

Great chain of beans, theo-idioty and all that

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 22 Nov 1999

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/1971>

Exported from an unofficial mirror of a public mailing list. Copyright in each message remains with the person who wrote it. Email addresses are obscured as `user at host`, the form the original archive published. This file was rebuilt from parsed fields rather than retained headers, so it is faithful in content but not byte-exact.

David Duffy — 22 Nov 1999, 00:19

I've commented before on what I thought of as a medieval (Christian) world view in Wolfe, in that the pain and suffering in this antechamber to eternity is really not that important, it's your attitude while suffering. If you regard the drowning of Urth as an unethical and inefficient use of power, then you must feel the same about the earlier Flood. Severian has to have a belief that this is the only way to do things correctly in the long run, even if he doesn't understand why. Wrt miracles and technology, several people have already made the point that the actual mechanism for the workings of providence is not important (ObSF one might compare Frank Herbert's The Godmakers which has the same mechanism for miraculous powers). And finally, I think that for a long time, there was room in Christian theology/natural philosophy for heirarchies of beings between the level of humans and angels -- one might look to djinns in Islam (who of course can choose to be good Muslims) for a comparison. This comes back to the ``reality" of the Greek gods, the imperfection of the heirodules etc. I push all these points because I think they influenced the design of this particular universe we're discussing.

David Duffy. ,_-_\

| email: davidD at qimr.edu.au ph: INT+61+7+3362-0217 fax: -0101 / *

| Epidemiology Unit, The Queensland Institute of Medical Research _,-_/

| 300 Herston Rd, Brisbane, Queensland 4029, Australia v