

Eschatology and Genesis

The Urth list — 4 messages, 3 voices, 19 Jun 2008

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/5063>

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b sharp — 19 Jun 2008, 13:44

Since it came up, I thought I'd list the lines from Dr. Talos' play which make me think the underlying theme is about corruption of the human race through mating with alien, god-like beings, necessitating purification via Flood. This corruption is described in the Bible as fallen angels (demons) mating with human women creating the giant Nephilim and in Kabbala legends Adam mating with Lilith creating lamia, vampires, etc. Persian legends of Meschia, Meschiane and Jahi are similar.

Nod: Do you serve him? So do we Nephilim.

Nod: He (Meschia) is to come and dwell with me in my land east of this garden. I will give him one of my daughters to wife.

Gabriel: You have the wrong creation my friend--you're fifty million years too late.

Meschia: (snip) Knowing her (Jahi) to be of that brood you have banished, should I not still do what she proposes?

Meschiane- She (Jahi) does (bite) and her fangs run with venom.

Meschia (to Contessa and Maid): I know that you are my daughters in the old creation. You must be since I have had none in this (one).

Contessa (perhaps Jahi disguised) to Meschia- If my body held a part of yours--drops of liquescent tissue locked in my loins...

First Demon: To people these lands (Ushas) a new race is prepared. The humankind you know will be shouldered aside even as the grass..yields to the plow and gives way to wheat.

Second Demon: But what if the seed were burned? What then? The tall man and the slight woman (M & M)

you met not long ago are such seed. Once it was hoped that it might be poisoned in the field, but she (Jahi/Contessa)who was dispatched to accomplish it has lost sight of the seed...and has been handed

over to your Inquisitor for strict examination. Yet the seed might be burned still.

Autarch: But would the death of those two truly halt the coming of the New Sun?

First Demon: No but would you wish it? The new lands shall be yours.

Meschiane: (Jahi is) free to pursue Meschia and ruin everything, as she did before.

Nod: I swear as I hope to be linked by marriage to the family of Man, so that we giants may be called the

Sons of the Father, that I will capture the succubus for you...

Jahi (to Second Demon): ...Wait until the Father hears how you have treated me and betrayed all our efforts.

Second Demon: From you? It was you who left Meschia, lured away by the woman. What will you say? "The woman tempted me?" We have done with that so long ago that no one remembers it save you and I, and now you have spoiled that lie by making it come true.

Nod (to audience): Don't laugh at me! I could kill you all! The whole poisoned race of you! But I am done--I am done! And Meschiane, who trusted in me, is undone!

From these lines I conclude the human race of Urth/Briah is corrupted by past matings with alien beings/evil gods and The Temptation involves Meschia and Jahi/Adam and Lilith. The identity of "the Father" in these lines becomes quite interesting.

From those lines, one might conclude that Severian, playing Meschia, is chosen to be the pure seed to re-populate Ushas. He has been re-born (a few times) and had his cheek and leg healed.

Perhaps the corruption was also expunged? As counter-evidence I see Severian and his family being demonstrated as even more genetically corrupted than most of humanity. Also, a man and a woman are landed on Urth on Flood Day. And Ushas seems already to be populated by a new race of humans when Severian makes his final appearance on the beach. He meets a man there...if Severian was meant to help re-populate Ushas I would think he would meet a woman.

Jeff Wilson — 20 Jun 2008, 04:02 · in reply to b sharp

b sharp wrote:

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Er, Lilith (being as much a part of Adam as Eve was) would be as un-alien as one could get.

Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com
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b sharp — 20 Jun 2008, 13:44 · follows Jeff Wilson

Jeff Wilson says:

Er, Lilith (being as much a part of Adam as Eve was) would be as un-alien as one could get.

Some versions say Lilith and Adam's mating produced the monstrous offspring. Others say they resulted from Lilith mating with demons after Adam rejected her. Either way my basic premise is sustained, that Wolfe is presenting humanity as corrupted by matings with aliens, as a more modern scientific explanation for the legends of pre-christian societies.

(in the James Jordan interview Wolfe states he believes the gods etc. of legend were based on real entities, not imaginary.)

-bsharp

Dave Tallman — 21 Jun 2008, 11:41 · in reply to b sharp

b sharp wrote:

Nod: He (Meschia) is to come and dwell with me in my land east of this garden. I will give him one of my daughters to wife.

Before this line, Nod asks "Have you seen Meschia's son?" I believe the "he" in this line refers to the son, not Meschia himself. It's a reference to the old Biblical puzzle of Cain's wife. After Cain killed Abel, he fled to the Land of Nod, east of Eden, and "knew his wife." Her name and origin are not given in the Bible, so some say she came from the Nephilim or Rephaim.

I don't think Wolfe literally means that the human race is corrupted by mating with aliens. The DNA would be so different that there would be no possibility of offspring. The exultants might have adapted alien technology to do genetic engineering and cloning. The "royal jelly" idea about khabits makes some sense; exultants have to grow to maintain their youth. That could be the reason Talos' play refers to giants.