

E&G- the need for Ushas

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 02 Aug 2006

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b sharp — 02 Aug 2006, 12:16

I promised Dan'I I'd say why I think Wolfe finds Ushas necessary so this is my best stab at it. I think the answer is found most clearly (hah!) in the play Eschatology (study of final days) and Genesis.

A long time ago in this archive, Alice Turner, Tony Ellis and other early titans were discussing Dr. Talos' play. Some names from Persian mythology were noted, and I think Meschia, Meschianne and Jahi were correctly identified as Urth counterparts to Adam, Eve and Lilith. Further, I think the giant Nod was correctly identified with the Nephilim of Genesis 6:4. The discussion petered out after that, and I don't think it was ever resumed. But I think there is something important there, worth exploring.

The Kabbalistic myth about Lilith suggests God initially made man and woman as separate simultaneous creations but Lilith (made partially from filth) wouldn't accept a submissive role with Adam (especially sexually, i.e. missionary position). She ran off and mated with demons and which eventually resulted in lamia, vampires, human child stealing, improper seduction and other evils. She also managed to escape the mortality of humanity and lived on and on in various guises. Later, Eve, produced (cloned?) from Adam's rib, was a more acceptable product.

Since Domnina and Father Inire's mirrors were recently discussed I have to include this side myth which I think is pertinent:

"Now the daughter of Lilith who made her home in that mirror watched every movement of the >girl who posed before it. She bided her time and one day she slipped out of the mirror and took >possession of the girl, entering through her eyes. In this way she took control of her, stirring her >desire at will.... So it happened that this young girl, driven by the evil wishes of Lilith's daughter, >ran around with young men who lived in the same neighborhood." From "Lilith's Cave," Lilith's >Cave: Jewish tales of the supernatural, edited by Howard Schwartz (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1988)

In Genesis 6:4, the Nephilim giants appear after Adam and Eve and their descendents have become fruitful and multiplied and covered the earth. Apparently certain "Sons of God" looked down from heaven and found Earth girls to be attractive and came down and mated with them (Genesis 6:2). Nephilim is derived from the Hebrew verb "to fall" and thus these giants seem to be the product of matings of humans and fallen angels (demons). Of course two demons also appear in Eschatology and Genesis.

In the earlier part of E&G, both Jahi and Nod, knowing destruction and re-creation are near, hope to interact with Meschia in reproductive fashion so as to be represented in the future. Meschianne identifies Jahi as vampiric, recognizes she messed up the first creation and eventually punches her in the mouth. Later, the tender but manipulative Contessa needs care for an unexplained minor injury. The Contessa also hopes to mate with Meschia. Since both are played by Jolenta, it seems clear the Contessa is Jahi in disguise. Jahi (like Lilith) never really

left, but has been a corrupting influence on humanity all along.

In Genesis 6: 5-7 God soon recognizes the corruption and evil on earth represented by the Nephilim (and Lilith?) and decides to destroy the whole thing. But then he found Noah and his family....Hence, Ushas.

We never get to the Genesis portion of E&G except for the demonic prediction of Ushas, but I think we are meant to understand that Urth is like Earth; that humanity on both worlds has been corrupted and must be purified. This corruption isn't a vague pandoric cloud of evil but very specifically introduced by matings between humans and demons/fallen angels. I think Wolfe's choice of sailors from Tzadkiel's ship to re-populate Ushas represents an earlier sample of humanity, like Noah's family, which had not been corrupted by demonic interbreeding.

I'm pretty convinced that Wolfe identifies the pagan gods of Greece, Rome, Egypt, Persia etc., the early competitors to Judeo-Christianity, with these demons/fallen angels on Earth. The demons/fallen angels on Urth are not explicitly identified as such but I think they can be spotted.

-bsharp