

Seven American Nights & Other Notes

The Urth list — 2 messages, 1 voices, 25 Aug 1997

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/203>

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Marty_Light — 25 Aug 1997, 13:07

Thanks to all for the great discussion! I've been lurking in the background, re-reading Wolfe (and Crowley and Pynchon) as quickly as I am able, and saving the group's comments for future re-readings. At the risk of appearing not up to the high standards already exhibited by the current contributors...here are a couple of points on which I'd like your collective thoughts:

1) Call me dumb, but I think I just "got it" in reference to the title "Seven American Nights" with a Middle-Eastern protagonist compared with "1001 Arabian Nights" (and they are both prime numbers ;-)...

2) One of the earlier stories in IODDAOSAOS is called "The Hero as Werewolf" (typing from memory since book is at home). While I can't pretend to understand this particular story, it references people who have been genetically altered -- perhaps by chemicals in the environment -- and have lupine characteristics. One of the characters is named Garou, which means Wolf(e) or werewolf in some language (loup garou -- mantis?). There is some talk about these mutants going to the park to put on theater productions. 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.) I never made the connection between these stories, which I initially read when the first paperback printing came out 16 or so years back, until the most recent reading.

3) I very much would like to subscribe to both a Wolfe-only mail list and an other-author list. Wolfe's works certainly have attracted enough of us to keep up a lively discussion. As we tackle other authors and books (e.g. Crowley, Pynchon) we could certainly spin them off if they begin to dominate the discussion. I just think it's great to get others' perspectives and insights on things in these challenging literary works that enrich my personal experience while reading them.

I don't know if this characterizes me as a "chem" or a Hierodule, but since my real surname is Light, sign me off as...

...Photon.

PS - alga, please send me a copy of the review you mentioned last week, faulty though it may be. Thanks!

Marty_Light — 25 Aug 1997, 16:01 · follows Marty_Light

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