

Baptism vs. Resurrection

The Urth list — 4 messages, 4 voices, 05 Nov 1999

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/1926>

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Ouroboros — 05 Nov 1999, 21:23

<<<<Nessus? I can be mistaken, but I think you mean the river Gyll (is this the correct spelling?). This could be a Christian paralel, anyway: not with the resurrection of Christ -- wich, anyway, marks the end of Jesus's "career" on Earth --, but the Baptism by John.>>>

Oops! Thanks for the correction, Carlos.

However, the Baptism of John is a not a good match IMO. The bottom of the Nessus represents death. The nenuphar represents death because "under flower and leaves are black roots...reaching down in to the dark waters" at the bottom of the Gyll (where the life-giving sun's rays do not reach). Also, Severian makes a straight-forward comparison between the necropolis with it's roses and the Gyll with it's nenuphars. The Gyll=grave.

Now, I know the Jordan river has also been a symbol of death, but the symbol is in **crossing** the river, not sinking to the bottom of it. Later Severian will cross the Gyll but that's the death of Balder not the baptism of Jesus. And Christian baptism does represent Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, but that's not the kind of baptism John did and a symbol of a symbol of burial and resurection is top heavy.

Finally, in orthodox theology it is at his resurrection when Jesus' **real** career began. When Christian's are baptized at their conversion or as infants it is representative of Jesus' resurrection. Of course, for Catholic children there is a 13 year period between baptism and confirmation, but now I'm chasing rabbits because that's not how Wolfe became a Christian.

I suppose it's possible both things symbols are being used simultaneously, but the resurrection of Christ seems to fit better than his baptism by John.

Daniel Fusch — 06 Nov 1999, 07:18 · follows Ouroboros

Also consider that Severian's "baptism" occurs during the ceremony in which he enters the guild. Master Palaemon sprinkles water upon his brow, if I remember aright. Later, in "The Claw of the Conciliator," Severian also partakes of a depraved parody of communion--so the sacraments appear in ritual.

I agree with Ouroboros. The drowning scene seems more like a resurrection than a baptism.

From: Ouroboros <ottofaij at yahoo.com>
Reply-To: urth at lists.best.com
To: urth at lists.best.com
Subject: (urth) Re: Baptism vs. Resurrection
Date: Fri, 5 Nov 1999 21:23:19 -0800 (PST)

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--Ouroboros

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Carlos Martinho — 06 Nov 1999, 08:00 · follows Daniel Fusch

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Thanks for the impressive amount of info & insight! I read the books almost an year ago, and I didn't remmembered all the death-sybbols at the Gyll submersion -- I was mostly guessing when I wrote about the baptism. Anyway, now I really believe that both symbols (resurrection and baptism) are entangled in the Gyll episode. After all, Severian's "public career" begins after the submersion, just as Jesus's...

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"The nostalgia of things unknown, of lands forgotten or unfound, is upon me at times. Often I long for the gleam of yellow suns upon terraces of translucent azure marble, mocking the windless waters of lakes unfathomably calm"

Clark Ashton Smith, "Nostalgia of the Unknown"

Jim Henley — 06 Nov 1999, 11:18 · follows Carlos Martinho

-----Original Message-----

From: urth-errors at lists.best.com [mailto:urth-errors at lists.best.com]On Behalf Of Carlos Martinho

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Doesn't "immersive" baptism always represent death and rebirth? The old self drowns and the new, sanctified self rises. Except ye be born again ye shall not enter . . . and all that.

Best,

Jim