

Lanark and Severian

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 17 Apr 2003

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/3944>

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Malco — 17 Apr 2003, 12:56

--- ArchD'Ikon Zibethicus <zibethicus at hotmail.com>
skrev: >

Nastler says: "The Thaw narrative shows a man dying because he is bad at loving. It is enclosed by [Lanark's] narrative which shows civilization collapsing for the same reason." (p.484.)

Dunno if this necessarily equates with a _judgement_ per se...and Lanark's abject failure at the 'general assembly of council states' in Provan was _planned_ and _intended_ by Sludden, who sent him there knowing he was going to get rolled...

The council is disgusted by his abjectness and jeers at him after his arrest and release from the drunk-tank, yes, but the destruction of Unthank is not caused by this event...

Judgement is maybe too formal a term for what happens in Lanark. But the text does give the impression that an alternative was at least possible and that it depended largely on Lanark's actions. If he had stayed focused at the assembly, maybe developing a new relationship with Multan, then he _could_ have made a big difference _and_ received help for the environmental problems _and_ eventually brought back the sun (!!!) and natural time to Unthank. Instead he failed and was sent home to wait for the chaos and the flood, which would profit the hidden powers at the expense of the people that Lanark was supposed to be representing.

All of these things echo with Severian's story, even the argument that Sev is something of an object of forces that don't necessarily care much for the "common people".

But hope and possibility of change wrought entirely by human hands and purely for our good does exist for Gray. While in the flying thing Lanark hears

"..is...is...is...if...is...is..", and as Nastler says that's
"an incredible amount of freedom".

Malco

And you are _spot on_ about Sludden/Blair... *g*

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