

DOORS: more places

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 09 Mar 2003

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/3889>

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StoneOx17 — 09 Mar 2003, 16:16

While we're on the subject, I've had some more ideas on Marea. Marea means "tide" in Spanish. This should mean it's on the Pacific, in a formerly Spanish-speaking area. (Does this mean the Mexican-American war still took place in Otherworld?) The two obvious candidates are San Francisco and Los Angeles, and neither of these names is possible in Otherworld. The red-faced man says Marea is at the "foot of the mountains," which describes Los Angeles somewhat better.

So Marea is probably Los Angeles. Where would Overwood be?

It contains Crystal Gorge, the Metal Forest, Giants' Castle, The Goddess's Pleasure Garden, forbidding narrow valleys and mountains with snow-white peaks, including Mt Hieros. So it's probably somewhere in the Sierras. Mt. Whitney and Death Valley? King's Canyon and Sequoia National Park? Yosemite and Hetch-Hetchee (in which case Marea would have to be San Francisco)? My current favorite is Death Valley and the surrounding mountains; it's very apropos for a forbidden place, and fits in beautifully with mantis' theory that men go to Overwood to sacrifice themselves.

-- Stone Ox

Michael Andre-Driussi — 09 Mar 2003, 18:24 · follows StoneOx17

Stone Ox wrote:

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I googled "Marea" before, if I didn't mention it, and one of the interesting things that bubbled up was a town of that name, in ancient Egypt. Located, iirc, to the west of the Nile on the side of a nice lake.

Oh, here's the note: city, 331 BCE to 16th century, 44 km SW of Alexandria, on Lake Maryut. Name meaning "By Lake."

Re: that red faced man, I keep meaning to bring this up: he must be an alcoholic, right? His red face. (And he's probably a visitor, since he passes on cryptic information which seems to be right on target.) This becomes important later when it is shown that visitors and other public oddballs are brought into the hospital under the cover of alcoholism.

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Another point of geography: California is mentioned in the text, but by Green who wonders about wine . . . can't find a note of it, can't find it in the text right now. Anyway, California is mentioned, I'm pretty sure, but only in speculation by Green as to what the rest of Otherworld is like.

In addition, there is Marcella the movie star, with implications of Hollywood (there's that "-wood" again), pointing toward California. Especially since Marcella is just a mundane cover for the goddess . . . but this cuts both ways: if Marcella and her implied Hollywood are a mundane cover, then they cannot be the real thing (goddess and Overwood).

Marea. On a lake, it could be Salt Lake City, which is hardly at the foot of the mountains when I was thinking of something more like Denver. Another point is that it can be reached by train directly (which technically might rule out San Francisco).

North says the goddess's place is 10,000 square miles (p. 60). This translates into something like $640 * 10,000 = 6,400,000$ acres. Death Valley is 1,907,760 acres, so yes, that would be something like one third of the total. The goddess's land seems contiguous, so building out from there it shouldn't be too hard to carve out an area.

"Crystal Gorge," "Metal Forest," and "Giant's Castle" sound like they could be desert locations: the second could be a "petrified forest" and the last could be any of the rock formations at Joshua Tree (or even a take on Death Valley's "Scotty's Castle," if we haven't mentioned that before).

So maybe Marea is on Lake Havasu, and the goddess owns counties San Bernardino and Inyo?

If Yosemite, then I think Marea would be at Mono Lake on the Eastern Side. Actually, this rings very strongly with my sense of what Marea is like! Mono Lake is at the foot of the Sierra Nevadas, in a desert area; yet up into those mountains you get into the wonderful greenery of Yosemite. Plus Mono Lake is an unusual landscape all its own (yep, you've seen it in photos from Pink Floyd's "Wish You Were Here" to who knows where else).

So yes, a connection between Yosemite, Kings, Sequoia, and Death Valley looks quite good, I think!

PLACE ACRES

Yosemite 761,320

Kings/Sequoia 386,863

Death Valley 1,907,760

Connective Land ?

I wonder if Gene Wolfe isn't also thinking about divorce laws: about how women used to go to Reno (or any other place in Nevada), stay in a camp to establish residency, and then be able to get a quick divorce? This would be a goddess-like thing to do: to a viewer from the Otherworld it would look like a pilgrimage to a place sacred to the goddess, afterwhich the pilgrim would

become more like the goddess herself.

=mantis=