

A living torturer

The Urth list — 3 messages, 2 voices, 06 Jun 2003

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/4019>

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David Kirby — 06 Jun 2003, 22:43

Folks,

There's an interesting article on a real-life torturer in the gossip column of today's WASHINGTON POST:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A20993-2003Jun5.html>

(I didn't bother to track down the original article, though a thorough look through OpinionJournal.com should let you do so.)

As I read the article, I of course couldn't help but think of Severian -- maybe the Severian of Earth-12, who lets his family "help me clean my sword."

A telling comment from today's Severian: "[T]here are many people who faint when they witness an execution. I don't know why they come and watch if they don't have the stomach for it. . . . Me? I sleep very well."

This is worth a quick glance. For me, it put into focus some of what Severian does, and not in the positive, sympathetic, or even neutral way much of Wolfe's writing portrays the acts. An eye- opener.

(If you're going to look at the article, do so quickly; the POST removes much of its Internet content from free public view after two weeks.)

And if you want some of the general public's reaction to today's Severian, check out the gossip columnist's weekly Web chat at:

http://discuss.washingtonpost.com/zforum/03/r_style_source060603.htm?nav=hpt oc_lol

(This should be available for more than two weeks, for those of you reading this message in the Urth archives.)

-- David

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"It is possible I already had some presentiment
of my future." == Gene Wolfe
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David B. Kirby, dbkirby at pressroom.com

matthew.malthouse — 09 Jun 2003, 08:30 · follows David Kirby

On 06/06/2003 23:43:27 David Kirby wrote:
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gossip column of today's WASHINGTON POST:

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(I didn't bother to track down the original article, though a
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<http://www.guardian.co.uk/g2/story/0,3604,971528,00.html> reprinted from
<http://www.arabnews.com/>

I don't know the Washiton post so I'm not sure of the purpose of the "Reliable Source" is. But if
it is "gossip" then the trivialiasation of the matter - even though by then it is third or fourth
hand - seems crass.

Matthew

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matthew.malthouse — 09 Jun 2003, 08:40 · follows matthew.malthouse

On 06/06/2003 23:43:27 David Kirby wrote:
[Re beheading article]

http://discuss.washingtonpost.com/zforum/03/r_style_source060603.htm?nav=hptoc_lol

Now I'm even less impressed:

Contributor: "They help him clean his sword" I couldn't help chuckling at that!

Lloyd Grove: Fun for the whole family!

Here is the published reponse from our reprinting of the article:
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/letters/story/0,3604,973366,00.html>

Matthew

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