

InsideOut&Down

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 17 Feb 1998

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m.driussi — 17 Feb 1998, 05:04

Reply: Item #7417663 from URTN at LISTS.BEST.COM@INET00#

Nutria,

Re: three universes not just two, and the direction of black holes and white holes, well, that's the word from the text from Baldanders.

I understand that you would like to have hell syphoning off Briaah, but it just doesn't seem to be working that way. Would you find it more acceptable if the boon of the white fountain from subspace were the reward for the harrowing of hell?

Or, to get very convoluted, what if the "interior" of the worldship Yesod, the place with all the noise and the "abandon all hope" sign at the front, the place with your scarabs running around, the place where all the work really gets done (according to the people there, who only go to the "surface" for vacations) is actually somehow a pocket universe, the third universe, the subspace called Abaddon? Because we know that the magic mirrors lead to Yesod; yet we also know that most of the witnessed critters from the magic mirrors are definitely =not= angelic, suggesting that Yesod contains both angelic and demonic . . . (or does it just mean that the mirrors are as one-way as the black-hole to white-hole teleports--i.e., that anything appearing in a magic mirror on Briaah must be coming from subspace, anything entering a magic mirror on Briaah will enter Yesod? Well, if =that= is the case, then how to explain the Fish, one of the earliest forms in the magic mirrors?)

The magic mirrors create an image, an echo, which then causes the echo object to materialize (since, as they put it and I paraphrase, "a reflection cannot exist without the object it reflects (and the observer seeing)." I'm bringing this up now because it turns out to be very important with regards to the Hierogrammates: they are the echoes of the Hieros; they are struggling to uplift Briahtic humans to the level of the Hieros. So that the Briahtic neo-Hieros will, in turn, make neo-Hierogrammates.

The Hieros are not just human, they are optimized humans; they are completed humans; they are a stage beyond the human race of the Green Man (who already seems rather angelic). They made the Hierogrammates in their own best image and then either moved upstairs to Yesod+1 or merged with the Increate, or whatever happens.

I don't think that the Hierogrammates are the "saints" of previous Briaah who now act like angels to Briaah, I think they really =are= "angels" in the sense that they are sub-creations, godlike in some ways but inferior to humans in many crucial ways, for which they must bow to humanity. The "saints" of previous Briaah would be the Hieros themselves (and true, having saints manufacture angels out of animals, or gods out of dogs, is theologically odd--unless we include some Hindu stuff along with Jewish mysticism).

Re: white fountain as related to the river that flows from Yesod to Briah. Are you referring to the Brook Madregot? I don't think it is connected to the white fountain in the way you seem to be suggesting. But I agree with you that it connects various universes: Yesod, the corridors of time, Briah, the ship Tzadkiel. It is also the banishment place for little (mischievous) Tzadkiel, if you recall.

=mantis=

Kieran Cleary — 17 Feb 1998, 14:56 · follows m.driussi

mantis writes:

Because we know that the magic mirrors lead to Yesod...

Do we? My impression was that they lead to other locations on Briath. Jonas uses them to return to the stars, Burgandofores (?) laughs at the idea that the ship-sails, acting in the same manner, snatch important personages from other worlds. The apports appear to be neither demonic nor angelic. Just odd (mortal) creatures from different planets. When the Old Autarch opens the mirrored book in the House Absolute, he shows Severian an image of Tzadkiel, but not necessarily in Yesod.

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