

fully divine and fully human

The Urth list — 13 messages, 10 voices, 26 Nov 2008

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/5239>

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Marc Aramini — 26 Nov 2008, 01:03

The complexity of Wolfe's symbols are beyond simple categorization. The claw is both a divine relic and an ordinary thorn. Severian is both the conciliator and a dupe of aliens. Time turns our lies into truths.

The church has similar mysteries - three in one, the substance of christ being fully divine and fully mortal, and other paradoxes that can't be explained but can explain other things. The most basic perusal of the text assures us that terms for God are translated as New Sun - the sun dial for example. The conflation of new son and new sun, as well as the symmetry of all the titles leads us to the obvious conclusion that the narrator is torturer, conciliator, lictor, autarch, and new sun.

This was obvious to me in the seventh grade when I read this as a tale of the parousia, but Severian is more than a revelatory Christ - the text tries very hard to establish credence as divine by the use of saints names, the miracles, contiguous use of water and healing, the triumph over death - but there are diabolical forces at work that mimic the divine. The coin of vodalus is a symbol of the sun, but it is false. Severian is both a fraud and a conciliator, and this is something that I can find only in Wolfe. A false Christ can still get the job done by pretending to be what he wants the people to believe he is.

brunians at brunians.org — 26 Nov 2008, 01:19 · in reply to Marc Aramini

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both a fraud and a conciliator, and this is something that I can find only
in Wolfe. A false Christ can still get the job done by pretending to be
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David Duffy — 26 Nov 2008, 02:41 · in reply to Marc Aramini

On Tue, 25 Nov 2008, Marc Aramini wrote:
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something that I can find only in Wolfe. A false Christ can still get
the job done by pretending to be what he wants the people to believe he
is.

Hey, just like _The Music Man_ ;)

I think there are two bits here, that maybe that is as good as it
gets with fallen humans, and God moving in mysterious ways, subverting the plans of the bad
guys.

David Duffy.

John Watkins — 26 Nov 2008, 02:42 · in reply to David Duffy

Dave,

I agree with you entirely.

On 11/25/08, David Duffy <David.Duffy at qimr.edu.au> wrote:

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Son of Witz — 26 Nov 2008, 07:03 · in reply to Marc Aramini

On Nov 25, 2008, at 5:03 PM, Marc Aramini wrote:

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you're surely right.

the diabolical forces that mimic the divine part is especially apt. and I suppose surely one could argue that the cosmology is bogus and he is 'just' a dupe. I like the ambiguity. this is the sense I meant with the satanic catholic church comment. I'd say the same about many yogis and such as well. I also found the false coin very profound. I took it somehow as about the false oaths, oath breaking, and , how would you put it, improper allegiance.

having just read it my second time, I suppose I'm just geeked on all this and surprised how

thorough and consistent it seems to be within the seemingly convoluted structure. I didn't get it at all the first time. Early in Urth, I sort of got it, but I agree with Jordon that it is sort of a spoiler to the puzzle. The first read through was a serious WTF?!?!? for me. the second was more exciting than any fiction I've read. Upon rereading, I was determined to pay close attention to the clues, figuring that the 4 books should have a tight symbology if it was really suggesting all that Urth was giving away. I was not imposing this Christological viewpoint. this stuff all just started springing out at me. surely somewhere in me my inner cathaholic was suggesting it all.

really great to hash this stuff out with you all.

thanks.

~SonOfWitz

who is really just Mike, but I hate having my name all over the internet. sometimes the pseudonym seems obnoxious though.

Jeff Wilson — 26 Nov 2008, 16:20 · in reply to brunians at brunians.org

brunians at brunians.org wrote:

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Roger Zelazny did a similar thing, most excellently, with The Buddha in "Lord Of Light".

There's also a 1992 Steve Martin movie Leap of Faith where a fake faith healer conman becomes so persuasive that when he leads the marks in prayer, unplanned non-fake miracles begin to occur.

Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com

< <http://www.io.com/~jwilson> >

John Watkins — 26 Nov 2008, 16:29 · in reply to Jeff Wilson

Also "The King of Comedy," the DeNiro movie in which a deluded stalker takes a hostage to live out his fantasy of becoming a stand-up comedian. To the audience's surprise, he's actually pretty funny, and gets a book deal along with his time in jail.

And of course, one of the classic readings of Don Quixote is that the Don really does become a man of singular courage and chivalry through his madness.

On 11/26/08, Jeff Wilson <jwilson at io.com> wrote:

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Stuart Hamm — 26 Nov 2008, 16:58 · in reply to Jeff Wilson

Meatloaf was OUTSTANDING in that movie....and it contains one of my favorite movie lines of all time when Steve Martins girlfriend is referred to as "the Holy Grail of Road Pussy".

should "Road Pussy" be capitalized???

Happy T-Day!

Skype? stuart.hamm

myspace.com/stuhamm

? ??? stuarthamm.net

--- On Wed, 11/26/08, Jeff Wilson <jwilson at io.com> wrote:

From: Jeff Wilson <jwilson at io.com>

Subject: Re: (urth) fully divine and fully human

To: "The Urth Mailing List" <urth at lists.urth.net>

Date: Wednesday, November 26, 2008, 8:20 AM

brunians at brunians.org wrote:

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Son of Witz — 26 Nov 2008, 17:07 · follows Stuart Hamm

so do any of you actually read this as Severian being merely a dupe and that none of the transcendental themes have their source or resolution in God?

and if so, why? Is it that the manipulations of the post-humans cannot some how have a higher mandate beyond them?

Of course it's interesting to speculate on all sorts of subtexts here, I'm just wondering if any of you have settled on this sort of interpretation.

~witz

-----Original Message-----

From: Jeff Wilson [mailto:jwilson at io.com]

Sent: Wednesday, November 26, 2008 08:20 AM

To: 'The Urth Mailing List'

Subject: Re: (urth) fully divine and fully human

brunians at brunians.org wrote:

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Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com

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Jordon Flato — 26 Nov 2008, 17:12 · in reply to Son of Witz

I think a clue here is in the Cock and the Angel story. That has always seemed a blatant metaphor for the Hierogrammates (angel), Hierodules (eagle) and the Cock (Humanity).

"The eagle looked at the angel when her heard what the cock said, and the angel looked at the eagle. 'The Pancreator is infinitely far from us,' the angel said. 'And thus infinitely far from me, though I fly so much higher than you. I guess at his desires-no one can do otherwise.'"

On Wed, Nov 26, 2008 at 9:07 AM, Son of Witz <sonofwitz at butcherbaker.org>wrote:
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Matthew Keeley — 26 Nov 2008, 18:26 · in reply to Jeff Wilson

On Wed, Nov 26, 2008 at 11:20 AM, Jeff Wilson <jwilson at io.com> wrote:

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Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com

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Wolfe's fellow Catholic writer Muriel Spark has a novel involving a "fraudulent stigmatic" who actually cures people (This is hardly a spoiler - we learn this in the first chapter).

-Matt

Adam Thornton — 26 Nov 2008, 19:04 · in reply to brunians at brunians.org

On Nov 25, 2008, at 7:19 PM, brunians at brunians.org wrote:

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Roger Zelazny did a similar thing, most excellently, with The Buddha in "Lord Of Light".

Michael Moorcock: "Behold the Man."

Adam

Adam Thornton — 26 Nov 2008, 19:08 · in reply to Stuart Hamm

On Nov 26, 2008, at 10:58 AM, Stuart Hamm wrote:
should "Road Pussy" be capitalized???

Indubitably.

I may feel outgunned when discussing Wolfean hermeneutics, but I am quite confident on this particular matter.

Adam