

Urth vs. Earth

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 18 Jun 2008

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/5061>

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b sharp — 18 Jun 2008, 14:37

Duncan says:

I don't know about you lot, but the word "Isangoma" is a totally everyday word to me that means shaman/witch doctor (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sangoma>). It's not a Wolfe word, it's a real life word from now. Wolfe must have intended this scene to be in our past (early/mid 1900s, if I recall the air/aeroplane correctly). I think Isangoma is too specific to not mean what I think it means.

I believe almost all the vocabulary in this series are "real life words" which have meaning in our world. Yes, the Jungle Hut scene surely took place a few decades in our past. Borsky contends that Isangoma is really Father Inire and I tend to agree. Not such a stretch to think Father Inire could fit in as a witch doctor in early 20th century Africa. And he is the source of much of the Earth material and legend which can be found on Urth.

Regarding debate over whether the events on Urth represent events in our Earth's future or a previous universal iteration I'll offer some Gene Wolfe quotes from the James Jordan interview, for those interested in the author's intention: (<http://members.bellatlantic.net/~vze2tmhh/wolfebj.html#urth2>)

JJ: This universe that you set in Briah, or part of it--is that our universe?

GW: No. I thought of it as a long past universe. Something that we are repeating rather than something that we are.....(snip).....I was looking at what past universes might have been like really and that is how...I began with the idea of what is going to happen to us if we just keep going the way we are going and continue to live on the continent of Earth without ever really going into the sea or going into space and we just wait for the money to run out. The do nothing future and thinking about what that would be. And then I got into the idea of universal cycles. And decided that I would show that this might be a past cycle.

For those interested, I think this interview shows Wolfe at his most open and revealing mood on a number of topics. The Lawrence Person interview is comparable in that Wolfe spills the beans on 5HoC. <http://home.austin.rr.com/lperson/wolfe.html>

The i'm Talkathon starts

6/24/08. For now, give amongst yourselves.

http://www.imtalkathon.com?source=TXT_EML_WLH_LearnMore_GiveAmongst