

Sev and Silkhorn

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 10 Jul 2003

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/4083>

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James Jordan — 10 Jul 2003, 15:08

At 09:24 PM 7/9/2003, you wrote:

I want to find something similar in young-Sev/Silkhorn. It may be that a crucial difference between "Sev the Cruel" and "our Sev" is embodied in and caused by his compassionate destruction of Thecla. This prefigures his compassionate destruction of Urth as the New Sun, and it is an act of Love which maybe "Sev the Cruel" was incapable of, and thus incapable of bringing the New Sun.

Perhaps it's not too much of a stretch to see SilkHorn's influence as the cause of this difference. Part of Silk's charisma is to bring out the best in everybody he meets, where any good exists at all: he is pretty much an avatar of the proposition that the only divinity is Love.

So that's one parallel I am comfortable with. But more broadly, I would like to see Silkhorn as the self-caused "completion" of Sev in the same way that Sev is the completion of Ymar.

I think your first parallel is right on. Silk plants seeds in young Sev. I notice that he meets Pastor Silk right after his baptismal resurrection. In Sev's own books, it is that baptism that sets him on his road as a true seeker of truth and penitence, not as a mere torturer with that title over him (though it's a long road and he fails more often than not). Wolfe has added in the influence of Silk: Sacrament and then Word, so to speak.

"Self-caused" strikes me as out of accord with the themes of the books. In both cases, the completions are God-caused, in Sev's case through His agents, in Silk's with His own direct intervention.

IMO, this tendency to multiply Sevs and to try and see every main character as a version of Sev is a red herring. We want to be careful not to see more Sevs than there really are!

If I were going to try and schematize the relationships -- and I'm not sure of this at all -- I'd link Silk as a new and good Typhon. Both men are "over" Sev, as teacher/example or ruler. Silk has the "higher" position, being directly engaged with the Increate, while Sev has the lower one, interacting with the Increate's agents. Don't know if this really works thematically, but it seems to me that Silk and Sev should be seen as different persons.

FWIW.

Nutria