

speaking beast / Hyacinth as man?

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 06 Feb 2002

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/2930>

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maa32 — 06 Feb 2002, 22:42

Anyway, was any consensus ever reached in the old days about the phantom presence of Triskele being able to "speak" in Severian's dream in Shadow of the Torturer? Is the friend with dripping jaws definitely Triskele? I ask this because that presence in the mine at Saltus which Severian awakens has the same kind of subterannean associations, and I know that has been discussed a lot.

Also, I wanted to apologize if I offended anyone about bringing up that study; it seems the media should be blamed rather than making fun of me for using a search engine with a poem. Sniff. You have to admit that without technology like that we could never have our enlightened discussions - and I only brought it up to a list of maybe 25 people, while the media reaches hundreds of millions. I was only interested in the idea that a mother's behavior and past influences the development of her child; it obviously does during pregnancy, but this study analyzed events that occurred before gestation - I wasn't really concerned with the specifics. (Wolfe seems to believe that behavior affects development).

While we are on this topic, there is an interesting thing going on in Nightside the Long Sun which involves "boy toys" in mythology. When Silk breaks into Bloods house, he runs into a statues of Catamitus and Ganymede (both young boys who have relations with older men; Ganymede was Zeus' cupbearer and special "plaything"). At first this seems to obviously invoke Musk as Blood's special "friend", but THIS IS WHERE HE RUNS INTO HYACINTH ... and in myth, if I am not mistaken, Hyacinthus is another one of those "boy toys". Chenille makes the comment that Hyacinth used to be very flat before Crane doctored her up ... Is there a possibility that Hyacinth could have been a man at one time? Here is the story of Hyacinthus:

"A Greek vegetation divinity who was loved by both Apollo and Zephyrus. He returned the love of Apollo, but not of Zephyrus.

When he and Apollo were throwing the discus together, Zephyrus blew Apollo's discus out of its course. It struck the head of Hyacinthus and killed him. From his blood Apollo made spring up a flower, the hyacinth. "

OK, what we have here is Apollo (and his obvious associations in Wolfe's work) contending with THE WIND, while a flower blooms up, though trod under the shepherds heel. Ho ho ho. Notice how many times the Wind comes up prominently in the Short Sun: it's in almost all of the prophecies, and is even mentioned as one of the primary differences between Blue and Urth. Now, if we accept that Apollo might have some connection with someone like Severian or someone who comes to associate himself with Severian, like Silk, do we get an accurate image of anything? Here is my question: COULD Hyacinth have been altered more than we suspect by Dr Crane, and if so, could her death have directly resulted from the awkward place in which she was placed: being a loyal wife of Calde Silk while still serving enemy forces?

Marc Aramini

Michael Straight — 07 Feb 2002, 13:16 · follows maa32

On Wed, 6 Feb 2002, maa32 wrote:

OK, what we have here is Apollo (and his obvious associations in Wolfe's work)
contending with THE WIND

Also, Apollo vs. the Wind makes me think of Severian vs. Typhon ("typhoon")

-Rostrum