

Carlos M. post

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 02 May 1999

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/1611>

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Roy C. Lackey — 02 May 1999, 07:24

Carlos Martinho wrote:

The "chruch
invisible" is the deeper mystical elements that
would exist even if
all churches were destroyed.

This is a very interesting point. When I started to read TSOTT (and I didn't know where things were going to), I thought, at first, that the myths about the "Conciliator" and the "New Sun" were some sort of memory of Christianity, just weakened, warped by time. And I don't know why, but I always thought of Dr Talos play as some sort of Gospel, just warped by time and age (as the Minotaur myth, in the story of the cannon-boat in the labyrinth).

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Carlos,

I have been trying hard -- very hard -- to stay the hell out of these religious wars, but this is your second post and I thought I would take the opportunity to extend a belated welcome to the urth lists -- er, that is urth list. Avernus are, of course, optional, but if you can find a used Sidero suit I would advise you to wear it. <g>

FWIW, I, too, thought the Conciliator and New Sun were Christian echoes. Further, I think they were intended by Wolfe to evoke Christian resonances. A conciliator is certainly an apt description of a messiah. Also, the term is evocative of the popular role of Mary as intercessor, and Mariolatry is and long has been a big factor in the history of the RC church. And I don't think that Wolfe could have missed the obvious New Sun = New Son association, just as Sev's career parallels that of Jesus, right down to the death of the old order and resurrection of the new, by heroes of light at the same (commonly reckoned, for Jesus) age of 33.

Wolfe may have changed his mind about how the Urth cycle would end, sometime between _Citadel_ and _Urth_, at least judging from his intentions as stated in "Helioscope" (published, 1980), where he says:

"The challenge to science fiction today is not to describe a slightly hyped-up present, but a real future -- a time radically unlike the present that is nonetheless derived from it. Clearly, there are more than one of those futures. There is the future in which mankind returns to the sea for new sources of food and raw materials. There is the future of extermination. I decided that the future most in keeping with the dark figure I planned and his journey toward war was what I call

the do-nothing future, the one in which humanity clings to its old home, the continents of Earth, and waits for the money to run out."

Of course, he may only have been referring to the de facto situation which obtained on Urth when Sev came on the scene, but it is not in fact what happened at the end of _Urth_. Notice also that he wrote "Earth", not "Urth". I think this answers the question bandied about lately of which came first, Earth or Urth, and whether the latter world was informed by the former. The answer is "yes". Jesus and Homer and FitzGerald and Carroll and the rest are all dimmed figures from Urth's remote past, which is our own.

Roy