

Tracking Song and Other Stories

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 19 Jun 2007

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Matthew Groves — 19 Jun 2007, 10:39

Roy asks:

Will you elaborate on how the
moose-man's fate relates to the rest of Wolfe's story?

I now understand this story less than ever. As you observe, it seems to be the primary feature of Tracking Song that it is woven of many disparate strands. This is true of Wolfe in general, but especially, it seems to me, the stories in _The Island of Doctor Death and Other Stories and Other Stories_, which leads me to speculate that this collection's title is a wink acknowledging this multiplicity of sources. So far, in relation to Tracking Song, these have been identified, or at least suggested:

Genesis

the Icarus legend

the Great Raven legends of Western North American Indians

The Iliad of Homer (The Odyssey must be there too)

The Aeneid of Virgil Jack London, _The Call of the Wild_ and _White Fang_

I know next to nothing about most of these. And if the winged man at the end is a raven, then I suspect Norse myth must be involved too, another subject about which I know nothing. Rather than groping in darkness (where Wolfe's protagonists so often find themselves) I am hoping someone will show me the light of day (perhaps even Great Raven himself).

Matt G.