic ring” of debris, which is called “The Golden Roof” by the Gimlian natives. This I believe is a perfect idea, as it not only agrees with Piper’s practice of giving his planetary names an ‘internal’ physical reason, but it makes Gimli an even more beautiful planet for the future Second Galactic Emperors, or Imperial Majesties, to call home.³⁰

c) Gimli’s Paradisical Climate

Being named for a post-apocalyptic paradise, the planet Gimli probably has a climate particularly pleasant for Terro-Humans. The reference to the giants of Okolnur suggests that Gimli is never cold. It could therefore be called a ‘summer planet’, with weather possibly like that of the sunny Mediterranean, or better, Hawaii and the Polynesian islands. The latter is supported by the Norse myths, where the climate of the new earth is described as “beautiful and green, in which self-sown crops grow.”³¹ And in subtropical or tropical climates like Polynesia—often compared to an Earthly paradise—plentiful food including coconuts, bananas and pineapples grows all the time.

But the Mediterranean and Polynesia are merely two regions of Terra. For Gimli to have a pleasant *planetary* climate, one would guess that its axial tilt is less than Terra’s 23.5 degrees; perhaps even close to zero. That would result in a more uniform climate, with less noticeable seasonal changes. Similarly, if Gimli’s orbit is less elliptical than Terra’s, or even close to being circular, the seasons would be further lessened, if not eliminated. Other factors to consider are the distance of Gimli to its sun, and what kind of star that is. For stars, of course, are the driving force of any habitable world’s weather.

In the Norse myths, the sun is destroyed during Ragnarok along with the gods. Having pursued his prey for many ages, the celestial wolf Sköll (repulsion) finally catches Sól and devours her.³² Thus, the ‘new heaven’ which arises afterward has a new luminary; the daughter of Sól, born before her mother was killed. This new sun is “at least as beautiful” as Sól, suggesting she is probably more beautiful.³³ That should make Gimli’s sun at least as good as Terro-Humanity’s ‘mother’ sun, Sol, and most likely better. Possibly this is related to the ‘better’ climate on Gimli, which might logically be credited to its superior sun. It could also mean the sun of Gimli is more stable; not prone to solar flares and other eruptions that can imperil a habitable planet’s ecosystem.

In addition, the Norse Gimlé is not just a heaven but a “glittering” hall, with “its golden roof outshining the sun”.³⁴ This could mean that Gimli’s primary is a golden color, and brighter than Sol. That might make it spectral class F, or possibly A. But if Gimli is a third planet like Terra, an F or A star would probably make it too hot. In that case, Gimli could be a fourth planet, like Mars. Mars is smaller than Terra, which would tie in the deduced smaller size of Gimli. In addition, Piper’s Mars is the planet where the so-called ‘Terro’-Human race actually came from, and almost certainly evolved on.³⁵ One would therefore expect that, as a species, humans are more adapted to a world slightly cooler and slightly smaller, on average, than Terra. Assuming Gimli’s sun is a bright golden color, then a fourth planet might be located in the ideal part of the Goldilocks Zone of habitability.

Gimli’s presumed golden sun and Imperial future would of course also reflect the post-apocalyptic paradise of Gimlé, which is in fact a new Golden Age.

The mention of Mars and ideal climates brings us to Zarathustra, the closest planet to Gimli, and which is “a better world than Terra ever was”, just as Gimli is presumably more beautiful. Like Mars, Zarathustra has two moons, and although it’s a third planet, its climate seems more temperate than Terra. Probably because its primary is cooler than Sol, being an orange K0 star.³⁶ This seems to make it a ‘milder’ sun, resulting in a planetary climate more suitable for Terro-Humans. In other words, like that of Mars, before its steady decline forced humans to emigrate. That Zarathustra is more temperate than Terra is also supported by the fact that Piper never mentions the presence of ‘hot’ regions, like deserts or rainforests.

One might theorize that since Gimli and Zarathustra are celestial neighbors, their stars may have formed around the same time, from the same nebula, and are therefore similar in composition. In that case, Gimli’s golden sun would make a certain amount of sense, gold being a shade midway between the

yellow of Sol and the orange of Zarathustra's sun.

Of course, there are other options. Gimli could be the third planet of a golden star, making it warmer than Zarathustra, just as Venus is warmer than Terra. But it wouldn't necessarily be as warm as Venus, because Gimli's golden star could actually be cooler than Sol. At any rate, the most likely reason for the planet's paradisaical climate is a combination of factors. My best guess is that Gimli probably has a very slight axial tilt, and travels in a highly circular orbit around a stable, golden star at just the right distance to create an extraordinarily beautiful planet with an optimally-pleasant climate. A world with one season; a 'summer planet', a globe of eternal verdancy.³⁷

5. Junior Partners?

Parenthetically, assuming that there are two outstanding planets with native sapient races at the center of the Second Galactic Empire—Gimli and Zarathustra—this could be the first step toward a far future in which Piper's various aliens, who are always greatly inferior to Terro-Humans, are elevated to junior partners. This status is hinted at by King Kankad, in *Uller Uprising*. "Before you came, my people were like children, shooting arrows at little animals on the beach, and climbing among the rocks at dare-me-and-I-do, and playing war with toy weapons. But we are growing up, and it will not be long before we will stand beside you, as the grown son stands beside his parent, and when that day comes, you will not be ashamed of us."³⁸ Little Fuzzy says something similar. "And with the Big Ones taking care of them, maybe more of their babies would live and not die so soon. And they would pay the Big Ones back. First they would give their love and make them happy. Later, when they learned how, they would give their help, too."³⁹

Though the foresights of King Kankad and Little Fuzzy are not fulfilled in the centuries covered by Beam's Federation and First Empire tales, they could come true in a later age. After all, the Ullerans are only six to twelve centuries behind the Terrans in their level of development, though the "Fairly early Paleolithic" Fuzzies are quite a bit further back.⁴⁰ So this rise in status might begin during the Second Galactic Empire. And Jack Holloway mentions an interesting detail about native reservations during the Federation period. "We give the natives a reservation; we tell them it'll be theirs forever, Terran's word of honor. Then we find something valuable on it...So the natives get shoved off onto another reservation, where there isn't anything anybody wants, *and finally they just get shoved off, period.*"⁴¹

That seems to mean the reservations are abolished altogether, and Terrans directly control the whole planet. Despite this betrayal, it may actually have a beneficial side-effect, because the alien natives would be forced to live among the humans. And closer contact could hasten the aliens' advancement to a higher level of civilization. This is suggested in "Oomphel in the Sky", where Miles Gilbert's aircar pilot, Heshto, is an alien who "had been educated in one of the Native Welfare Commission schools, and post-graded with Kwannon Planetwide News. He was a mathematician as far as long division and decimal fractions ...He was an intellectual, he was."⁴²

Assuming the 'elevation' process continues, then by the time of the Fifth Galactic Empire, 30,000 years in the future, we may see a completely egalitarian Universal State, with humans and aliens living together as sapient brethren. Admittedly, there is no hint of this in "The Keeper", where the appearance of "the Prince Salsavadran and the Lord Dranigrastan"⁴³ suggest that Terro-Humans still rule the Galaxy, apparently unassisted.

6. Ruled by the One Almighty God

a) "Yah the Almighty"

But now, back to the Second Galactic Empire. As stated previously, Gimlé is "The new heaven" that replaces Asgard after Ragnarok, and is ruled by "a single God, the great God Almighty." Some scholars believe that this refers to the One God of Christianity, the new religion which was making inroads into Scandinavia at the time the Norse myths were written down.⁴⁴

Since the One Almighty God rules in Gimlé, however, this suggests that a similar deity rules in the Second Empire of Gimli. And interestingly enough, Piper provided one; "Yah the Almighty", the One God of the Gilgameshers.⁴⁵

Yah is the god of a new religion—apparently the first new religion to be created since humanity invented hyperdrive and became an interstellar species—which developed on the planet Gilgamesh after the fall of the Terran Federation. “Their...religion [was] an absurd potpourri of most of the major monotheisms of the Federation period, plus doctrinal and ritualistic innovations of their own.”⁴⁶ One of these monotheisms is undoubtedly Judaism. Not only is Yah one-half of ‘Yahweh’, but the symbol of the Gilgameshers’ religion is “a blue triangle in a white circle”; one-half of a Star of David.⁴⁷

Like the Jews, the Gilgameshers are not a proselytizing people. However, “Their ships went everywhere to trade, and wherever they traded a few of them usually settled”.⁴⁸ The Gilgameshers therefore spread throughout all of Terro-Human space after the fall of the Federation, somewhat paralleling the spread of Jews throughout the classical Mediterranean.⁴⁹

The Gilgameshers’ staunch faith in Yah parallels the unquenchable faith of the Jews. However, since “Yah” is really Merlin the Cosmic Computer—an almighty, or at least all-knowing, “robot god”⁵⁰—the Gilgameshers are actually following the Merlin Plan, working behind the scenes to help Marduk (and Tanith) set up the First Galactic Empire. After this is accomplished, one would expect the Gilgameshers to be rewarded for their aid, playing an important supporting role in the First Empire. And yet, this does not seem to happen, as the Gilgameshers do not appear in either of Piper’s tales set in the Imperial era; “A Slave is a Slave” and “Ministry of Disturbance”.

b) Gilgameshers in the First Galactic Empire

Or do they? Because in “Slave”, there is mention of a “pogrom” on Anath, which is stopped by Commodore Hastings.⁵¹ Pogrom is a Yiddish word, derived from Russian; it means “an organized massacre of helpless people; *specif.*: such a massacre of Jews”.⁵² Thus, the pogrom on Anath is most likely against Piper’s Jews, the Gilgameshers. The citizens of Anath want to kill and/or evict them, echoing the general sentiment of people during the First Interregnum. Expressed by Lucas Trask as “Well, that was one thing you had to give him credit for. He wanted to run out the Gilgameshers. Everybody was in favor of that.”⁵³ I would therefore conclude that, during the First Galactic Empire, the Gilgameshers remain a disliked and outcast people.

But that actually supports the “One God” angle of Gimlé, which implies that Yah the Almighty rules the *Second* Empire. Taken literally, this should mean that the planet Gilgamesh plays a substantially elevated role, perhaps even eclipsing Gimli. However, a Galactic Empire openly ruled by a (supposedly) fictitious god and his “bigoted” followers⁵⁴ runs counter to Piper’s rational future, in which “religion is played down or is the butt of satire”.⁵⁵ So assuming Yah/Merlin rules the Second Empire of Gimli, it does so from behind the scenes. *But in an important change from the First Empire, some Gilgameshers openly serve in key Imperial administrative and scholarly positions.* Perhaps by that time they have toned down their standoffish bigotry, which would help make them more tolerable to other Terro-Humans.⁵⁶

The result is a *partial* reward for their services in the advancement of Terro-Human civilization. But just like the First Empire, it is highly probable that the Second Galactic Empire is officially ruled by ‘rational’ (i.e., non-religious) monarchs.

c) Gimli and Gilgamesh

The deduction that Gilgamesh rules the Second Empire from (mainly) behind the scenes reveals another connection with the planet Gimli, which seems to play a parallel ‘behind the scenes’ role, during both the Terran Federation and the First Galactic Empire. Federation and Empire; Gimli and Gilgamesh.

Parenthetically, it is interesting that all the letters for Gimlé are actually contained within Gilgamesh, and almost in the proper order. Gilgamesh can be written as GILgaMEsh, with the capitalized letters spelling GIL—ME. This becomes GIMLE by simply transposing the L and M. Thus, Gimlé or Gimli is ‘behind the scenes’ in another way, as all its letters are *hiding inside* Gilgamesh.⁵⁷

And this close correspondence may have been Piper’s way of hinting that the Second Galactic Empire actually has *two* capital planets; one overt, the other covert. (See **Two Capitals?**, below.)

7. The Second Galactic Empire of Gimli

Assuming the deductions in the above sections are correct, let’s now compare some of the major planets of the First and Second Galactic Empires.

First Empire. Odin (capital), Baldur, Marduk, Osiris, Isis, Aton, Ishtar.

Second Empire. Gimli (capital), Zarathustra, Ithavoll, Baldur (again), Hoth, Vitharr, Gilgamesh.

Of course, this is not a full list, as we have not considered the other mythologies in our extrapolations. In the Egyptian myths for example, Osiris is killed and dismembered by his brother Set, who scatters the pieces. Isis, the wife of Osiris, reassembles the pieces and magically reanimates them, restoring Osiris to life, after which he becomes a god of the dead.⁵⁸ The implication is that the planet Osiris, fully civilized from its founding through the First Empire, is destroyed, but is later rebuilt with the aid of the planet Isis—though in the process becoming a ‘shadow’ of its former self.

The cult of Isis, however, was very popular, being “widespread throughout Greece and Rome” for many centuries.⁵⁹ This may indicate that the planet Isis survives unscathed into the Second Empire. The same could hold true for the planet Ishtar, named for the Babylonian version of Isis.

But the planet Aton is apparently not so fortunate, though it may have a moment of glory. Because under the ‘heretical’ pharaoh Akhnaton, Aton became the supreme and indeed only god of Egypt; replacing Ra, Amon and all the other important cults. Egypt was therefore essentially monotheistic under Akhnaton; but after his death, the cult of Aton died out, the newly-constructed capital of Akhetaton was abandoned, the heretical pharaoh was erased from the king lists, and his monuments were defaced. Akhnaton was almost completely lost to history; it wasn’t until the Nineteenth Century, almost 3300 years later, that the glory of his era was rediscovered by archaeologists.⁶⁰

‘Translating’ this into the Future History would seem to mean that after the breakup of the First Empire, the planet Aton undergoes a major revolution, and for a short time becomes an important interstellar power. Parenthetically, this would parallel Poictesme, which was briefly successful after the breakup of the Terran Federation. The fact that Poictesme attempted to create a new Federation⁶¹ may mean that Aton attempts to create a new Empire. But eventually there is a counter-revolution, probably aided by foreign invasion, and during the fighting Aton’s revolutionary regime—and perhaps the planet itself—is completely destroyed.⁶²

The conflict on Aton could involve a combination of nuclear weapons and “subneutron bombs or Omega-ray bombs, that killed the people without damaging the real estate.”⁶³ For the Egyptian model suggests that the quasi-Imperial capital of Nefertiti is abandoned, possibly because there aren’t enough living Atonians to keep things running. And this would parallel how Tanith decivilized, after it left the Terran Federation.⁶⁴ Thus, Aton is a major civilized world during the Federation and First Empire, but then ‘dies out’. In fact, Aton may be so completely destroyed and/or depopulated that several thousand years pass before archaeologists rediscover its short-lived ‘glorious’ period. If so, this rediscovery would probably occur during the Third Galactic Empire.

8. Two Capitals?

a) *The Two Asgards*

Piper being Piper, he appears to have intentionally muddied the waters, because he included more than one Asgard in his universe. There’s the city on Odin, capital of the First Galactic Empire, but there’s also a planet with that name, in “Graveyard of Dreams”.⁶⁵ The ‘two Asgards’ seems to be based on the fact that, in the Norse myths, Asgard is both the walled fortress of the gods, and one of the Nine Worlds. In science-fiction terms, that becomes a city and a planet. In fact, it should become a city named Asgard on a planet named Asgard. But that seems an inelegant situation, which may be one reason Beam separated the city from the world.⁶⁶

The planet Asgard appears as only a name, presumably meaning that, like Gimli, it is of no great significance, at least during Federation times. However, being named for the Norse heaven suggests that the planet Asgard is of heavenly beauty. This reveals a subtle connection with the planet Gimli, though the latter’s definition as a ‘post-apocalyptic paradise’ probably makes it more beautiful.

However, another reason for his ‘two Asgards’ could be that they’re a ‘second’ hint that the Second Galactic Empire has two capital planets. As we’ve seen, after Ragnarok the ‘First Norse Heaven’ of

Asgard is succeeded by the 'Second Norse Heaven' of Gimlé. In Piper, this means that *two* Asgard of the First Galactic Empire (both destroyed in the 'ragnarok' of its fall) should be succeeded by *two* 'heavenly' planets in the Second Galactic Empire. One Asgard, the Imperial city on Odin, is presumably succeeded by the planet Gimli, whose capital becomes the second Imperial city. The other Asgard, a barely-mentioned planet, might therefore be succeeded by—another barely-mentioned planet. For we recall that the 'Second Norse Heaven' of Gimlé includes the surviving heavenly region of Ithavoll.

b) Gimli and Ithavoll

It seems significant that Piper gave *both* Gimli and Ithavoll strong connections to Marduk, the planet which founds the First Galactic Empire. Marduk's former colony of Ithavoll is now "one of Marduk's best friends", while its trade-planet Gimli is another great friend, being a major source of uranium⁶⁷ as well as the rallying point for the loyalist Mardukan forces, which go on to liberate their home planet in *Space Viking*. These parallel connections would then mean that both Gimli and Ithavoll parallel Marduk's former role in founding a new Universal State.

That could be taken to mean that Gimli and Ithavoll become dual capital planets of the Second Galactic Empire. And two capitals would certainly make the Second Empire different from the First, not to mention the Terran Federation! However, as we showed in **Ruled by the One Almighty God**, the Second Empire should be ruled by Merlin the Cosmic Computer; alias "Yah the Almighty", the One God of the Gilgameshers. And since Yah/Merlin is located on Gilgamesh, the two capital planets of the Second Empire would really be Gimli and Gilgamesh. However, as it is probable that Yah/Merlin runs things from behind the scenes, Gimli would be the official or 'overt' capital, with Gilgamesh being an unofficial or 'covert' one.⁶⁸

However, this does not mean that Ithavoll is not a capital planet of some kind. The implication that both Gimli and Ithavoll play Marduk's role in founding a new Universal State could mean that the Second Empire has *two* nuclei instead of one. This might make sense, due to the great numerical increase of inhabited planets. In the mid-Seventh Century AE, the Terran Federation included 500 planets,⁶⁹ and presumably around 700 by the time it stopped expanding in the mid-Ninth Century. After the Federation's fall, it only required one nucleus, Marduk, to reunite these worlds. But since the First Galactic Empire contains 1,365 inhabited planets,⁷⁰ or about twice as many as the Federation, the Second Galactic Empire might logically require two nucleus planets to reunite them all.⁷¹

Marduk was the nucleus of the First Empire but not the final capital, which could therefore mean that Ithavoll, though not the final capital, serves as the initial and/or *main* nucleus of the Second Galactic Empire. We've seen that Ithavoll survives the fall of the First Empire, and probably surpasses its former colonial master, Marduk, as a major civilized world. Indeed, assuming that its model is the United States, it should greatly surpass it. In the Future History, the US creates the Terran Federation, which after the Third World War encompasses the whole Earth, plus Luna. Piper's 'American' Federation is therefore much greater than the British Empire it superceded, which at the height of its power only ruled about a quarter of the globe. In a similar manner, the Empire-building done by Marduk prior to the First Empire could later be greatly surpassed by that of Ithavoll, prior to the Second.

The American model also suggests that Ithavoll is located a great distance both from Marduk and from the other Norse-named worlds.⁷² Thus, Ithavoll does not become the capital of the Second Empire for the same reason Marduk wasn't the capital of the First—too far from the center to rule it effectively.

This scenario is supported by the Norse myths. For although Ithavoll is a beautiful green plain full of long grass, on which the surviving gods stroll and once again play, Gimlé is "the highest heavenly abode", which we recall has a "golden roof outshining the sun". And in the new golden age following Ragnarok, Gimlé becomes "the place of refuge for all the virtuous", where "through all ages [they] Taste of deep gladness."⁷³ These descriptions would seem to make the planet Gimli 'superior' to Ithavoll, supported by Gimli's more numerous mentions in Beam's books, plus its interesting roles where it does appear.

Assuming this line of reasoning is correct, the Second Galactic Empire is actually *cofounded* by two interstellar states; a 'Gimlian Empire' and an 'Ithavollan Empire', with the latter being more powerful, but the former more centrally located. Both empires, however, are aided by the Gilgameshers, who in a new or 'extended' Merlin Plan are working to establish another, greater Galactic Empire.⁷⁴

9. Gimli as the Capital Planet

a) *Gimli's Relative Location*

Gimli's relative location supports its role as an Imperial capital, because Piper deliberately placed it between, and connected it to, two Imperial capitals. Being "the next planet out" from Fenris, Gimli is presumably not far beyond "the Terra-Odin milk run" mentioned in *Four-Day Planet*, which includes stops at Fenris.⁷⁵ And as we've seen, Gimli is one of Marduk's trade planets in *Space Viking*, and is connected to Odin in "Ministry of Disturbance".

These references seem to locate Gimli somewhere between Odin and Marduk, though closer to the former. Marduk of course is the nucleus of the First Galactic Empire, while Odin is "proclaimed ...the Imperial planet and Asgard the capital city" when Stevan IV (presumably King or Emperor of Marduk) officially establishes the Galactic Empire.⁷⁶ The reason for the relocation is provided by John Carr. "But why did Stevan IV move the capital from Marduk to Odin, when both are major worlds? The most likely answer is that Odin is much closer to Terra and the other major civilized worlds. We know Marduk is close to the frontier of the Old Federation; it is only five hundred light-years from Tanith, which is one of the last planets to be colonized by the Federation."⁷⁷

As Terro-Humanity expands farther and farther into the Galaxy, the center of its sphere of worlds undoubtedly moves farther and farther away from Terra. Thus, Gimli as the capital of the Second Empire seems a logical outbound extension from Terra, the original center and capital of the Old Federation, and Odin, capital of the First Empire, which orbits some star 'close' to Sol, perhaps Alpha Centauri.

b) *Of Brannerton, Malverton and Rivington*

A final piece of evidence in support of Gimli as the second Imperial capital. The only city on the planet named by Piper is Brannerton, home of the University of Brannerton where Professors Vann Evaratt and Klenn Faress hail from.⁷⁸ Although the city is referred to disparagingly by Chancellor Khane, the name Brannerton seems very similar to Malverton, the capital of the planet Marduk, as well as Rivington, the capital of Tanith.⁷⁹ In *Space Viking*, Gimli and Brannerton help Tanith and Rivington save civilization on Marduk, by being the assembly point for an allied-royalist fleet which goes on to defeat the fascist Dunnan-Makann government. Afterward, Rivington probably becomes the initial capital of the League of Civilized Worlds, of which Marduk is a founding member.⁸⁰ But Marduk apparently comes to dominate the League, which evolves into the Mardukan Empire; and this change would naturally involve moving the capital from Rivington to Malverton. Finally, the League/Mardukan Empire grows into the First Galactic Empire, after which the capital is transferred to Asgard on Odin.⁸¹

Assuming Brannerton is the capital of Gimli, then Piper's choice of name was probably a subtle hint that it, like Rivington and Malverton, becomes the capital of an interstellar state. After the fall of the First Galactic Empire, Brannerton might initially be the headquarters of an 'Interstellar League', which grows into a 'Gimlian Empire' and finally the Second Galactic Empire. Brannerton and Gimli are therefore connected to, and logical extensions of, the earlier capitals. In chronological order, Rivington (League), Malverton (Mardukan Empire), Asgard (First Galactic Empire, 'First Norse Heaven'), Brannerton (Second Galactic Empire, on Gimlé/Gimli the 'Second Norse Heaven').

10. Piper's Web

In order to make the many connections between Gimli and other planets more understandable, I have prepared a map. Well, not exactly a map, as the precise locations of planets relative to each other was seldom given by Piper, and the distances between are obviously not to scale. But I have stayed true to the descriptions he did provide.

Thus, Gimli is depicted as the next planet out from Fenris in relation to Terra; the Terra-Odin milk run, which includes stops at Fenris, is represented by having Terra and Odin close to each other and to Fenris; Gimli is correctly located as the nearest planet to Zarathustra; and Baldur is shown as less than halfway between Terra and Marduk, as implied by the "Terra-Baldur-Marduk Spacelines" of the Fuzzy novels, whose route includes Zarathustra (and possibly Gimli, since it's so close).⁸² The other seven planets are located for convenience, since the intent of this chart is to show the 'web' of connections Piper gave to Gimli in his stories, plus the ones deduced in this paper. (Figure 1.)

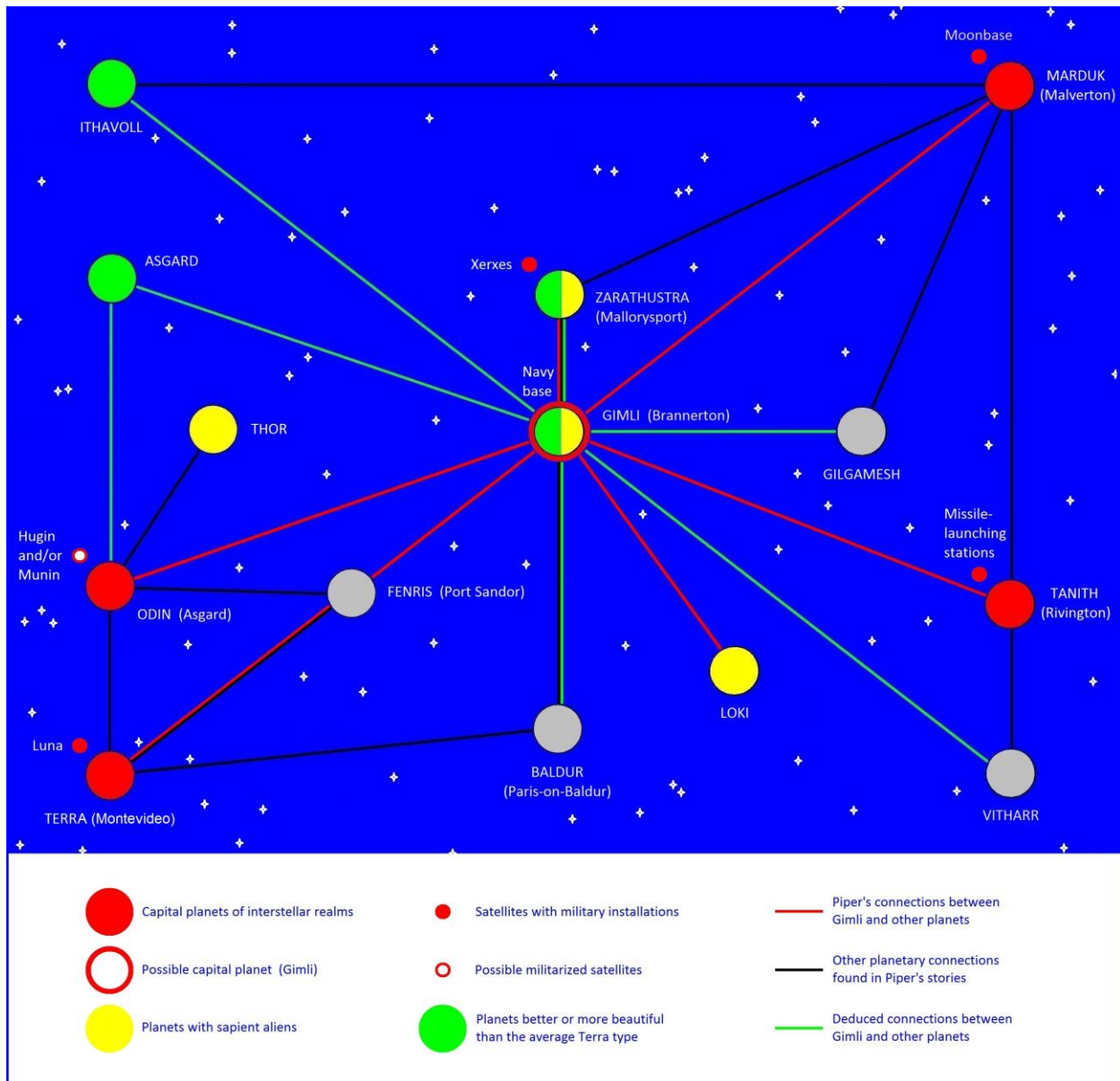


Figure 1. Gimli's web of connections in Piper's Future History.

The capital planets are located along the margins in red; Terra (Terran Federation), Tanith (League of Civilized Worlds), Marduk (Mardukan Empire) and Odin (First Galactic Empire). Gimli, in the center, is circled in red to show its possible status as the capital of the Second Galactic Empire. Notice that all four of the capital planets have moons; in three cases (Terra, Tanith and Marduk) these are known to have military installations. Terra's Lunar fortress is under construction in "The Edge of the Knife", and probably becomes the Federation's first off-world Navy base, while Marduk's Moonbase and the missile launching stations on the Moon of Tanith are described in *Space Viking*.⁸³

The fourth capital planet may have one as well, for it would seem logical that Odin possesses a lunar base on one of its two moons, Hugin or Munin. If not built during Federation times, Odin would certainly need at least one space defense installation after the Federation collapses and the Interstellar Wars begin. And such a base would undoubtedly last at least until the Galactic Empire is established.⁸⁴ But since this is not confirmed by Beam, the deduced base is represented by an open red circle.

However, assuming that all four capital planets have lunar fortresses, this would give Gimli another 'unusual' characteristic. For as we've seen, Gimli is known to have a Navy base (*Four-Day Planet*), which is probably located on the planetary surface, as it apparently does not possess a moon.⁸⁵

Piper's stated connections between Gimli and other planets are represented by **red lines**. These include Fenris, Terra and, because of the enslavement issue, Loki (*Four-Day Planet*); Zarathustra (*Fuzzy Sapiens*); Marduk and Tanith (*Space Viking*); and Odin ("Ministry of Disturbance"). In the section **Two Capitals?**, we saw that Beam located Gimli between two Imperial capital planets, Odin and Marduk. However, if we include the non-Imperial capitals, Terra and Tanith, we discover that he actually located it between *four*.

Other connections found in Piper but not necessarily related to Gimli are depicted with **black lines**. These include the Terra-Odin (and Fenris) milk run (FDP); the Terra-Baldur-Marduk Spacelines route (LF), which I have depicted as bypassing the unimportant Fenris, and then stopping at Gimli before proceeding to Zarathustra and Marduk. Also included are Vitharr as a trade planet of Tanith, Tanith and Gilgamesh's support of the Mardukan monarchy, plus the latter's former status as colonial ruler of Ithavoll (SV); and Thor as the source of the First Galactic Emperors' personal guard (MOD).

Planets with a native sapient race (other than Terro-Humanity) are colored in **yellow**; Loki, Thor, Gimli and Zarathustra. The latter two are half **green**, because they are also planets which are stated or inferred to be "better" (Zarathustra) or more beautiful (Gimli) than the average Terra-type. Zarathustra and Gimli are joined in this 'superior planet' category by Asgard and Ithavoll, named for heavenly regions of Norse mythology.

And finally, the connections between Gimli and other worlds as deduced in this paper are shown by **green lines**. These include the just-named 'superior' planets of Asgard, Ithavoll and Zarathustra; Baldur and Vitharr (as fellow major planets in the Second Galactic Empire); and Gilgamesh (Yah the Almighty, possibly the 'One Almighty God' of the Second Empire/Second Heaven of Gimlé). The one extension to this category is the deduced connection between the 'two Asgards'; Asgard on Odin and the planet Asgard, both named for the Norse heaven (city and world) which precedes Gimlé in the Norse myths.⁸⁶

Another interesting detail in Piper. As we've seen, Gimli is the next planet out from Fenris. But the next planet out from Gimli is Zarathustra, a non-Norse name. That places Gimli at the 'edge' of what can be called the Norse Zone of Federation settlement, presumably a spherical region at the core of the Terran Federation, not to mention the First Empire. The Norse Zone is represented on the map by populating the entire lower left diagonal half with Norse planets (Terra being the exception). Odin is roughly at the center of this zone (Terra is the actual center), while its outer edge runs from Ithavoll through Gimli to Vitharr. This of course would only represent a quarter of the whole Norse Zone, whose edge should circle around Terra and Odin, clockwise from Vitharr back to Ithavoll.

Assuming Gimli is the capital of the Second Galactic Empire, the capital of the Third will therefore almost certainly be a non-Norse planet. And since Gimli is at the 'edge' of its zone, this next capital could be at the edge of the whole Federation zone. Possible candidates would then include planets like Tanith, Aditya and Poictesme, the last of which Piper interestingly placed in a 'Tri' system. But that takes us beyond the scope of this paper.

11. Conclusion

In the Terro-Human Future History, Gimli is an unusual planet. Though not among the major civilized worlds during the Terran Federation, First Interregnum and First Galactic Empire, Gimli not only appears in several of the stories set in those times (*Four-Day Planet*, *Fuzzy Sapiens*, *Space Viking* and "Ministry of Disturbance"), it plays an interesting variety of 'supporting' roles. These recurring appearances may have been a subtle hint that Gimli is a more important planet than it seems, and that Piper intended it to play a much greater role in a later period of the Future History. We've also seen that Gimli is unusual in other ways. Its name suggests that it is a 'summer planet', with a climate optimally suited to Terro-Humans; and that its Space Navy base is not located on a moon, unlike the military installations of Zarathustra, Marduk, Tanith, Terra and (probably) Odin.

From the evidence presented above, I would conclude that the city of Asgard on Odin, and the planets Odin, Asgard, Thor, Loki, Baldur and Osiris are destroyed during the Second Interstellar Wars following

the First Galactic Empire's breakup. The planet Aton attempts to create a new Empire, and is briefly successful; but it is soon defeated by a coalition of worlds which include Isis and Gilgamesh, and is destroyed. Some centuries later, Gimli and Ithavoll become the dual nuclei of a new Universal State. Ithavoll's rise may precede Gimli's, and it is the stronger world, but Ithavoll is located some distance from the new astrographic center of human worlds, so Gimli becomes the capital of the Second Galactic Empire. However, since the 'One Almighty God' Yah/Merlin rules Gimli from behind the scenes, the Second Empire actually has a 'second' capital, Gilgamesh. Gilgamesh and Zarathustra, as well as formerly-lowly Hoth and Vitharr, become major civilized worlds of the Second Empire, as does a rebuilt Baldur. Osiris is also rebuilt, but falls to the rank of secondary planets. And the sapience of the Fuzzies is rediscovered, probably by scientists from Gimli.

The verdict in favor of Gimli as the new Imperial capital is based on three key pieces of evidence. First is the Norse myths, in which the 'First Norse Heaven', Asgard, is destroyed during Ragnarok, and is then succeeded by a 'Second Norse Heaven', Gimlé. This seems to be the model for Asgard as the capital of the First Galactic Empire (or 'First Empire of the Heavens'), followed after its 'ragnarok', or destruction, by Gimli as the capital of the Second Galactic Empire (or 'Second Empire of the Heavens'). Piper's decision to have his First Galactic Empire ruled from the city of Asgard would then have been deliberate, and a hint pointing to the capital of his next Universal State.

Second, as revealed in Figure 1, the majority of Gimli's direct connections, as given in Piper's stories, link it to planets which are, or become, the capitals of interstellar realms; Terra (Terran Federation), Tanith (League of Civilized Worlds), Marduk (Mardukan Empire) and Odin (First Galactic Empire). Indeed, Gimli's apparent capital, Brannerton, parallels those of Tanith (Rivington) and Marduk (Malverton). The third key is the wide range of Gimli's characteristics, all of which pertain to a universal state. These characteristics include roles in force upholding the law and an interstellar constitution (FDP), both the exploitation and protection of alien races (Lokians, Gimlians, Fuzzies), major military expeditions supporting civilization against barbarism (SV), and leading figures in research and education, who advance the frontiers of knowledge for the whole Terro-Human race (MOD). In addition, Gimli is apparently a major source of uranium, vital to maintaining civilization in the 'Atomic' Era.

Just like the Old Federation and First Empire before it, the Second Empire will almost certainly have a constitution. This will include clauses concerning the status of alien races, and will need to be upheld by force when necessary. Given the fact that the Terran Federation contained ten alien races and the First Empire fifteen,⁸⁷ the Second Empire will probably rule at least 20 of these sapient alien races, including the Gimlians and Fuzzies. Gimli already possesses a Space Navy base, which can become the foundation of great military power on its road to Empire, and during which Gimli (and Ithavoll) will embark on major expeditions to renew interstellar civilization and extinguish barbarism. And Gimli's leading academics and scientists, already impressive during the late First Empire, will advance the knowledge of Terro-Humanity, by making new discoveries undreamed of by experts in earlier times.

Plus, with Merlin in covert charge, the Second Galactic Empire could become more 'just' than the universal states before it. For in *The Cosmic Computer*, Judge Ledue speculates that "With Merlin, we could set up a legal code and a system of jurisprudence that would give everybody absolute justice."⁸⁸ Although Conn Maxwell mentally objects that "As if absolute justice wasn't the last thing anybody in his right senses would want; [because] a robot judge would have the whole planet in jail inside a month",⁸⁹ Merlin could in fact be used at some point to create an *improved* system of jurisprudence. And a superior system of interstellar justice can be connected to the 'elevated' role I have deduced the Gilgameshers play in the Second Empire (as a fitting reward for their clandestine efforts for the expansion and uplifting of all Terro-Humanity), as well as the postulated higher status of sapient alien races (or at least making a start in that direction), beginning with the natives of Gimli and Zarathustra.

That the planet Gimli rules a better and more just empire is supported by the Norse myths, in which the inhabitants of Gimlé live in perfect amity. For in the destruction of the previous heaven, Asgard,

"All evil

Dies there an endless death, while goodness riseth
From that great world-fire, purified at last,
To a life far higher, better, nobler than in the past".⁹⁰

Another indication is this.

“We shall see emerge
From the bright Ocean at our feet an earth
More fresh, more verdant than the last, with fruits
Self-springing, and a seed of man preserved,
Who then shall live in peace, as then in war.”⁹¹

Of course, in Beam’s Future History, the Second Empire of Gimli does not herald the total end of war, because we know there are three more Galactic Empires after it, with interregnal periods of chaos.⁹² But that it is a better empire is also supported by Prince Simon Bentrík, who comments on the progress of Terro-Human civilization, from one Universal State to the next. “Then we’ll just have to make it work the best way we can, and when it breaks down, hope the next try will work a little better, for a little longer.”⁹³

A more beautiful and verdant world, possessing a native sapient race, ruling a larger, more advanced and longer-lasting empire, blessed with a more just legal system, whose citizens therefore live in a higher and nobler state. Although on the surface, Piper portrayed Gimli as an ‘average’ planet, by reading between the lines, we discover that he may have intended it to have an outstanding future.

ENDNOTES

1. Recurring Appearances

1. H. Beam Piper, *Four-Day Planet/Lone Star Planet* (New York, NY: Ace Books, 1979), pp. 195, 196, 199 The Lokians are probably worked to death in gold mines, because later we learn that the Lokians were moved off their reservation when gold was discovered. (H. Beam Piper, *Fuzzy Sapiens* (New York, NY: Ace Books, 1964), p. 189)
And when Anton Gerrit escapes to Fenris and becomes Steve Ravick, head of the Hunter's Co-Operative, he finds a new 'gold mine'. This involves bilking the monster-hunters of earnings they should have gotten from the sale of tallow-wax. First by ending competitive wax-buying, and then incrementally lowering the price paid to the monster-hunters for their tallow-wax—even though the price on Terra remains constant—and splitting the lucrative difference with his sales representative there, Leo Belsher. (Piper, *Four-Day/Lone Star*, p. 19)
2. Piper, *Fuzzy Sapiens*, pp. 136, 150
3. H. Beam Piper, *Space Viking* (New York, NY: Ace Books, 1963), pp. 191, 216
4. Ibid., pp. 195, 214, 216, 222
5. H. Beam Piper, *Empire* (New York, NY: Ace Books, 1981), pp. 165, 166, 167, 175, 178

2. Post-Apocalyptic Paradise

6. H. Beam Piper, *Uller Uprising* (New York, NY: Ace Books, 1983), p. 15
7. Piper, *Space Viking*, p. 116; and *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, by Friedrich Nietzsche. One of the main themes of Nietzsche's novel "is the designation of human beings as a transition between apes and the *Übermensch* (in English, either the "overman" or "superman"...)". (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thus_Spoke_Zarathustra) This seems to parallel the Fuzzies of Zarathustra, which are furry, primitive humanoids somewhere on the evolutionary scale between subsapient apes and advanced Terro-Humans. And the latter are literally 'over-men', having come to Zarathustra from the stars, as well as traveling around the planet via aircars.
Another concept from the novel that seems appropriate to Piper is that "The symbol of the *Übermensch* also alludes to Nietzsche's notions of "self-mastery", "self-cultivation", "self-direction", and self-overcoming". (ibid.) This sounds like Beam's "self-reliant man", the protagonist of almost all his stories. As described in "Oomphel in the Sky", the self-reliant man "actually knows what has to be done and how to do it, and he's going right ahead and doing it, without holding a dozen conferences and round-table discussions and giving everybody a fair and equal chance to foul things up for him." (H. Beam Piper, *Federation* (New York, NY: Ace Books, 1981), p. 128)
Piper himself could be considered an *übermensch*. He was self-reliant, maintained an independent existence for most of his adult life, and followed his own direction while cultivating the goal of becoming a successful author. And Beam was familiar with Nietzsche, having been inspired by one of Friedrich's passages in writing "Moment of Greatness", and even using the quote to head the story—at which his friend Ferd Coleman objected. (John F. Carr, *H. Beam Piper: A Biography* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, Inc.), 2008, pp. 58, 60, 62)
8. Bergen Evans, *Dictionary of Mythology* (New York, NY: Dell Publishing Co., 1970), p. 124 This is found in the *Völuspá*, "the first and best known poem of the *Poetic Edda*." (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Völuspá>)
The name Gimlé appears to mean "the place protected from fire" (<https://www.nordicnames.de/wiki/Gimle>), most likely reflecting the fact that Gimlé escapes the world conflagration set by Surtur after Ragnarok. That Piper uses the form 'Gimli' may be an example of his humor, as Gimli with an 'i' apparently means 'fire'. (www.thenamemeaning.com/Gimli) As the location of a Federation Navy base, "fire!" is a command that one would presume is heard often on Gimli, at least in naval training exercises, and later in earnest during the Interstellar Wars.
9. John F. Carr and William Taylor, "Worlds in the Old Federation and Sword Worlds" (unpublished manuscript), pp. 29-30
10. John F. Carr, timeline in *Empire*
11. John F. Carr, Introduction to *Empire*, p. 9
12. Piper, *Empire*, p. 132

3. The New or 'Second' Heaven and Its Resident Deities

13. H. A. Guerber, *The Norsemen* (London, England: Senate, an imprint of Studio Editions Ltd., 1994), p., 338

14. That Piper would model the Norse myths is supported by his many references to them in his personal life. Particularly Odin and Thor, who he sometimes invoked when writing to his friend Ferd Coleman, as well as when events of great significance occurred, such as his first story sale or the launch of Sputnik. (Carr, *Piper Biography*, pp. 25, 58, 59, 62, 63, 74, 136)

15. *Ibid.*, pp. 203, 204, 213, 338, 339

16. Piper, *Space Viking*, p. 205

17. *Ibid.*, p. 162

18. That Piper had a British model in mind for Marduk is supported by John Carr. "Marduk has a British style monarchy and prime minister with a fairly powerful aristocracy." (Carr, *Empire* Introduction, p. 7) In turn, that supports my deduction that Beam's model for Ithavoll is America.

As Princess Bentrík puts it to Prince Trask, the King of Marduk "carries on, and shrugs and says, 'I just reign here.' What else can he do? We've been whittling down and filching away the powers of the Throne *for the last three centuries.*" (Piper, *Space Viking*, p. 197, emphasis added) This directly connects the Mardukan monarchy's decline to Ithavoll, which seceded 300 years ago.

In Piper's time, it was almost two centuries since the American colonies seceded from Britain, but was actually more than three centuries since English colonists first landed on this continent, with the voyage of the *Mayflower* in 1620. In those days the Kings still ruled, to the point that George III's tyrannical acts caused the American colonists to revolt against him. But in the centuries since America seceded, the powers of the British crown have been slowly eroded, so that now the monarch is largely a figurehead.

Nevertheless, after the Revolution the British Empire recovered, going forth to create an even greater empire circling the entire globe. Likewise, Marduk's loss of Ithavoll and monarchical decline is (eventually) followed by the creation of an even greater interstellar realm; the Mardukan Empire, which becomes the First Galactic Empire.

Another indication of the Anglo-American model is that, when it was a colony of Marduk, King Mikhyll says that "Ithavoll was then a planet like your Tanith seems to be. Today, it is a civilized world, and one of Marduk's best friends." (*ibid.*, p. 162) In the story, Tanith is a pre-industrial agrarian planet which possesses gunpowder, but after Prince Trask takes control, it starts being developed into an industrialized, fully civilized world. This of course means that Ithavoll was originally an agrarian, firearms-bearing planet when Marduk colonized it, which after seceding industrializes, eventually becoming great friends with its former colonial master. An obvious parallel of how America was a firearms-bearing 'pastoral' colonial civilization under British rule, which after the Revolution became an industrialized nation, and finally one of Great Britain's best friends.

Thus, we can use the rise of America as a model for the deduced rise of Ithavoll. The United States became a world power with the defeat of Spain in 1898, which was very close to the high-water mark of the British Empire—the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897. The US surpassed Britain as the preeminent global power by the end of World War II. This should mean that Ithavoll becomes a major planet by the high-water mark of the First Galactic Empire—presumably somewhere in the middle of its "eight centuries, five at least, of historyless tranquility"—but is not yet as great as "Marduk, where the Empire had begun" (Piper, *Empire*, pp. 87, 138). Ithavoll finally surpasses Marduk by the end of the Second Interstellar Wars which follow the Empire's collapse. Probably because, like Britain during the Second World War, Marduk is hit hard in the Second Interstellar Wars; while Ithavoll is largely untouched, and even becomes far stronger, as America did during WWII. The collapse of the British Empire following WWII would then be paralleled by the Marduk-founded First Galactic Empire, which is presumably torn to shreds in the IWII.

Although it is a Western or 'European' nation, the United States is located a whole continent away from the major European powers that fought in WWII; Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Russia. This distance is a major reason why the US mainland survived the war unscathed. I would therefore surmise that, even though Ithavoll is a Norse-named planet, it is quite some distance away from the major Norse worlds like Odin and Baldur, which as previously deduced fight and are destroyed in the Second Interstellar Wars. But also, the Anglo-American 'transatlantic' model suggests that Ithavoll, although colonized by Marduk, is not near to that planet either.

Being some distance away from all the major worlds participating in the Second Interstellar Wars could help explain how Ithavoll survives; while the necessity of defending itself, and lending assistance to friendly planets, would explain how it becomes far more powerful in the process. Indeed, just as the US helped Great Britain survive, and ultimately win, the Second World War, Ithavoll may actually come to the aid of its erstwhile colonial master, Marduk, in the Second Interstellar Wars. In that case, Marduk suffers greatly but survives, yet its diminished power is eclipsed by the burgeoning strength of Ithavoll.

19. Piper, *Space Viking*, p. 127

4. The Second Heaven's Three Races

20. Piper, *Fuzzy Sapiens*, p. 189

21. H. Beam Piper, *Little Fuzzy* (New York, NY: Ace Books, 1976), p. 45

22. *Ibid.*, p. 13

23. Piper, *Four-Day/Lone Star*, p. 199

24. Piper, *Space Viking*, p. 153

25. Bish Ware says, "What I did was send my friend, who is a Colonial Constabulary detective, to Gimli, the next planet out. There's a Navy base there, and always at least a couple of destroyers available." (Piper, *Four-Day/Lone Star*, p. 199) That strongly suggests the Federation Navy base with its destroyers is on Gimli.

And in *Space Viking*, there are three references to being 'on' the planet. "The *Space-Scourge* returned from Gimli, and Valkanhayn reported that nobody on the planet had ever heard of the *Honest Horace*. They had found a Mardukan Navy ship's pinnace there, manned entirely by officers, some of them Navy Intelligence." (*ibid.*, p. 193) And later, when the allied fleet arrives from Tanith, "There was a little difficulty on Gimli with Fleet-Admiral Bargham." And Prince Bentrík tells Bargham, "You'll remain here on Gimli in any case, Admiral". (Piper, *Space Viking*, p. 222)

Though Piper does not make it explicit, I assume these *Space Viking* scenes take place at the old Federation Navy Base, which is therefore "on Gimli". In turn, this suggests that Gimli does not have a moon. (See endnote 84.)

26. Guerber, *Norsemen*, pp. 337, 338

27. *Ibid.*, p. 340 In the Norse myths, the gods obviously survive as well, making *four* races in Gimlé. But in Piper, the 'gods' are not living beings, just the planets named for them; such as Baldur, Hoth and Vitharr.

28. Piper, *Little Fuzzy*, p. 15; and *Fuzzy Sapiens*, p. 9

29. Apart from the Fuzzies, I don't think Piper ever gave exact physical dimensions. But 'overlarge' Gimlians could be a first, as his sapient aliens always seem to be shorter than Terro-Humans, or at least no taller. For example, the Lokians are described as "faun-like" (Piper, *Federation*, p. 212), which to me suggests much shorter than humans, though not as short as the Fuzzies. Say about four feet tall. Similarly, I've always pictured "the hairy, dog-faced Thorans" (*ibid.*) as being a bit less than human height; probably because dogs are usually much shorter than humans, even when standing on their hind legs.

In his illustrations for the original *Analog* publication of "Naudsonce", Leo Morey drew the Svants as approaching human height. (www.zarthani.net/future_history_gallery.htm, sourced from Project Gutenberg.) The six-limbed Ullerans could be taller, but two illustrations by Paul Orban in the original *Space Science Fiction* magazine version of *Uller Uprising* are inconclusive. One depicts them as a full head shorter than Carlos von Schlichten ("King Kankad"), while the other shows them as a head taller than Paula Quinton ("Attacked by geeks..."). (*ibid.*)

30. David Johnson's Piper Forum, (www.zarthani.net), August 3, 2017 post. Gimli as a 'dwarf' planet would also tie in Piper's contemporary, J.R.R. Tolkien; for Gimli of course is the name of the most important dwarf in *The Lord of the Rings*. Tolkien's three volume epic was published in 1954 and 1955; while Piper's references to the planet Gimli came out in 1958 ("Ministry of Disturbance"), 1961 (*Four-Day Planet*), 1962-3 (*Space Viking*) and 1964 (*Fuzzy Sapiens*). Back in the 1970s, I read Tolkien before Piper, so when I came across the planet Gimli, it naturally brought to mind Tolkien's character. Perhaps another reason why I like Terry's small or 'dwarf' planet concept for Gimli.

31. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ragnarök>

32. Guerber, *Norsemen*, pp. 8, 330

33. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ragnarök>

34. Guerber, *Norsemen*, p. 339 Just as Asgard is both the name of the Norse gods' city and one of the Nine Worlds, the descriptions of Gimlé seem to make it both a golden hall and a heavenly region.

35. H. Beam Piper, *The Worlds of H. Beam Piper* (New York, NY: Ace Books, 1983), pp. 147-170; and Piper, *Federation*, pp. 17, 25, 27

36. Piper, *Little Fuzzy*, p. 12

37. Incidentally, Gimli as a 'summer planet' and the capital of the Second Galactic Empire would tie in the Asimov influence on Piper's Future History. For in his Foundation series, the Galactic Emperor sometimes leaves Trantor, the capital of the First Galactic Empire, for more pleasant worlds. When Lathan Devers and Ducem Barr attempt to see him, Barr explains the difficulties involved. "You can't go fast on Trantor. If you try, you'll end up at the point of an atom-blaster, most likely." "How long will it take?" "A month, if we're lucky. A month, and our hundred thousand credits, if even that will suffice. And that is providing the Emperor does not take it into his head in the meantime to travel to the Summer Planets, where he sees no petitioners at all." (Isaac Asimov, *Foundation and Empire* (New York, NY: Avon Books, 1966), p. 75)

This description implies that the Summer Planets are the Emperor's vacation spots, where he goes to get away from the stifling atmosphere of court on the vastly overpopulated Trantor. But since the Second Foundation is located on Trantor, and will become the ruling elite of the Second Galactic Empire, Trantor will probably once again be the Imperial capital. And so, as the deduced capital of Beam's Second Galactic Empire, Gimli might be an example of Piper improving on Asimov, by combining the Second Galactic capital with the Emperor's Summer Planets. (For more on Asimov's influence on Piper's Second Galactic Empire, see endnote 56.)

5. Junior Partners?

38. Piper, *Uller Uprising*, p. 63

39. Piper, *Little Fuzzy*, p. 174

40. Piper, *Uller Uprising*, p. 49; and *Little Fuzzy*, p. 42

41. Piper, *Fuzzy Sapiens*, p. 189, emphasis added

42. Piper, *Federation*, pp. 120-121

43. Piper, *Empire*, p. 240

6. Ruled by the One Almighty God

44. Evans, *Dictionary of Mythology*, p. 125

45. Piper, *Space Viking*, p. 113

46. *Ibid.*, p. 112

47. *Ibid.*, p. 113 The other half of "Yahweh" may be found in the religion itself. Although not given a name by Piper, the faith of Gilgamesh could be called 'the Way of Yah', or in short, Yah's Way (Yahweh).

48. Piper, *Space Viking*, p. 112

49. "By 300 AD, the Jews had settled in every part of the Roman Empire except Britain. They were guaranteed freedom of religion and were allowed to practice Jewish law in disputes between Jews. They were exempt from military service." (Martin Gilbert, *The Atlas of Jewish History* (New York, NY: William Morrow and Co., 1992), p. 17.) However, since the Terran Federation is modeled on the Roman Empire, a better parallel with the Gilgameshers may be the Moslems, who appeared after the Fall of Rome, and almost spread throughout the entire region of the former empire. Thus, Islam is probably another 'major monotheism of the Federation period' which contributes to the new religion of the Gilgameshers. That would make sense, because both the Jews and Moslems come from the Middle East, which includes Babylonia—from whose mythology the name Gilgamesh is derived. (See endnote 56.)

Like the spread of Jews throughout the Roman Empire, the spread of the Gilgameshers throughout the Old Federation is peaceful. But the spread of the Moslems was warlike, fanatical and relatively swift. Assuming the Gilgameshers are partly modeled on Moslems, then the more 'elevated' role I have deduced for them may therefore include overt military participation in laying the foundation of the Second Galactic Empire. (See endnote 62.)

50. H. Beam Piper, *The Cosmic Computer* (New York, NY: Ace Books, 1977), p. 21
51. Piper, *Empire*, p. 119
52. *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary* (Springfield, MA: G & C Merriam Company, 1976), p. 887
53. Piper, *Space Viking*, p. 152
54. *Ibid.*, p. 112
55. John F. Carr, Introduction to *Federation*, p. xxii

56. The Terran Federation is partly modeled on the Roman Empire, and the First Galactic Empire is partly modeled on the Byzantine Empire; so the Second Galactic Empire should be partly modeled on the Islamic Empire which superceded, and eventually replaced, Byzantium. Thus, the 'One God' that rules the Second Empire would also have a parallel in Allah, the One God of the Moslems.

The historical model for an 'elevated' Gilgamesher role in the Second Empire would then be the elevated role Jews played under Islam during the Middle Ages. Though certainly not equal with Moslems, and subject to taxation and occasional persecution, in general they were tolerated much more than under the Christian kingdoms, and were allowed to function in a variety of roles. These included as scientists, in which they made advances in various fields, "including mathematics, astronomy, philosophy, chemistry and philology"; economics, in which "Jews were put in charge of certain parts of [the] maritime and slave trade"; and even politics, such as "the vizier of Baghdad [who] entrusted his capital to Jewish bankers", and "Siraf, the principal port of the Caliphate in the 10th century [which] had a Jewish governor." (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_under_Muslim_rule)

Another reason the Gilgameshers don't rule Piper's First Galactic Empire is because of the Asimov connection. Merlin's ability to predict the future parallels the psychohistory of the Foundation series. The Merlin Plan to set up a new Universal State based on Poictesme, which is located at the outer edge of the Terran Federation, is therefore modeled on the Seldon Plan, which does the same thing based on Terminus, located at the outer edge of the Galactic Empire. Thus, the Gilgameshers parallel the Second Foundation. The Second Foundation did not rule the First Galactic Empire of Isaac Asimov, because the group was formed near its end, and the Empire was beyond saving anyway. Their purpose was to secretly maintain and advance the Seldon Plan, and then to rule the *Second* Galactic Empire, after the First Foundation of Terminus finished reunifying the Galaxy.

Similarly, the Gilgameshers are not even mentioned during Piper's First Galactic Empire (as if they don't exist), but through the Merlin Plan, they helped set it up. And once it falls, they probably work behind the scenes to advance a new or extended Merlin Plan, which involves helping to establish, and then rule (though not openly), Piper's Second Galactic Empire. (For much more on the parallels between Asimov's and Piper's future histories and Galactic Empires, see my papers "*The Cosmic Computer—Piper's Foundation?*" and "*The Emblem of the Galactic Empire*".)

57. It is possible for Piper to have deliberately included some word play like this, because at one time he wanted "to write like James Branch Cabell, which would have taken a lot of doing." (Carr, *Piper Biography*, p. 79) One reason it would be a major effort is because Cabell used a lot of anagrams and wordplay in his stories, "to hide additional messages in his prose for discovery by the diligent reader." (www.cadaeic.net/cabell.htm) For example, the city of Storisende is a play on "story's end", and in Jurgan, the Philistine gods Vel-Tyno, Sesptra and Ageus are anagrams of "Novelty", "Phrases" and "Usage".

Piper appears to have followed suit, for in *The Cosmic Computer*, the main character 'Conn' Maxwell is seemingly so named because of the 'con-job' he perpetrates on the people of Poictesme. And Beam included at least one anagram in his planet names. This is "Dremna" (Piper, *Empire*, p. 222), seemingly a modified anagram of Denmar(k).

7. The Second Galactic Empire of Gimli

58. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isis>
59. Evans, *Dictionary of Mythology*, p. 164
60. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Akhenaten>
61. Piper, *Cosmic Computer*, p. 243
62. That Akhnaton's revolution was religious in nature begs the question; is Aton's deduced revolution a religious

one, too? Suppressing all the other gods of Egypt makes Akhnaton's rule smack of totalitarianism, of dictatorship. And the planet Aton has already had at least one of those; the "damned nasty" dictatorship of the Planetary Nationalists, who take power after a war with Baldur (Piper, *Space Viking*, pp. 151, 163). And the deduced connection with Poictesme brings up the possibility of religious fanatics destroying their own planet with nuclear weapons, which almost occurred in *The Cosmic Computer*. "A new religion, based on Merlin; that would be good. And then the fanatics who thought Merlin was the Devil would start a holy war to wipe out the servants of Satan, and with all the combat equipment that was lying around on this planet...For the first time since this business started, he began to feel really frightened." (Piper, *Cosmic Computer*, p. 171)

That 'a holy war' on Poictesme would have involved nuclear weapons is supported by the fact that even in a non-religious fight, like the one against the Blackie Perales gang, nukes are used. "Including his own, eight nuclear weapons went off together in a single blast that shook the ground like an earthquake and churned the air like a hurricane." (ibid., p. 96) Nuclear weapons are apparently found in many places on Poictesme, as part of the military equipment abandoned by the Terran Federation after the System States War. "On Terra, Conn had told his friends that his father was a prospector, leaving them to interpret that as one who searched, say, for uranium. Rodney Maxwell found quite a bit of uranium, but he got it by taking apart the warheads of missiles." (ibid., pp. 5-6)

Some scholars consider Akhnaton's attempt to establish monotheism in Egypt as a precursor to the monotheism of the Hebrews. (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Akhenaten>) In Piper's universe, this would connect the planet Aton's deduced religion with that of Gilgamesh. The Egyptian god Aton is obviously not the same god as the Hebrew Yahweh, meaning that the planet Aton's religious dictatorship should involve a god other than Yah the Almighty. Aton's previous dictatorship, the Planetary Nationalists, sounds like a Nazi regime. That would make its belief system paganistic or occultic in nature. But if the new Atonian dictatorship is like Gilgamesh, it would be based on "theo-socialism". (Piper, *Space Viking*, p. 112). Gilgamesh's system is a "loose" form of theo-socialism (ibid.), while Aton's is presumably much tighter. That would make the Atonian religious dictatorship more like the theo-socialist (communism with God) system of Thalassa, in Beam's novel *First Cycle*.

On Thalassa, the fusion of religion and communism involves the belief in Vran, an ultracosmic deity whose brain encompasses all of existence. (H. Beam Piper, *First Cycle* (New York, NY: Ace Books, 1982), p. 59) 'Vranism', if one can call it that, is an expansionist faith. First, it is used to conquer and unite the planet Thalassa. Then, because of their military weakness, the Thalassans try to convert the alien inhabitants of their neighbor planet, Hetaira. When peaceful methods eventually fail, the Thalassans resort to nuclear war, which brings about the near-total annihilation of both races. (ibid., pp. 122, 143, 170, 183, 190, 194, 199) And we've already deduced that Aton is completely destroyed when its revolutionary regime finally falls.

So even though the deduced theo-socialism of Aton parallels that of Gilgamesh, its totalitarian nature actually places it in opposition to all the other 'gods'; including deity-named planets as well as Yah the Almighty. Gilgamesh's theo-socialism is not expansionist; it does not attack other planets, nor does it seek to convert other Terro-Humans to its faith. But Aton's religion-based attempt at creating a new empire suggests that it does both. Thus, after the First Empire's fall, Aton may become fanatically expansionist, forcing conquered planets to convert to its Vran-like religion. They are especially vindictive to the followers of Yah, a 'rival' monotheistic deity. Perhaps they perceive that the Gilgameshers are working behind the scenes to manipulate Terro-Humanity as a whole, and therefore consider their god Yah to be "the Devil" and the Gilgameshers "servants of Satan", paralleling Conn Maxwell's feared holy war on Poictesme. In fact, the Atonians may resurrect the extreme anti-Gilgamesh rhetoric of Zasparr Makann, and seek to impose a 'Final Solution' to the Gilgamesh problem.

Unfortunately for the Atonians, they don't realize that going after the Gilgameshers means going up against Merlin the Cosmic Computer, who 'Yah' really is. And since Merlin "can handle large-group behavior with absolute accuracy" (Piper, *Cosmic Computer*, p. 227), it will be able to arrange the downfall of Aton. This would parallel how the Gilgameshers aid in the downfall of Zasparr Makann. However, they could do more. If Aton attacks Gilgamesh directly, they would face stiff resistance, because the Gilgameshers "were able and willing to fight with fanatical ferocity in defense of their home planet". (Piper, *Space Viking*, p. 112) And why are they so ferocious? Because they're protecting their god, Yah/Merlin, who is hidden somewhere on Gilgamesh.

With the Gilgameshers engaged in an open fight, that would constitute *overt* aid to the cause of interstellar civilization, in contrast to their usual *covert* aid. Their faith may prevent the Gilgameshers from going on the offensive against Aton, but that could easily change if Yah/Merlin ordered it. And their home-planet defense against these 'heretical' invaders could be the turning point in Aton's fortunes. Moreover, openly aiding the anti-Aton forces to achieve victory could explain the deduced rise in status of the Gilgameshers in the Second Galactic Empire, particularly if the anti-Aton coalition includes the planet Gimli, which we have postulated founds the Second Empire. The Gilgameshers would then be continuing their efforts (in a new or extended Merlin Plan) to bring about the rise of a new universal state, just as they helped Marduk do so in previous centuries.

Assuming that an anti-Aton coalition defeats the religious imperialists externally, it could cause a revolution to break out on Aton. This would parallel "the crisis after the war with Baldur", when the Planetary Nationalists came to power. (Piper, *Space Viking*, p. 151) A 'crisis' suggests that Aton was defeated by Baldur, provoking political instability at home. But in this postulated later crisis, Aton's home-grown fanatics are armed with nuclear weapons.

A revolution against the planet's religious dictatorship could result in a nuclear civil war. And a combination of external and internal enemies employing nuclear weapons can explain how Aton is completely destroyed.

63. Piper, *Space Viking*, p. 57

64. *Ibid.*, pp. 56, 57

8. Two Capitals?

65. Piper, *Federation*, p. 175

66. If Piper had kept the two Asgards together, then the planet Odin would have needed a new capital name. It might then have been Valhalla, Odin's great hall where the Einheriar feast each night. But having an Imperial capital named for dead heroes might not be the best choice for a city of living humans, however heroic they may be. This could be another reason why Beam separated the city of Asgard from the planet Asgard.

Since he did separate them, however, this means that the planet Asgard needs a name for its capital city. My suggestion would be Gladsheim, the section of Asgard which contained the palaces of the male gods, including Odin's Valhalla. (Evans, *Dictionary of Mythology*, p. 125) The section containing the palaces of the female gods was named Vingolf (*ibid.*), which to me doesn't sound as good as Gladsheim.

67. As the reader will recall from **The 'New Heaven' and its Resident Deities**, the Gimlian natives were moved off their original reservation when uranium was discovered there. (Piper, *Fuzzy Sapiens*, p. 189) And 'Brannerton', the apparent name of Gimli's capital city, may be a reference to brannerite, one of the primary minerals of uranium, along with uraninite (pitchblende), coffinite, davidite and thucolite. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uranium_ore) Uranium might therefore be plentiful on Gimli, and this can explain why Gimli is one of Marduk's 14 trade planets in *Space Viking*, with uranium its probable main export. For in the Atomic or 'Atom-Smashing' Era, in which all technology is nuclear-powered, a fully civilized planet would need lots of uranium to keep things running. And as one of the few fully civilized planets in the *Space Viking* era, Marduk probably gets a lot of its uranium from Gimli.

Assuming Piper derived Brannerton from brannerite, then the name really means "Brannerite-Town", and the city was founded not far from a source of uranium ore. Substantial native sources of uranium would also support Gimli's later rise to Empire.

68. This may constitute more of the Asimov influence on Piper. Isaac's Second Galactic Empire is founded by two Foundations. The First Foundation is physical in orientation, and located on Terminus; while the Second Foundation is psychological or psychohistoric in nature, and located on Trantor. Notice that both planet names begin with a T. Assuming I'm right that Gimli and Gilgamesh rule Piper's Second Galactic Empire, then the planet names parallel Asimov's by also beginning with the same letter, in this case G. Gimli is the 'physical' or overt foundation of the Second Empire, while Gilgamesh is the 'psychohistoric' (because of Merlin) or covert capital. (For more, see endnote 56.)

69. H. Beam Piper, *Fuzzies and Other People*, (New York, NY: Ace Books, 1984), p. 1

70. Piper, *Empire*, p. 136

71. By extension, the Second Galactic Empire may possess twice as many inhabited planets as the First, which would mean around 3000. For Galactic Emperor Paul XXII's plan to colonize "new planets" so that "the [First] Empire won't die, it'll start growing again" (*ibid.*, p. 176) is presumably successful in the short term. But in effect, it becomes the final period of Imperial expansion. By the time this last burst of vitality subsides, however, it may raise the total number of inhabited planets from 1365 up to about 1500.

72. See endnote 18.

73. Guerber, *Norsemen*, p. 339 And this might be a good place to credit the illustration on the title page. It depicts "The new world that rises after Ragnarök"; the artist is Emil Doepler. (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Völuspá>) The painting was apparently inspired by stanza 59 of the *Völuspá*:

Now do I see | the earth anew
Rise all green | from the waves again;
The cataracts fall | and the eagle flies,
And fish he catches | beneath the cliffs. (www.sacred-texts.com/neu/poe/poe03.htm)

74. In *The Cosmic Computer*, Merlin's "memory bank contained all human knowledge. It was capable of scanning all its data instantaneously, and combining, and forming associations, and reasoning with absolute accuracy, and extrapolating to produce new facts, and *predicting future events*" (Piper, *Cosmic Computer*, p. 16, emphasis added). Thus, Yah/Merlin apparently rules the First Galactic Empire from behind the scenes, as well; because in "Ministry of Disturbance" the Empire is run by computers which predict the future. For example, Durendal's request to export its surplus grain is turned down, because "If they start dumping their surplus into interstellar trade, they'll cause all kinds of dislocations on other agricultural planets. At least, *that's what our computers all say.*" (ibid., pp. 138-139, emphasis added) The computers used by the elite to run the Empire are therefore predicting future effects, very much like Merlin the Cosmic Computer.

To this, we can add a religious connection. Rodney Maxwell states that "Merlin's a religion with those people. Merlin's a robot god, something they can shove all their problems onto." (Piper, *Cosmic Computer*, p. 21). And to his computers' economic predictions, the Galactic Emperor mentally replies, "And that, of course, was gospel." (Piper, *Empire*, p. 139) The religion of a robot-god would naturally have its own gospel.

Incidentally, a large empire with two capitals is not unknown to history. The most famous example is the Roman Empire. After the disastrous civil wars of the Third Century, Diocletian split the Roman Empire into western and eastern halves, in order to govern it more effectively. Rome remained the capital in the west, while Constantinople soon became the capital in the east. This division persisted for two centuries, until the invasions of Germanic tribes caused the fall of the Western Empire. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Roman_Empire)

Another example is the British Empire in India. The winter capital was Calcutta, located close to where the Ganges River enters the Bay of Bengal. But because of the unbearable heat of summer (at least to Europeans), the government of the Raj moved every April to Simla, located in the southern foothills of the Himalayas, where it stayed for over half the year. The climate in Simla was "bracing", leading one Viceroy to claim "that he could do in a day in Simla what it would have taken him five days to do in the punishing summer heat of Calcutta." (Peter Hopkirk, *Quest for Kim* (Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 1997), pp. 150, 152)

Another advantage was that "Simla's communications with the rest of India, whether by road, rail, or telegraph, were excellent." Last and certainly not least, "Simla was more centrally located...for...Calcutta was situated at the furthest end of India. Since Calcutta was originally chosen as the capital, history had moved on, carrying [British] India's centre of gravity westwards and northwards." (ibid., p. 151) But although the political capital moved back and forth between Calcutta and Simla, the military capital did not. Because "for the whole of the year, [Simla] served as the headquarters of the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army." (ibid., p. 152)

Thus, two capitals for the Second Galactic Empire is certainly possible, though unlikely. But if there were, they could be equal capitals, paralleling Rome and Constantinople; or, as a 'paradise', Gimli could be the Second Empire's 'summer' capital, while Ithavoll is the regular capital, paralleling Simla and Calcutta.

9. Gimli as the Capital Planet

75. Piper, *Four-Day/Lone Star*, p. 7

76. Carr, *Empire* Introduction, p. 7

77. Piper, *Empire*, p. 136

78. Ibid., p. 166 It is interesting that Professor Faress got his degree from Brannerton, then went on to do research into "the velocity of subnucleonic particles". (ibid., p. 151) Because as seen in endnote 67, the name 'Brannerton' may be a reference to brannerite, one of the primary minerals of uranium. Uranium, of course, is closely connected to the velocity of subnucleonic particles—through the smashing of atoms, whose pieces cause chain reactions; either for power generation or warfighting purposes.

79. Piper, *Space Viking*, pp. 56, 98, 155

80. Ibid., p. 242

81. Carr, *Piper Biography*, pp. 213-214

10. Piper's Web

82. Piper, *Little Fuzzy*, p. 13, for example.

83. Piper, *Empire*, pp. 30, 55-56; and *Space Viking*, pp. 117, 153, 214-215 Tanith's lunar missile-launching

stations could be the nucleus of a powerful base like Marduk's.

Parenthetically, assuming Ithavoll is the capital of an Ithavollan Empire which cofounds the Second Galactic Empire, and assuming Gilgamesh rules the Second Empire in tandem with Gimli (as stated in **Two Capitals?**), I probably should have placed red circles around Ithavoll and Gilgamesh, to show their parallel status as possible capital planets. But that could have blurred the focus of this paper, which is on Gimli.

84. Piper, *Uller Uprising*, p. 15 The best place to mention such a base would be in "Ministry of Disturbance". The story states that "the Imperial Navy has been scattered all over the Empire, and that there is not a naval craft bigger than a scout-boat within fifteen hundred light-years of Odin." The Imperial Army has been similarly dispersed away from the capital. (Piper, *Empire*, pp. 146, 159) "Ministry" takes place eleven hundred years after the founding of the Empire, which has been "peaceful and undisturbed" for the past "eight centuries, five at least". (ibid., p. 138) So it has been hundreds of years since a lunar base for protecting the capital planet would have been necessary. If there is a Navy base on Hugin or Munin, then by this time it may therefore have been abandoned. But in Odin's days of independence between the Federation and Imperial eras, such a base would be very desirable.

85. Beam's vagueness on this fact may be simply due to not wanting his stories bogged down with unnecessary details. But if I'm right that Gimli does not have a moon, that would actually be true to the Norse myths. During Ragnarok, the moon is destroyed along with the sun; but after the renewal of the world, there is no mention of a 'new' moon appearing in the sky of Gimlé, along with the new sun.

86. I should have mentioned that the planets in grey (Fenris, Baldur, Gilgamesh and Vitharr) belong in an 'other' category. They were not included in the key below the chart because that would have made it asymmetric.

11. Conclusion

87. Piper, *Little Fuzzy*, p. 56; and *Empire*, p. 136

88. Piper, *Cosmic Computer*, pp. 168-169

89. Ibid., p. 169

90. Guerber, *Norsemen*, p. 337; sourced from *Viking Tales of the North*, by R. B. Anderson.

91. Ibid., p. 338, sourced from *Balder Dead*, by Matthew Arnold

92. Piper, *Empire*, p. 223; and Carr, *Federation* Introduction, pp. xxi, xxiii

93. Piper, *Space Viking*, p. 233

