

Chrasmological Writings - "Open Eyes"

The Urth list — 2 messages, 1 voices, 31 Mar 2003

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/3905>

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James Wynn — 31 Mar 2003, 17:02

This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

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And when speculation continued without considering his suggestion, Josh defiantly asserted:

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So I bought 'Hamlet's Mill', and thought, "Oh my, another very thick book to read". But I enjoyed every word and, sure enough....

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I must thank Josh because I probably wouldn't have elected to try this book without his recommendation. Aside from the beautiful merit of the book in its own right, I found rich veins of Wolfean source material.

For those who may not know, Shakespeare derived his Hamlet from the Dane Saxo Grammaticus' Latin work which included a story about the prince Amlethus. Santillana and Dechend argue that Amlethus is the Norse Amlohdi who owned "a fabled mill which in his own time ground out peace and plenty. Later, in decaying times, it ground out salt; and now finally, having landed at the bottom of the sea, it is grinding rock and sand, creating a vast whirlpool, the Maelstrom which is supposed to be the way to the land of the dead."

The "millstone" to which they refer is spinning heavens. The center of the Mill is the polar star.

Graves asserted that true poetry is mythological, that it conveys the hidden roots of all poetry

and religion. Santillana and Dechend assert that true **mythology** is cosmological; that it conveys the story of the stars and the "great catastrophe" caused by the Precession of the Equinox (when the millstone became "unhinged"). This implicitly denies (actually they contemptuously deny it) Graves attempt to derive Greek mythology from ancient religio-political upheavals on the Peloponese.

From this one "great scientific marvel" of science -- the moving of the polar center and banishing of constellations "to the underworld", "to beneath the ocean", the writers have attempted to connect practically all the great myths: Prometheus, Vishnu, the Flood, Samson, Hercules, etc. etc.)

It would be impossible to describe here every insight into Wolfe's work that this book has provided me. However, note that as in Wolfe's Whorl, ancient man also saw himself in the middle of a spinning elongated whorl, and also that Horn build's a paper mill from which comes the "Book of Silk" through which, in a sense, the gods of the Heavens, especially Silk and the Outsider, were brought to the emmigrants.

Reading this work also begins to explain for me all the references to Hesphaestus, the Smith God.

And here is here is something for New Sun speculators attempting to nail down a relationship between Typhon and Severian:

"The story of the smith Kavag -- also written Kaweh, or Kawa -- is told by Firdausi in the book dealing with the 1000 years rule of Dahak, that fiendish tyrant out of whose shoulders grew two serpents that had to be fed with the brains of two young men every day. The predestined dragon-slayer and much expected savior, Faridun --- Avestan Thraethona -- had been saved from the snares of Dahak as a baby, and hidden away in the mountains."

On science fiction, Tolkien, and Wolfe's 'bleak' plots:

"Science fiction, when it is good, is a wholly valid attempt at restoring a mythical element, with its adventures and tragedies, its meditations on man's errors and man's fate. For true tragedy is an essential component or outcome of myth.... Tolkien's efforts at reviving the genre, whatever the talent employed, carry as much conviction as the traditional three-dollar bill."

So there ya go. Thanks again to Josh for identifying this quotation and putting me on to a really interesting book.

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