

Brack Flank

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 02 Mar 2002

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/3008>

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Ranjit Bhatnagar — 02 Mar 2002, 17:03

I can't resist reposting this, which I wrote in '95:

I was listening to k.d. lang's album "Ingenue" when I realized that the first side of the album is clearly taken from the Book of the New Sun. (Caution: spoilers!)

Let's examine the evidence, song by song:

1. SAVE ME

Save me
Save me from you
But pave me
The way to you
Lead me upon the captive free...

What could that be but Thecla wheedling Severian?

2. THE MIND OF LOVE

...Where is your head, Kathryn?
Where is your head?

The Feast of Holy Katherine. Do I have to draw a picture?

3. MISS CHATELAINE

...I can't explain why I've become
Miss Chatelaine

4. WASH ME CLEAN

You swim
Swim through my veins...

Severian takes the alzado with the flesh of Chatelaine Thecla and absorbs her memories and personality, leading to confusion and identity crisis as she is in effect reincarnated in his body.

5. SO IT SHALL BE

Shadows
Now curtain the moon
But faith swears

It will shine again soon
Shine with love
You've been hiding from me...

Severian harbors a false hope that Thecla still lives, and is waiting for him, somewhere, just out of sight.

...Like daylight chasing the dark...

(Notice the sun/moon/shadow symbolism that recurs throughout the Book of the New Sun.)

I can exist being caught by your kiss
Willingly
Or grant you control
Of my body and soul
Ask it and so it shall be

Eventually he must accept that if she lives at all, it is only within him.

lang clearly is not trying to recapitulate the entire _Book of the New Sun_; rather, she's focusing on one particular storyline of interest to her. I have probably missed many of the significant details, and I don't know what the second half of the album is about. I welcome your comments.

Ranjit

Jason Ingram — 02 Mar 2002, 17:53 · follows Ranjit Bhatnagar

When I hear music that I often listened to when reading, I tend to remember those stories ("state-dependent memory"?); for me Miranda Sex Garden's _Fairy Tales of Slavery_ perfectly evokes the mood of TBONS, with the possible exception of one song in German.

I don't mean to imply that this might explain other people's associations, since a) lyrical content may match too well to be coincidental, and b) it's likely that the reading and listening occurred at different times--

but synchronicity--meaningful coincidence--isn't enough, for me, to evidence informed intent.

REM's "The End of the World as we know it" is a famous example in debate circles, with debaters claiming that the band members went to a debate tournament, listened to the arguments being made, and wrote the song ("tournament, tournament, tournament of lies"). I'm skeptical, but--and this applies to Lupine music as well--even if the link isn't true it **ought** to be.

Sepia