

The Canocentric Exegesis of Wolfe's 'Tracking Song'

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 03 Mar 1998

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Dan Rabin — 03 Mar 1998, 20:04

This theory of David Lebling's is quite intriguing!

Here are a couple more resonances:

1. The 'lost dog finding its way home' motif resonates with the perception of death among some Christians as 'going home to one's Maker'.
2. The winged beings as beyond-humans resonate with Wolfe's own Hierogrammates, shaped by humans according to human ideals ('united, compassionate, just') never actually achieved by the human race itself.

I can't quite draw an exact analogy, but I'm always willing to believe that Wolfe often works impressionistically rather than with exacting exactness. I think he's willing to deviate slightly from his clever constructs in order to deliver a haunting image or a well-timed surprise.

-- Dan Rabin