

Severian as Everyman & anti-hero

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 13 Apr 1999

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/1525>

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Jonathan Laidlow — 13 Apr 1999, 08:23

While I admit some of the symbolism suggests that Sev is some kind of everyman, its also worth remembering that he is always quite assertive of his own identity. Just came across this bit in 'Sword', chapter 27, 'On High Paths', where the discussion is as lofty as the mountains...

'I believe rather that when I was alone i felt I had in some fashion lost my individuality; to the thrush and the rabbit I had been not Severian, but Man. The many people who like to be utterly alone, and particularly to be utterly alone in a wilderness, do so, I believe, because they enjoy playing that part. But I wanted to be a particular person again, and so I sought the mirror of other persons, which would show me that I was not as they were.'

And shouldn't we remember Wolfe's description of Severian as a man in the service of an evil profession trying to be good?

Jonathan

Visit Ultan's Library - A Gene Wolfe web resource

<http://members.tripod.co.uk/laidlow/index.htm>