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The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 07 Dec 2000

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David Lebling — 07 Dec 2000, 17:10

From: Michael Straight <straight at email.unc.edu>

I remember one reviewer writting something like "Gene Wolfe stands at the bridge as the critics come by one by one to try to figure out Castlevew, and all are knocked into the moat." (The reviewer's sentence was much better than that.)

Gene Wolfe: He who would pass over the Bridge of Death, answer me these questions three!

Reviewer: I will answer!

GW: Who was Severian's grandmother?

R: Dorcas!

GW: Who was Apu Punchau?

R: Severian!

GW: What was going on at the end of _Castlevew_?

R: Um, uh, geez, no idea...

****BOING!****

With all due apologies to Monty Python and GW.

Dave Lebling

(aka vizcacha)

David Duffy — 08 Dec 2000, 00:12 · follows David Lebling

On Thu, 7 Dec 2000 urth-errors at lists1.ba.best.com wrote:

From: "Dan'I Danehy-Oakes" <ddanehy at siebel.com>

Adam Stephanides wrote:

Which, to return to an earlier point, is not something a "very conservative writer" would be likely to do; in fact, it's exactly the sort of thing the modernist authors of the early twentieth century were preoccupied by. Nor is it generally the sort of thing people mean when they talk about "putting the story first."

You seem to be pointing at a kind of "experimental" that was very experimental indeed in the 1920s, and that most of the pomos would sniff at as mere "modernism." And it is indeed putting the story The paragraph in full:

One moment, please. Let me stand and walk to the window;
let me put this broken elm branch -- shaped as though it
were meant to be the antler of a wooden deer, such a deer

as might be found, possibly, under one of the largest outdoor Christmas trees -- upon the fire. Ladies, this was not what I wanted. Ladies, I wish to know only if in my condition I should exercise or remain still; because if the answer is that I must exercise I will go looking for my scout knife.

I think Peace is definitely modern in that sense. The logic, such as in the example above, is dream logic, and the modernists were all influenced by psychoanalysis. "Who knows what dreams may come" is relevant to the common model of confused ghosts working through all that difficult material before they "wake up".

David Duffy.