

The Orcle, The Excession, The Outsider

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 05 May 2003

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/3977>

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Che Monro — 05 May 2003, 19:16

Wise Ones,

In my simple curiosity I sought to enquire of the Oracle of Changes about it's own existance and spirituality. I used this oracle:

<http://www.mdani.demon.co.uk/para/iching2.htm>

to ask the question:

Are you well? Are you happy? I would like to know about the sprititual state of the Oracle of Changes.

To which I received the reply of Hexagram 28 or Great Excess, with no changing lines and thus no second hexagram.

~*~

Beyond the great pass

Crossing the great pass: the ridgepole is sagging
Harvest: to proceed probing Expansion

The great image says:

The marsh submerges the tree: Great excess
The noble one stands alone without fear, leads a life of recluse without melancholy

Life is a cycle, it is circular. It begins, it grows, and it goes down again. To make life a straight road to a distant future is a desperate attempt of human mind to make it never-ending. It will not help him - inevitably he will go down some day.

But if man accepts going down as a substantial, important and good part of life, not as a decline but as a indispensable phase, then he makes his living days twice as many.

Do not live as an old man or an old woman, live as a grand old man, a grand old lady. Without regret or fear, but with the riches of wisdom and experience.

This applies to everything, to enterprises, feelings, popularity. In everything all phases are important.

~*~

It seems to me that the oracle is saying that it is beyond the completion of the cycle, that it is old beyond age (and young beyond youth?). It exceeds all expectations, and yet at the same time, it is a broken stick (yarrow stalk?). It is a contradiction, a mystery, an exception to the rules. It is beyond the Great Pass. It comes from the other side.

This description reminded me of two things.

1. The Outsider from The Book of the Long Sun
2. The Excession of Iain M Banks - that paradigm shifting outside event which changes the entire system and, eventually, reveals new understanding.

Could it be that the Outsider and the Oracle are one and the same? Perhaps someone with greater insight and understanding could help me to interpret this conundrum.

Thanks,

Che

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JoshuaFalchion — 06 May 2003, 04:50 · follows Che Monroe

I doubt if Wolfe would see much of a connection between the Oracle of Changes (the I Ching, I presume) and the Outsider, who seems a fairly clear Christian/Moslem take on the Supreme Being or Increate. But who knows ... I am no expert on the subject of the I Ching, and a connection could have been implied (although where I am not certain.)

Josh the Falchion