

5HC inclusion

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 11 Apr 2002

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maa32 — 11 Apr 2002, 03:36

I was going to comment on the inclusion of Fifth Head of Cerberus in Mr. Gevers' fine article as well, Blattid, but then I decided against it. Since you brought it up, I am also sure it's not in the same "universe", but it does have some interesting thematic connections. And I think it is the "hardest" single Wolfe novel around. I just didn't get it the first time through - and you are spot on with the depressing aspect (oddly enough, I got the same feeling from Soldier of Arete, and a little from Urth of the New Sun, too.) Too bad there are 12 novels in the Sun series (for sure): it screws up the 11 stations of the Kaballah tree! Damn you, Urth of the New Sun! Hey, a tree! The Briah cycle! The trees are inescapable. I'll shut up now.

Speaking of depressing:

And anybody read the introduction to Wolfe's poetry collection, "For Rosemary"? He really does seem sad most (or, a lot of) the time. His personal comments are a strange mixture of extreme self-abnegation coupled with an obvious pride that sneaks out every once in a while. Does he really believe what he writes won't get published? Sometimes he sounds so sad, other times he makes comments like: "everything I write is great". Remember that one essay in Castle of Days (I think) where he talks about where he gets his inspiration from? Waking up in the middle of the night in a cold sweat and realizing that your parents and your friends are long dead, calling out in dreams to a mother who can no longer hold you ... > I have no training in psychology or anything, but sometimes I wonder if he is a happy guy.

Marc Aramini

matthew.malthouse — 11 Apr 2002, 11:14 · follows maa32

On 11/04/2002 04:36:56 maa32 wrote:

[Advance warning, this is probably trivial nonsense ;-)]

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12.

5 + 4 + 3 which is neat.

Except that 4 + 1 + 4 + 3 ain't so.

But if we're counting, what's 'A Novel'? If asked I'd have said that TBotNS was a novel in four volumes, TUotNS in one, TBotLS in four and TBotSS in three.

So 1 + 1 + 1 + 1

One might argue (although I would not) that Severian and Silk = 5 + 7.

In each multi volume case there's a contiguity of narrative that makes them single entities. Contrast with Le Guin's Earthsea which I'd say was three (now four) novels because although they all feature Ged, and in the first 'trilogy' he's the protagonist, they are not contiguous.

Matthew