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The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 27 Aug 1997

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/184>

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Alice Turner — 27 Aug 1997, 16:24

Photon,

To me, it seems like this story is set in the same

"universe", country and time-frame as "Seven American Nights". The beast tie-in might NOT then be a hallucination on Nadan's part, but a real event. (I thought I'd egg you on about this hallucination vs reality thread.)

They're both set in decaying cities, but not, I think the same one, unless 7AN's D.C. is a lot weirder than I think! All that stuff about the "meat" being half-alive for a while (and thus preserved) is definitely pretty far out. Actually, "Werwolf" seems to me close in spirit to a horror comic and, I suspect, was never meant to be a serious effort. Can't you just see the last frames, with the feral girl chomping away at the leg, with close-ups of gore and appropriate sound-effects overheard?

mantis

our first question

is: which tale of the 1,001 nights of ANE is being retold here? (Just to kick things out of the Judaeo-Christian circuit. <g>)

I don't think you should be disappointed if it doesn't follow any of them. The title may have come after the story, after all---it's the sort of title that might have been playfully suggested by an editor or friend hearing a description of the story (as opposed to many of Wolfe's other titles).

Ron (don't you have another name, I seem to remember?--aren't you cephalo?)

Do you have more of that interview with Gordon? Would you consider posting some of it? In her book, she quotes only that one sentence that I posted (about the animals).

I thought the weapons and tools in TS were perfectly logical (except for the evil staff, of course). A sail-sledge makes sense to me; one could hardly use huskies on this planet! And yes, I did notice that gesture of assent, common to everyone--but not so familiar to Cutthroat that he doesn't keep noticing it, another proof that he is Not From Here. Why do you think the robots have never been outside? I think they most definitely have, before the planet froze, and that they were put in the big underground warehouse to protect them from the weather.

You're probably right about the 3 laws of robotics. That's so much a part of the lore, that it will undoubtedly be built into the real thing when we get that far.

Finally, if this is a totem-story (and Wolfe so identifies it in the Gordon interview), it is surely of significance that Cutthroat begins his sojourn with the Wiggikki (wolves) to whom he bears a physical likeness according to Eggseeker (p. 184) and ends it with one of them

Well, don't forget his name (Wolfe's) and the many wolves which turn up here and there, including the Wer- variety mentioned above. Also his fondness for Kipling. And mantis and I both think he did some research in Jack London for this story. I am told by an excellent source that he contemplated doing an anthology (by various authors) on wolves.

I'll let mantis take the one about the crooked leg (but must say that here Fisher King analogies seem a bit steep). But, totem-story or not, interview or not, the winged figure at the end of this story is significantly more than a bird, and you will never persuade me otherwise.

BTW, I've got several Native American dictionaries coming through interlibrary loan (our library didn't have very much); I'll let you know if anything turns up on any names.

Excellent! If you look back over the archive, I've ruled out six or eight. Here are two more NOT: Lenape and the various Mohawk dialects (Iroquois, Kanienkehata). I put in queries about Cree and Blackfoot, no replies yet (and maybe never). Here's a thought, though: it might be wise to investigate the Illinois area.

-alga-

Joshua A. Solomon — 28 Aug 1997, 10:39 · follows Alice Turner

Alice Turner wrote:

Here's a thought, though: it might be wise to investigate the Illinois area.

Note: Algonquin, IL is just west of Barrington.

bee/wolfe