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More of the Lord Ryven Interview

Me: Why do you think people are so quick to prejudge and ultimately denounce all Furies as "freaks" and "perverts"?

Lord Riven: Because people do not understand Furies, and since most furs aren't the coolest or more articulate people in the world, people are quicker to judge them than they would be to say judge a fandom of jocks and cool good looking people.

Me: That's certainly true.

LR: I've done tests where I go to a mall or something wearing my tail and get nothing but compliments. But I've sent a Furry friend into the same mall, wearing the same tail and they get insulted, made fun of, and nearly beat up.

Me: Maybe that friend was a little less confident and more self-conscious than you in that situation.

LR: Well, I would be self-conscious too if someone shouted, "Hey you, the faggot with the tail, come here!" When I wear the tail people say stuff like, "Nice tail, it's so sexy", or just, "Nice tail". Some ask me what's up with it, but not nearly as insulting as my friend got it. People will be as abusive to their fellow man as they feel they can get away with.

Me: Yes. We're a rather nasty lifeform, come to think of it.

LR: That's why the second anyone talks shit to me, I march up in their face, safe distance mind you, gotta be wary of knives. But I make it clear I won't tolerate disrespect.

Me: I was thinking about the Nine Inch Nails song "Closer" the other day, the one with the famous lyric, "I want to fuck you like an animal". I wonder if it's possible that Trent Reznor could be a furry?

LR: (laughs)

Meeting with Jicin

I was also given an opportunity to speak with another, much more "tame" Furry, named Jicin. Jicin is somewhat different in that she finds nothing erotic about her interest, but rather has a passion for the artwork.

After speaking to her, it has become very clear to me that they is a very large gray area between someone who simply watches cartoons featuring humanistic animals, and an actual Furry. In fact, it's almost impossible to define precisely.

Please keep in mind that Jicin is from Holland, and while I've not changed what she said, I have edited some of the sentence structure, to make it flow a little better. Still, Jicin speaks and spells in English better than some native speakers I know.

Me: How did you first come to indentify yourself as a Furry?

Jicin: Well, I have been a Furry most of my life. As a young kid, I loved to read Furry books. "The Animals from Farthing wood" was one of my favorites. And I loved to play an animal with my brother, pretending to be horses. Later I really became a fan of Disney's *The Lion King*. I discovered the Internet. It was only a small step to go look at wonderful artwork of the Furry world. I didn't know it at that

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time. I just loved looking at the art galleries at [Yart](#). Then I kinda tumbled in with other archives, chatrooms and talking to other Furs. I think I really started to understand I was a 'Furry' about 1.5 years ago.

Me: So, what do YOU consider a furry to be?

Jicin: Everyone who loves critters with human characteristics.

Me: Hmmm... I think that would include anybody who's ever enjoyed a single Bugs Bunny cartoon! With that in mind, why is, do you suppose, that the media and most people seem to think furies are in for the sexual aspects?

Jicin: No. You're only a Furry when you CONSIDER yourself to be a Furry. Bugs Bunny is more of a Furry joke. Just that you like to watch a cartoon, that happens to have a bunny character doesn't mean



Some clean art by Doug Winger who also does quite a bit of Spooze Art.

you're really into Furry. But when you really go for the concept, an animal with human charistics, means you might be a Furry. If I like one Star Trek episode, it doesn't actually make me a Trekkie. But if I have whole seasons on tape, or I never miss a show, I might be considered one. But there is a large gray area. The media looks for ways to make profit.

To sell newspapers, or to get viewers to watch *their* show. And there is enough going on in the furry fandom that assures a large public. For a comparison, look at all the 'real life' sex shows. They show SM, Plusophilia, pee sex. But I rarely see a show about a man and woman who really love each other and have intimate sex between the sheets.

Me: Well, people like to see things which are different or unusual, and it's not everyday that you see a grown adult painted like an animal.

Jicin: Yes. It's sensation. I was simply shocked when I saw the MTV special. There is a lot of openness in the Furry fandom... for most of [the artists], I guess they draw humans. Just with a animal face and tail to make it 'acceptable' for the rest of the archive. You have the part that combines the beauty of the human body, with the beauty of the animal spirit. Then you have the group that perhaps does get aroused by the animal part. And then you have the people that go over the top. Comparable with hentai rape art.

Me: Ah... hentai tentacle rape. What a wonderful subculture! I really think the Internet is the blame... and possibly the Hiroshima bombings.

Jicin: Only a small - *very small* - percentage dress up in fursuits though. 1% or perhaps even less... I must admit i find it a little bit strange. But on the other side, I guess it's fun. I have never tried a fursuit. I would feel funny walking in one of those. But I have seen some beautiful suits.

Me: Well, sure, if somebody is passionate about something, they're likely to pour their heart into it. In many ways, it's no different than Halloween.

Jicin: You might compare it with that. It's a sort of roleplaying game. Just most furs are a bit more passionate about it.

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