

Fish

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 09 Mar 2003

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Lisa Schaffer-Doggett — 09 Mar 2003, 00:26

Howdy y'all. It seems like my brain is on fire today. One of the arguments I have been expecting against my theory that Valeria is Severian's sister is the fact that Fish in the Tale of a Boy called Frog is described as Frog's twin brother. This only bothered me slightly because all throughout Graves there are indications of gender name change. A God who was originally an aspect of the Goddess, but became masculinized. I figured there would be a gender difference between Frog and Fish in either Greek or Latin. What I found has my wheels turning. Ichthys is fish in Greek, and it is very masculine. In fact it is used as the acronym for Christ, as well as being an aspect of Horus and some other sun gods. This seems like a strike until I looked a little further and dug up the word Delphos, which also means fish (I think more correctly dolphin, though I'm not sure the word distinguishes between mammal and fish) and womb. It turns out that the fish is an ancient symbol (allegedly) of a variety of goddesses and was co-opted by the masculine sun gods. So the Tale of a Boy called Frog might also be read as a triumph of the masculine. What troubles me is this duality. Valeria fits the profile of Frog's twin, but so does Silk in a way (though it would have to be fraternal). All of the embryo's on the Whorl are stored underground. And Severian sees Silk as Malrubius. It occurs to me that Malrubius might be another black bean, corresponding with death, and that Silk's genetic similarities with him make him appear as similar in his astral state. I think I need to just reread Long Sun.

Don