

dog stars

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 29 Mar 1998

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Damien Broderick — 29 Mar 1998, 11:23

alga said:

< Please, for the heathens among us, review the 14 stations of the cross.>

EB gives `Cross, Stations of the':

the final events of the Passion of Christ

1. Jesus is condemned to death
2. he is made to bear his cross [I do hope there's not an ursine pun there]
3. he falls the 1st time
4. he meets his mother
5. Simon of Cyrene is made to bear the cross
6. Veronica wipes his face
7. he falls the 2nd time
8. the women of Jerusalem weep over him
9. he falls the 3rd time
10. he is stripped of his garments
11. he is nailed to the cross
12. he dies on the cross
13. he is taken down from the cross
14. he is placed in the sepulchre

[15. 40 days later he is taken away in the Great Sleigh]

One can readily derive perverse correspondences. In the 6th day, for example, C. meets Cim, who has done murder by striking Fishcatcher across the face with an endieva wand.

Since posting my first message, I have read the full discussion in the archives, and my mind is reeling with the brilliance of the hermeneutic work done so far. While I had seen the animal allegories at work, the bird-like creature killed and eaten at the opening and its sacral double at the close, I lacked the North American details to fill out the schema. Wonderful to see it done (or at least begun so superbly).

mantis said:

< Way back when (deep in the archives?), I was arguing that the world of "Tracking Song" was Mars-like if not Mars: the lesser gravity, the two moons. I also thought that the sky mirror was really a sky mirror, put there in geostationary orbit by the space beings to reflect more sunlight onto the apparently ice age-locked world in order to warm the surface and melt the ice. [etc] >

An orbiting solar mirror was my own first reading, but I'm still not convinced. If such a device

were being used to focus sunlight and thus melt an ice-locked world, wouldn't its virtual image of the sun be

brighter, rather than resembling the sun 'but dimmer'? (The real sun, seen earlier, has not melted the snow so drastically.) C. sees it 'near daylight', so is it always there at that latitude but masked by the brighter daylight of the true sun, as the moon can be? But then the additional insolation would not be marked enough to have a significant effect.

I suspect most of mantis's orbital dynamics objections are on the money, but some of this might lose its force if the beings involved actually *are* much smaller than we are - are, indeed, almost as small as their ancestral stock. BTW, the quite small asteroid Ida has a moon. On the other hand, I suppose the proximity of a planetary primary (whether Jovian or not depends on the size of the satellite, no?) would disrupt any such subordinate moons. But again, these might be (probably are) orbiting craft of the Sleighers.

A final crude suggestion: might the cutthroat mark be the faint scar of a head surgically connected to a different body? More Moreau. The ambiguities of C.'s status. His mediating role. And so forth.

Damien Broderick