

winged figure

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 05 Mar 1998

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Alice Turner — 05 Mar 1998, 07:29

Dan,

Since you're open to resonance, remember that "Tracking Song" has a distinct North American flavor, and that a very important figure in Western NA myth is Great Raven (or simply Raven), who made the world. There is only one winged being seen on the Great Sleigh (and it may be the hallucination of a dying person), and since the Great Sleigh crew has been seen by many of the people Cutthroat encounters, none of whom mention wings, I think it's fairly safe to say that they don't look like a cartload of cherubim.

-alga-

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.