

Pratchett and Wolfe

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 11 Dec 2001

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/2865>

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Tony Ellis — 11 Dec 2001, 17:31

This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

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Russell Wodell:

"Brutha, with his photographic memory, and the role of torture in the world echoes Gene Wolfe's *The Book of the New Sun* (1980-83) sequence."

This certainly never occurred to me when reading "Small Gods," Pratchett's most sustained attack on organized religion, especially the Catholic Inquisition, and I don't remember Pratchett ever mentioning Wolfe in any context whatsoever.

Well, Pratchett does subtitle it "The Book of the New Son"... :-)

What I've always wondered is whether it was intended as an actual Up Yours to TBOTNS, or simply as a skit on it. Pratchett has spoofed plenty of other SF novels, but always affectionately. Here, it's hard to tell whether the attack is aimed solely at organised religion, or also at writers who attempt to justify it.

In any case, it's not his happiest book, and certainly my least favourite.

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