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The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 18 Feb 1999

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Kieran Mullen — 18 Feb 1999, 10:44

From: "William H. Ansley" <wansley at warwick.net>
Subject: The Wonderful Eyeflash of Oz, part 4
Date: Thu, 18 Feb 1999 00:29:41 -0500

[Deletia]

Hearing this, Little Tib tries to remember what a leopard looks like but cannot. He then tries to visualize a cat. At first he cannot, but then he succeeds and an image appears in front of him. But it is not a cat, but a lion standing on its hind legs with a red ribbon knotted in its mane. It is dancing and Little Tib joins it in the dance. After he has danced for some time he is grabbed from behind by many hands. He realizes that he has been dancing in the air over the lookout point, with a very long drop below him.

This is Christic imagery, too. From the temptation in the desert, where the Devil quotes scripture about angels bearing up the messiah if he should fall. IIRC, Tib casts demons out of the computer system, no?

I slapped my head when I finally saw that Typhon's temptations of Severian are just a replay of the temptations of Christ. (Food, casting from a height, all the cities stretched out before you if you submit to me. Doh!)

Kieran Mullen

William H. Ansley — 18 Feb 1999, 23:03 · follows Kieran Mullen

Kieran Mullen <kieran at brigit.nhn.ou.edu> wrote:

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Quite so. And you do recall correctly; I will be getting to the Gaderine Computer scene eventually.

There is a *lot* of Christic imagery in "The Eyeflash Miracles," as I note in my first posting. I am deliberately ignoring this, except occasionally when it ties in with the Oz imagery. Wolfe manages to combine the two in clever and complex ways, as you might expect. This doesn't mean I don't welcome your comments; I do. And I would be glad to hear from anyone else who wants to comment on Christic imagery in "The Eyeflash Miracles."

William Ansley