

Belated thoughts RE: (urth) Shadowy reflections on an amazing

The Urth list — 3 messages, 3 voices, 17 Apr 2002

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/3164>

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Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 17 Apr 2002, 23:56

Nigel observed:

Severian in some sense takes on the role of Christ when he resists Typhon's three-fold temptations, but as the author has insisted elsewhere, Severian is not Jesus...

and I insist that this is a case where the author either is -- I was going to say "lying" but let me say instead "being deliberately disingenuous" -- or doesn't know what he's talking about. Or maybe some combination of the two. And it doesn't start with the temptation in the desert.

I mean, come on: his career starts with baptism and ends with resurrection. Before he meets Typhon, he raises the dead, heals the sick turns water into wine, tames wild beasts, and (I think a case could be made) banishes demons. Not to mention coming back from the dead repeatedly, telling parables (what _do_ you think the stories in the Book of Urth and Sky are?), etc., etc., etc.

Adam Stephanides — 19 Apr 2002, 15:04 · follows Dan'l Danehy-Oakes

on 4/17/02 6:56 PM, Dan'l Danehy-Oakes at ddanehy at siebel.com wrote:
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Well, he isn't literally Jesus: he's not God, and his return isn't the Second Coming of Christ (and I've never understood how the events of UotNS are to be reconciled with the Christian eschatological scheme). But I agree that the similarities between Severian and Jesus go far beyond "he's a Christian, and Christians are supposed to imitate Christ."

When I read UotNS, it seemed to me that the portions of the book where Severian is the original Conciliator might have been Wolfe's attempt to imagine why someone might behave as Jesus

does in the Gospel of Mark (reluctant to perform miracles, and telling those he's cured not to say anything about it).

--Adam

Michael Straight — 19 Apr 2002, 19:20 · follows Adam Stephanides

On Fri, 19 Apr 2002, James Jordan wrote:

As for how all this fits with conventional Christian eschatology; well, it does not have to. The events are in the midst of history, not at its full end. But the Bible repeatedly uses Flood language to refer to invading armies and other similar disasters, and also relates the Flood to baptism. Thus, Wolfe can have a Flood-event in the midst of history, which is a judgment on an old Ur-world and also a baptism of that world, ushering in a new Ushas world.

Which raises the question again, are there no more rainbows on Urth? (Other than the one Severian pulls butterflies out of, that is.)

-Rostrum