

The Best Introduction to the Mountains

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 03 Jan 2002

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/2880>

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Alice K. Turner — 03 Jan 2002, 00:14

Thank you, Andy Robertson, for sending the URL. Here it is, for those who, like me, may have missed it. <http://home.clara.net/andywrobertson/docindex.html>

I can venture a guess as to why the essay was turned down for Karen Haber's anthology. It doesn't hang together. Part of it, the part where Wolfe tells us about his first reading of the trilogy and his correspondence with Tolkien is very intense, focussed and joyful, rather like Keats looking at Chapman's Homer. I gather that the anthology is mostly composed of enthusiastic pieces like this, perhaps not so well done, but certainly pretty much in the same key. But the rest of the essay strikes a note of disgruntled, archly worded old-fartism that I found annoying and I imagine she did too (or perhaps it was her editor). I don't think it's a defense of feudalism exactly, but it's certainly right-wing in the belief that people should know and appreciate their places and wrk hard at their appointed tasks. I've just been reading a book about British upper-class Fascist feelings (and approval of Hitler, who knew how things should be) prior to WWII, and this essay chimes in rather too well.

-alga