



In the Hall of the Martian King

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A Martian monarch has taken possession of a priceless relic: the lifelog diary of the mysterious messiah who founded the Wager, the religion that forms the basis of all interstellar society. The Hive Intel conglomerate wants the lifelog and hires Jak to get it. It's a simple job, until other spies-including Ambassador Dujuv, Uncle Sib, and Jak's evil ex-girlfriend-arrive on Mars and turn the assignment into a wild ride of mind control, murder, and looming interplanetary war. For the lifelog contains a devastating secret that can overturn the status quo of whole worlds-a secret that Hive Intel will suppress at all costs. In the past, Jak has completed missions by betraying his friends. Now in order to succeed, Jak Jinnaka must betray the entire human race...

In the Hall of the Martian King Details

Date : Published June 1st 2003 by Aspect

ISBN : 9780446610834

Author : John Barnes

Format : Paperback 304 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Space, Space Opera

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From Reader Review In the Hall of the Martian King for online ebook

Ray Charbonneau says

Wacky, madcap adventure? I don't know. After 70 pages, nothing interesting had happened, so I gave up.

Jesse Lucas says

"Medieval America conquered a continent and gave us atomic bombs and reached the moon, then they freed the slaves and let women vote, and in no time at all they lost all their ambition and relied on the U.N. to protect them and got squished like bugs between the armies in the Quebec-Jamaica War. Now these are just facts, facts anyone knows from school."

At some point in this trilogy, subtly or not, John Barnes has made fun of something you like. That isn't because he likes the other guys, he makes fun of them too. This is optimistic pessimism, a future where the poorest live like kings and a lifespan of a hundred and twenty was sadly cut short before its prime - except the kings live even better, because monarchy is back. It's a ridiculous world where no one's really in charge and even the people that should have been the good guys end up packing unwanted skeletons in their closets. It's a real world, because the real world always includes things that are stranger than fiction.

Sasha says

John Barnes always has a little more going on than one expects. This series is framed as space adventure pulp, but ends up being a social satire with a biting edge.

Leons1701 says

So this is the "conclusion" of the Jak Jinnaka series. It really feels like Barnes originally intended for there to be more of these, though each book is pretty self contained, we never really see exactly why Jak is regarded the way the prologues seem to imply he is. This isn't a bad stopping point though, there are some definite revelations about the nature of the Wager and how it came to dominate human society. I'll just say it explains a lot more about why Barnes never went into any detail about the Wager in the first two books.

Anyhow, this is pretty standard Jinnaka shenanigans, he needs to steal a priceless artifact for Hive Intelligence, ensure the credit goes to the most feckless noble in the entire system, avoid being tangled in the coils of his treacherous ex Princess Shyf and do it all without blowing his cover. Easy, right?
