

The significance of Apu Punchau

The Urth list — 40 messages, 8 voices, 23 Dec 2008

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/5290>

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Son of Witz — 23 Dec 2008, 22:59

The significance of Apu Punchau is a mystery to me. I find it hard to believe that he's related to the Commonwealth state religion.

I don't think Apu-Punchau is related to the Commonwealth state religion. If that's coming from my post, I meant the Conciliator influenced the state religion.

There are two ways I find Apu Punchau significant in the symbology of the Urth Cycle.

Plotwise, Apu Punchau is a sun god from ancient prehistory of Urth. Of Course, the name comes from the Incan "Apu Punchau", (aka "Inti"), "Head of Day" or "Leader of Day". He is a Sun God. He is The Sun.

On one hand, very simply, if this story is a parody or allegory for a Solar Redeemer, like Christ, or like the other Sun Gods, then that Severian is Apu Punchau & the Conciliator & the New Sun speaks to the idea that the various incarnations of Solar Deities are incarnating the same Being. One consciousness is literally every Solar God mentioned in the microcosm of the book. That works fairly well at a basic plot level, I suppose. That it maps to an Earth culture's Ancient Sun God is probably a metanarrative device to indicate this. Of course, it speaks interestingly to the notion that Christ is analogue to the other solar gods prior to him.

On the other hand, and, to my mind, more interestingly, Apu Punchau can be read as a symbol of the Old Sun. The cyclicity of time and the reemergence of previous patterns in new creations is key to understanding this somewhat mystic/mythic or psychological reading. The sun has began to die in the Age of the Monarch, so it's probably safe to assume that the sun is not dying in the Age of Myth, so Apu Punchau is a Sun God of the current sun, which is, in Severian's time, The Old Sun. When Severian, The New Sun, wrestles and cancels out Apu Punchau, it is a symbolic "killing of the father" though it is totally unconscious and subliminal. New Sun cancels out the existence of the Old Sun. Great stuff.

YET, As the Man-To-Be must "kill the father," so the Man "becomes the father" as his life progresses. Of course, Severian "becomes" Apu Punchau. Though plotwise, Severian is NOT the Old Sun, as Apu Punchau, he is symbolic of the Old Sun (mostly due to the autochthons superstitions). He literally becomes the Old Sun for prehistory, before he gives birth to the New Sun. Through a loop in time, he "becomes the father"

The twist is that AFTER he is the New Sun, he will go forward again to Ushas, where he becomes the Sleeper God Awakened, where, one assumes, given the cyclicity, the New Sun will eventually become the Old Sun. (No Suns were ever swapped with the change, just that the black hole was replaced with the white fountain, and the sun given new life). So, as The Sleeper God, it's likely that he'd be a Solar Godling to Ushas, where he would doubtless teach them what wisdom he could, practical and spiritual, and in that role, he would be a New Apu Punchau. I don't believe it mentions the Sleeper having any solar symbology, so that might be a stretch, but the practical role is probably the same.

I've found Apu Punchau to be one of the most confounding elements to understand, but since having this double insight, I feel like Apu Punchau really ties a nice ribbon on this present.

Happy Christmas y'all.
May the Sun be reborn.
~SonOfWitz

Jeff Wilson — 24 Dec 2008, 03:56 · in reply to Son of Witz

Son of Witz wrote:

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Of Course, the name comes from the Incan "Apu Punchau", (aka "Inti"),
"Head of Day" or "Leader of Day". He is a Sun God. He is The Sun.

"Apu" is a title, meaning both god and mountain, and each Incan god has an associated Andean peak, but oddly Severian fails to have any sort of positive connection to a mountain that I recall.

Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com
< <http://www.io.com/~jwilson> >

David Stockhoff — 24 Dec 2008, 14:01 · follows Jeff Wilson

Witz:

So as far as plot is concerned, Apu Punchau is likely to be way in OUR past. It makes sense he would be the Inca sun god because of proximity, although really he should be ALL sun gods, which would make him very busy. (Like Santa Claus will be tonight.)

And if it's true that AP has no other plot role outside the Stone Town episode, then he is best understood symbolically, as you say: he is the Old Sun and just another incarnation or emanation of the Eternal. And that's why he's in TUotNS.

You'd think the various emanations would not need to "be" one another, so it is geographical proximity that leads to their merging. Had Severian been landed in Persia and bumped into Ahura Mazda, presumably he would have caused a proximity explosion then, and had he then run back to Zarathustra's time, he would be Ahura Mazda. Except the Persians burned or chopped up their dead, so that might not have worked out so well.

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Son of Witz — 24 Dec 2008, 16:50 · follows David Stockhoff

Ha!. David, you got me laughing out loud.
I'm totally with you on all that.
he probably is Santa Claus too. :D

~witz

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

From: David Stockhoff [mailto:dstockhoff at verizon.net]

Witz:

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<http://www.avast.com>

b sharp — 24 Dec 2008, 18:22 · follows Son of Witz

David Stockhoff writes:

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I think it is confusing without recognizing that Urth is not Earth. Urth is the analog of Earth in another earlier universe (if "early" has meaning in extra-universal context). Urth doesn't have Incas or Persians or Jesus, just (perhaps) analogs of them.

Son of Witz — 24 Dec 2008, 18:31 · follows b sharp

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

From: b sharp [mailto:bsharporflat at hotmail.com]

I think it is confusing without recognizing that Urth is not Earth. Urth is the analog of Earth in another earlier universe (if "early" has meaning in extra-universal context). Urth doesn't have Incas or Persians or Jesus, just (perhaps) analogs of them.

I'm certainly not clear whether Earth is Urth, or whether Earth is to Urth as Urth is to Ushas. Probably the latter, yet the Hut in the Jungle seems to contain characters and time from Earth. The airplane described is very 20th century, and, though I'm not sure, someone pointed out that the verse they're quoting is from the bible.

Jeff Wilson — 25 Dec 2008, 05:38 · in reply to Son of Witz

Son of Witz wrote:

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

From: b sharp [mailto:bsharporflat at hotmail.com]

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Wolfe himself has since said that Urth is an earlier cycle than our Earth, but I think that may be retroactive continuity after realizing that drowning Urth would otherwise break the OT God's promise to never again destroy the Earth by water. (Presumably Robert and Marie's bible contains a slightly different account of Noah's covenant.)

Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com

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

Son of Witz — 28 Dec 2008, 18:20 · follows Jeff Wilson

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

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

Sent: Wednesday, December 24, 2008 09:38 PM

To: 'The Urth Mailing List'

Subject: Re: (urth) The significance of Apu Punchau

Son of Witz wrote:

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

From: b sharp [mailto:bsharporflat at hotmail.com]

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Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com

Interesting point Jeff, it seems perhaps a bit disingenuous of Wolfe's part, given the translator's notes in BotNS, which is signed by Wolfe. It says the manuscript is from the future. Which means it's the manuscript he tossed into the winds of time in Urth, no?

Interviews and author's exegesis are great, but I will always privilege the words written in the volume under consideration, especially where there are contradictions. I think you're probably right about the retroactive continuity with the OT. Wolfe had a vertiginous "Whoops, what did I do there?" moment. Either way it works, I'm fine with the idea that Urth was Earth, or that Earth was Urth a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away.

Hope my Castle of Days shows up soon. didn't come in time for teh Christmas. what you get for buying the cheapest copy on ye ole internet. ~witz

Jeff Wilson — 29 Dec 2008, 00:00 · in reply to Son of Witz

Son of Witz wrote:

Interesting point Jeff, it seems perhaps a bit disingenuous of Wolfe's part, given the translator's notes in BotNS, which is signed by Wolfe.

He does hedge a bit and sign it "G.W." rather than own it outright with a full name or implicitly by leaving it unsigned.

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The Appendix mentions numerous other artifacts from the future times, and it also mentions buildings that exist in both times, so I expect that it originally was intended to come via the Atrium or other transcendental architecture, rather than any of the plot devices in the then-unwritten and probably unimagined sequel.

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I am positive it was originally intended and written as a future of the very earth we're sitting on, yes. I feel there's objective evidence of this, but I'm also emotionally attached to the very subjective confirmation I have from having attended Texas A&M (albeit 35 years later than Wolfe) and having eerie deja vu from some of the scenery while reading the BOTNS the first time a few years later. The students were nearly all military cadets in Wolfe's day (with some exceptions, like the daughters of faculty members) with a motley accumulation of repurposed and mis-shapen buildings like a miniature Citadel, vivisection rooms in the veterinary building, steam tunnels connecting everything, salutes fired from ancient cannons....

Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com
< <http://www.io.com/~jwilson> >

David Stockhoff — 29 Dec 2008, 23:40 · follows Jeff Wilson

Well, that's one theory that has been raised---that Urth is in a "later" universe than Earth. The idea of Urth being a subsequent "run" is intriguing. But it's both unnecessary and unsupported.

Perhaps the plainest problem with this is the existence of the lunar module photograph.

Message: 6

Date: Wed, 24 Dec 2008 13:22:57 -0500

From: b sharp <bsharporflat at hotmail.com>

Subject: (urth) The significance of Apu Punchau

To: <urth at urth.net>

Message-ID: <COL109-W34285575845D1C803FC26AD7ED0 at phx.gbl>

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="Windows-1252"

David Stockhoff writes:

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David Stockhoff — 29 Dec 2008, 23:50 · follows David Stockhoff

Of course, Urth could just as well be in our past as future. It could just as well be in both as in either.

And if Christ is ever to "return" and fulfill god's promise after the Flood, it could just as well be in our future as in Severian's, at this level of abstraction.

Wolfe himself has since said that Urth is an earlier cycle than our

Earth, but I think that may be retroactive continuity after realizing that drowning Urth would otherwise break the OT God's promise to never again destroy the Earth by water.

(Presumably Robert and Marie's bible contains a slightly different account of Noah's covenant.)

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Witz wrote:

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Jeff Wilson — 30 Dec 2008, 06:29 · in reply to David Stockhoff

David Stockhoff wrote:

Well, that's one theory that has been raised---that Urth is in a "later" universe than Earth. The idea of Urth being a subsequent "run" is intriguing. But it's both unnecessary and unsupported.

Perhaps the plainest problem with this is the existence of the lunar module photograph.

We worked out earlier in 2008 that the composition of the picture described does not match any of the publicized Apollo 11 photos. If it is literally a painting, the artist took considerable liberties or it is some other moon landing. Alan Bean does similar paintings, but did not begin until 1982.

Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com
< <http://www.io.com/~jwilson> >

Craig Brewer — 30 Dec 2008, 15:22 · in reply to Jeff Wilson

Plus, it is specifically called a "painting," if I remember correctly, no? Still, that could be another case of words with broader uses like "sailor" or "ship." I don't recall there being actual photography mentioned anywhere in New Sun by which to make a distinction.

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

From: Jeff Wilson <jwilson at io.com>

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

Sent: Tuesday, December 30, 2008 12:29:53 AM

Subject: Re: (urth) The significance of Apu Punchau

David Stockhoff wrote:

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Urth being a subsequent "run" is intriguing. But it's both unnecessary and unsupported.

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-- Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com
< <http://www.io.com/~jwilson> >

David Stockhoff — 30 Dec 2008, 16:16 · follows Craig Brewer

I'm skeptical that that means anything much, since if it is a painting it can be assumed to be a copy of a copy of a copy. Its exact composition is irrelevant. It doesn't need to come straight from 1980. But it is a peculiar problem, isn't it? The Bean painting here is clearly a version of the one Rudesind is cleaning (with an extra figure Severian does not mention, which itself means nothing since he misinterprets what he sees):

<http://www.alanbeangallery.com/JFKvision-new.html> It was painted (copyrighted) in 2004. I think it's a stretch to conclude Wolfe meant the painting to suggest an alternative path to the same destiny, although it's easy to argue both that the constraints of physics would yield the same technology (gold-foil surfaces, stiffened flags) and that Wolfe, as an engineer, would embrace that argument. The actual history of painting is full of such impossible contradictions, and the thin distinction between imitation and forgery is a very Borgesian idea. But I concede it's not as strong a piece of evidence as I thought. I think the best interpretation of this painting would assert the purely literary nature of the game Wolfe plays, over any rigid universe-as-clockwork-mechanism sci-fi cliché. Still, there are suggestions in the text that Urth is Urth many times over. We just beat that theory to death a few weeks ago, but I'd like to hear more evidence either way. ----- Message: 6 Date: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 00:29:53 -0600 From: Jeff Wilson <jwilson at io.com> Subject: Re:

Pedro Pereira — 30 Dec 2008, 16:17 · in reply to Craig Brewer

Wasn't it confirmed by Wolfe that it was an actual moon-landing photograph?

Also, from everything Wolfe said, I think it's pretty much confirmed this is not another universe but our own on a later phase. I agree that it is "unnecessary and unsupported" to think otherwise. Plus that would imply that every time a new universe pops up we get the same planets, same Earth, same continents, same human race, etc. Doesn't make any sense to me.

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 30 Dec 2008, 16:21 · in reply to Pedro Pereira

On Tue, Dec 30, 2008 at 8:17 AM, Pedro Pereira

<domus_artemis at hotmail.com> wrote:

... that would imply that

every time a new universe pops up we get the same planets, same Earth, same continents, same human race, etc. Doesn't make any sense to me.

It wouldn't make any sense -- except that the human race's successors from the previous version of the universe and their servants and so on (the Heiro* group) guide evolution on an Earth-like planet to produce the new human race.

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes, writer, trainer, bon vivant

<http://www.livejournal.com/users/sturgeonslawyer>

<http://www.danehyoakes.com>

I once absend-mindedly ordered Three Mile Island dressing in a restaurant and, with great presence of mind, they brought Thousand Island Dressing and a bottle of chili sauce. -- T. Pratchett

Pedro Pereira — 30 Dec 2008, 16:49 · in reply to Dan'I Danehy-Oakes

What about the earth itself? Do they guide continent formation? Plate-tectonics? Do we always end up with South America and Buenos Aires? Same languages? Do we get spanish speakers every time a new universe pops up? Indians who use feathers in their heads?

Just pulling your leg. I'm a bit fuzzy about the "Hiero's" role in human evolution on Earth but I remember reading that in the books and here at the list. But I don't think it implies that Earth, Mars, the Sun, the Moon, etc always pop up every time. I'm not sure that was what Wolfe wanted to imply. It makes far more sence to me that Urth is our Earth in the future, especially since Wolfe himself implies so in the interviews.

Craig Brewer — 30 Dec 2008, 16:58 · in reply to Dan'I Danehy-Oakes

I personally don't think that the Urth universe is a different universe. But I do think it's worth considering given "Malrubius" 's talk about the Hieros moving from universe to universe in Cathedral in which there are variations on the same theme.

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

From: Dan'I Danehy-Oakes <danldo at gmail.com>

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

Sent: Tuesday, December 30, 2008 10:21:57 AM

Subject: Re: (urth) The significance of Apu Punchau

On Tue, Dec 30, 2008 at 8:17 AM, Pedro Pereira

<domus_artemis at hotmail.com> wrote:

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I once absend-mindedly ordered Three Mile Island dressing in a restaurant and, with great presence of mind, they brought Thousand Island Dressing and a bottle of chili sauce. -- T. Pratchett

Pedro Pereira — 30 Dec 2008, 17:04 · in reply to Craig Brewer

Variations on the same theme is fine. Exactly the same thing is not, at least for me, especially when Wolfe in his interviews clearly states that he doesn't remember exactly how much time has passed from the Earth we know now. That's as good a confirmation this is the same universe as other.

As a side note, I've been so busy that I can't read everything posted in this list and much of it I have to delete before reading. Feel free to tell me to shut TFU or read everything if I want to

comment if you feel I deserve it.

David Stockhoff — 30 Dec 2008, 17:04 · follows Pedro Pereira

Exactly. Severian doesn't know what a photograph is. But a painting at least can be recreated and copied so the image (the icon, if you will) lasts chiliads.

Message: 1
Date: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 07:22:04 -0800 (PST)
From: Craig Brewer <cnbrewer at yahoo.com>
Subject: Re: (urth) The significance of Apu Punchau

Craig Brewer — 30 Dec 2008, 17:06 · in reply to Pedro Pereira

It's still probably more thoughtful than mine even when I do read all the posts...like when I write "Cathedral" instead of "Citadel"...

From: Pedro Pereira <domus_artemis at hotmail.com>
To: urth at lists.urth.net
Sent: Tuesday, December 30, 2008 11:04:00 AM
Subject: Re: (urth) The significance of Apu Punchau

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Pedro

Date: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 08:58:46 -0800
From: cnbrewer at yahoo.com
To: urth at lists.urth.net
Subject: Re: (urth) The significance of Apu Punchau

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----- Original Message -----
From: Dan'l Danehy-Oakes <danldo at gmail.com>
To: The Urth Mailing List <urth at lists.urth.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 30, 2008 10:21:57 AM
Subject: Re: (urth) The significance of Apu Punchau

On Tue, Dec 30, 2008 at 8:17 AM, Pedro Pereira
<domus_artemis at hotmail.com> wrote:

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Pedro Pereira — 30 Dec 2008, 17:09 · in reply to Craig Brewer

LOL

Pedro

Date: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 09:06:42 -0800From: cnbrewer at yahoo.comTo: urth at lists.urth.netSubject: Re: (urth) The significance of Apu Punchau

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From: Pedro Pereira <domus_artemis at hotmail.com>To: urth at lists.urth.netSent: Tuesday, December 30, 2008 11:04:00 AMSubject: Re: (urth) The significance of Apu Punchau

David Stockhoff — 30 Dec 2008, 17:27 · follows Pedro Pereira

Pedro, by no means should you STFU. But please respond in plain text if you can. I've been forgetting, myself, but reading your posts reminded me!

The iterative-Urth theory can't ever be totally dismissed, because the Hieros specifically have been granted the means and the arrogance to carry it out. But it seems like a huge waste of energy to me, both literally and figuratively. How much improvement would each iteration yield? How much micromanagement would be required, even if you assume that probabilities cluster for your convenience, and even if you assume vast computers run Yesod?

At some point, the manipulative theories begin to ascribe so much power to the manipulators, Hiero or Increate, that the protagonist's struggles become meaningless. One may as well write a novel that consists of counting to 1000 and back again. That's what I refuse to accept, even though cyclicity clearly is a concept TBotNS plays with.

Message: 2

Date: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 19:04:00 +0200

From: Pedro Pereira <domus_artemis at hotmail.com>

Subject: Re: (urth) The significance of Apu Punchau

To: <urth at lists.urth.net>

Message-ID: <COL105-W28611EAA7FB86537C39D5F85E70 at phx.gbl>

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1"

Variations on the same theme is fine. Exactly the same thing is not, at least for me, especially when Wolfe in his interviews clearly states that he doesn't remember exactly how much time has passed from the Earth we know now. That's as good a confirmation this is the same universe as other.

As a side note, I've been so busy that I can't read everything posted in this list and much of it I have to delete before reading. Feel free to tell me to shut TFU or read everything if I want to comment if you feel I deserve it.

Son of Witz — 30 Dec 2008, 18:39 · in reply to Jeff Wilson

On Dec 29, 2008, at 10:29 PM, Jeff Wilson wrote:

David Stockhoff wrote:

Well, that's one theory that has been raised---that Urth is in a "later" universe than Earth. The idea of Urth being a subsequent "run" is intriguing. But it's both unnecessary and unsupported. Perhaps the plainest problem with this is the existence of the lunar module photograph.

We worked out earlier in 2008 that the composition of the picture described does not match any of the publicized Apollo 11 photos. If it is literally a painting, the artist took considerable liberties or it is some other moon landing. Alan Bean does similar paintings, but did not begin until 1982.

--

Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com

I haven't read all the replies yet, so forgive me if this is redundant. but I've always figured it was a painting of the moon photo for a couple of reasons. A) Rudesind cleans paintings and would know the difference between the surfaces of a photo and a painting. B) Photo paper has a range of about 75 years before it begins to really deteriorate. It's hard to imagine photos surviving.

Son of Witz — 30 Dec 2008, 18:44 · in reply to Son of Witz

all the "which Urth is Earth" type questions are great.

but what do you think about the significance of Apu Punchau as I've thrown out here? do you think I'm totally off base? ~witz

On Dec 23, 2008, at 2:59 PM, Son of Witz wrote:

The significance of Apu Punchau is a mystery to me. I find it hard to believe that he's related to the Commonwealth state religion.

I don't think Apu-Punchau is related to the Commonwealth state religion. If that's coming from my post, I meant the Conciliator influenced the state religion.

There are two ways I find Apu Punchau significant in the symbology of the Urth Cycle.

Plotwise, Apu Punchau is a sun god from ancient prehistory of Urth. Of Course, the name comes from the Incan "Apu Punchau", (aka "Inti"), "Head of Day" or "Leader of Day". He is a Sun God. He is

The Sun.

On one hand, very simply, if this story is a parody or allegory for a Solar Redeemer, like Christ, or like the other Sun Gods, then that Severian is Apu Punchau & the Conciliator & the New Sun speaks to the idea that the various incarnations of Solar Deities are incarnating the same Being. One consciousness is literally every Solar God mentioned in the microcosm of the book. That works fairly well at a basic plot level, I suppose. That it maps to an Earth culture's Ancient Sun God is probably a metanarrative device to indicate this. Of course, it speaks interestingly to the notion that Christ is analogue to the other solar gods prior to him.

On the other hand, and, to my mind, more interestingly, Apu Punchau can be read as a symbol of the Old Sun. The cyclicity of time and the reemergence of previous patterns in new creations is key to understanding this somewhat mystic/mythic or psychological reading.

The sun has begun to die in the Age of the Monarch, so it's probably safe to assume that the sun is not dying in the Age of Myth, so Apu Punchau is a Sun God of the current sun, which is, in Severian's time, The Old Sun. When Severian, The New Sun, wrestles and cancels out Apu Punchau, it is a symbolic "killing of the father" though it is totally unconscious and subliminal. New Sun cancels out the existence of the Old Sun. Great stuff.

YET, As the Man-To-Be must "kill the father," so the Man "becomes the father" as his life progresses. Of course, Severian "becomes" Apu Punchau. Though plotwise, Severian is NOT the Old Sun, as Apu Punchau, he is symbolic of the Old Sun (mostly due to the autochthonous superstitions). He literally becomes the Old Sun for prehistory, before he gives birth to the New Sun. Through a loop in time, he "becomes the father"

The twist is that AFTER he is the New Sun, he will go forward again to Ushas, where he becomes the Sleeper God Awakened, where, one assumes, given the cyclicity, the New Sun will eventually become the Old Sun. (No Suns were ever swapped with the change, just that the black hole was replaced with the white fountain, and the sun given new life). So, as The Sleeper God, it's likely that he'd be a Solar Godling to Ushas, where he would doubtless teach them what wisdom he could, practical and spiritual, and in that role, he would be a New Apu Punchau. I don't believe it mentions the Sleeper having any solar symbology, so that might be a stretch, but the practical role is probably the same.

I've found Apu Punchau to be one of the most confounding elements to understand, but since having this double insight, I feel like Apu Punchau really ties a nice ribbon on this present.

Happy Christmas y'all.
May the Sun be reborn.

~SonOfWitz

Pedro Pereira — 30 Dec 2008, 20:11 · in reply to David Stockhoff

Thank you for caring about what I had to say.

I don't understand the "plain text" part though. What do you mean? Did I write the wrong way or something? I'm not an english native speaker so sorry but I didn't understand that part.

As for the rest: I have no problems with consequent universes having consequent "Earths" and "Humanity". From what I remember reading it all fits quite well and follows the book. What I have a problem with is assuming that everything is exactly the same. There is no reason to support this theory. There is no reason to believe in Buenos Aires version 537 and Spanish Conquistador version 799, which is pretty much what we need to believe if we accept that the Earth/Urth discribed in the books is in another (prior or subsequent) version of the universe. Also, if everything is exactly the same, history is the same, geography is the same, Ronald Reagan exists every time, etc, then we can take this to the extreme and basically we are eliminating free will and pretty much there will be no difERENCE between universes, so there's no purpose in doing it to start with.

David Stockhoff — 31 Dec 2008, 03:19 · follows Pedro Pereira

Sorry I wasn't clear. You generally have the option of replying in plain text, rich text, or HTML. HTML emails result in the text that appeared below your post. Here, it's below the asterisks, especially the URLs.

Message: 2
Date: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 22:11:13 +0200
From: Pedro Pereira <domus_artemis at hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: (urth) The significance of Apu Punchau
To: <urth at lists.urth.net>
Message-ID: <COL105-W189BF86C4233D27DCAF08085E70 at phx.gbl>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1"

Thank you for caring about what I had to say.

I don't understand the "plain text" part though. What do you mean? Did I write the wrong way or something? I'm not an english native speaker so sorry but I didn't understand that part.

-----> > Message: 2> Date: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 19:04:00 +0200> From: Pedro Pereira <domus_artemis at hotmail.com>> Subject: Re: (urth) The significance of Apu Punchau> To: <urth at lists.urth.net>> Message-ID: <COL105-W28611EAA7FB86537C39D5F85E70 at phx.gbl>> Content-Type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1"> > >

Jeff Wilson — 31 Dec 2008, 05:54 · in reply to Craig Brewer

Craig Brewer wrote:

Plus, it is specifically called a "painting," if I remember

correctly, no? Still, that could be another case of words with broader uses like "sailor" or "ship." I don't recall there being actual photography mentioned anywhere in New Sun by which to make a distinction.

For comparison, the work "book" is shortly after applied to a reel of microfilm and a computer memory crystal as well as more conventional bound volumes of leaves and pages.

Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com
< <http://www.io.com/~jwilson> >

Jeff Wilson — 31 Dec 2008, 05:56 · in reply to Pedro Pereira

Pedro Pereira wrote:

As a side note, I've been so busy that I can't read everything posted in this list and much of it I have to delete before reading.

How is this possible?

Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com
< <http://www.io.com/~jwilson> >

Jeff Wilson — 31 Dec 2008, 06:04 · in reply to David Stockhoff

David Stockhoff wrote:

Pedro, by no means should you STFU. But please respond in plain text if you can. I've been forgetting, myself, but reading your posts reminded me!

The iterative-Urth theory can't ever be totally dismissed, because the Hieros specifically have been granted the means and the arrogance to carry it out. But it seems like a huge waste of energy to me, both literally and figuratively. How much improvement would each iteration yield? How much micromanagement would be required, even if you assume that probabilities cluster for your convenience, and even if you assume vast computers run Yesod?

Assume? We are specifically shown the insides of the Yesodi's planet is crammed full of machinery, and specifically told each archipelago is dedicated to the destiny of a galaxy in Briah.

At some point, the manipulative theories begin to ascribe so much power to the manipulators, Hiero or Increate, that the protagonist's struggles become meaningless. One may as well write a novel that consists of counting to 1000 and back again. That's what I refuse to accept, even though cyclicity clearly is a concept TBotNS plays with.

The Yesodis are very powerful, but they are also spread very thin - an archipelago per galaxy implies Father Inire might be the only one that can be spared to watch over Earth full time - so Borski might be right about his many disguises, as he would have to wear as many hats.

Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com
< <http://www.io.com/~jwilson> >

Jeff Wilson — 31 Dec 2008, 06:12 · in reply to Son of Witz

Son of Witz wrote:

I haven't read all the replies yet, so forgive me if this is redundant. but I've always figured it was a painting of the moon photo for a couple of reasons.

A) Rudesind cleans paintings and would know the difference between the surfaces of a photo and a painting.

B) Photo paper has a range of about 75 years before it begins to really deteriorate. It's hard to imagine photos surviving.

Where do photos of the American Civil War come from then?

Indeed, Rudesind may not see any difference between stellar tech reproductions of a photograph and of a photo-realistic painting. Holbein's portrait of Thomas Moore is an example of what I'm thinking of.

Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com
< <http://www.io.com/~jwilson> >

Jeff Wilson — 31 Dec 2008, 06:18 · in reply to David Stockhoff

David Stockhoff wrote:

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Rich text and HTML are bad for e-mail and make the baby Theoanthropos cry.

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You can read more about it here:

<http://www.expita.com/nomime.html>

Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com
< <http://www.io.com/~jwilson> >

Pedro Pereira — 31 Dec 2008, 12:47 · in reply to David Stockhoff

Date: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 22:19:24 -0500
From: dstockhoff at verizon.net
To: urth at lists.urth.net
Subject: Re: (urth) The significance of Apu Punchau

Sorry I wasn't clear. You generally have the option of replying in plain text, rich text, or HTML. HTML emails result in the text that appeared below your post. Here, it's below the asterisks, especially the URLs.

Message: 2
Date: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 22:11:13 +0200
From: Pedro Pereira
Subject: Re: (urth) The significance of Apu Punchau
To:
Message-ID:
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1"

Thank you for caring about what I had to say.

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----->> Message: 2> Date: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 19:04:00 +0200> From: Pedro Pereira > Subject: Re: (urth) The significance of Apu Punchau> To: > Message-ID: > Content-Type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1">>>

---> avast! Antivir

Pedro Pereira — 31 Dec 2008, 12:47 · in reply to David Stockhoff

Is it OK now? I feel like a web noob!

Pedro

Date: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 22:19:24 -0500
From: dstockhoff at verizon.net
To: urth at lists.urth.net
Subject: Re: (urth) The significance of Apu Punchau

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---> avast! Antivir

Pedro Pereira — 31 Dec 2008, 12:48 · in reply to Jeff Wilson

I know...shame on me.

Pedro

Date: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 23:56:36 -0600
From: jwilson at io.com
To: urth at lists.urth.net
Subject: Re: (urth) The significance of Apu Punchau

Pedro Pereira wrote:

As a side note, I've been so busy that I can't read everything posted in this list and much of it I have to delete before reading.

How is this possible?

--
Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com
< <http://www.io.com/~jwilson> >

David Stockhoff — 31 Dec 2008, 14:45 · follows Pedro Pereira

Jeff Obviously, this is not a matter that can be truly resolved. You're right that the destiny-control machinery must be used for something, and we are told in general terms what that is. But again I'd have to assert that, if common-sense analysis means anything here, one archipelago per galaxy is simply not enough computing power, however you measure it, to micromanage each world in a galaxy---but also that it would surely require such energy to run (and there has to be implementation as well) that it would take an entire universe to feed it. And the question of purpose remains unanswered. So I'd again have to reject any theory that requires such micromanagement, as unsupported. And infinitely repeated iterations of the same universe with an Earth in every one fits that description. Of course, how exactly to define "micro" is a problem as well. We can't. The possibility it tantalizing, and Wolfe has certainly given us clues that point us at such a theory. Also, I admit that the theory of TBotNS as a parody or travesty of the orthodox (since Boethius) theory of God's existence outside time would only benefit from such a ridiculous and pointless effort at control by ordinary beings. Still, you can't embrace a theory just because Wolfe points to it. He points to error as well. We need an Inquisition to sort this out

----- Message: 5 Date: Wed, 31 Dec 2008
00:04:20 -0600 From: Jeff Wilson <jwilson at io.com> Subject: Re: (urth)
The significance of Apu Punchau To: The Urth Mailing List
<urth at lists.urth.net> Message-ID: <495B0B64.30605 at io.com> Content-Type:

text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1; format=flowed David Stockhoff wrote:
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-- Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com < <http://www.io.com/~jwilson> >

David Stockhoff — 31 Dec 2008, 14:48 · follows David Stockhoff

ah, so that's why Jesus wept! ----- Message: 7 Date: Wed, 31 Dec 2008 00:18:47 -0600 From: Jeff Wilson <jwilson at io.com> Subject: Re: (urth) The significance of Apu Punchau To: The Urth Mailing List <urth at lists.urth.net> Message-ID: <495B0EC7.4090901 at io.com> Content-Type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1; format=flowed David

Stockhoff wrote:

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-- Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com < <http://www.io.com/~jwilson> >

Gwern Branwen — 31 Dec 2008, 15:06 · in reply to David Stockhoff

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----

Hash: SHA512

On Wed, Dec 31, 2008 at 9:45 AM, David Stockhoff wrote:

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This would be incorrect; you drastically underestimate the limits of computing. An area the size of a laptop could simulate entire worlds many many times over.

Good reading in this are includes Seth Lloyd's paper "Ultimate physical limits to computation".
See http://www.ar-tiste.com/qcomp_onion/jan2002/UltimateLaptop.htm and
<http://arxiv.org/abs/quant-ph/9908043>

The limits are intimidatingly vast, and certainly many times (if not orders) greater than what they need to run Briah.

- --

gwern

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNATURE-----

Version: GnuPG v1.4.9 (GNU/Linux)

iEYEAREKAAYFAklbioMACgkQvpDo5Pfl1oIRoQCfVmfrpRbcF+QmilscIEjOTTYG
27wAolafGr+nwf3J4go8WqanyycfX5d9
=x3cS

-----END PGP SIGNATURE-----

Craig Brewer — 31 Dec 2008, 15:59 · in reply to Jeff Wilson

Got a link to an article this morning that seemed apropos of our multiple repeating universes discussion:

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg20026861.500-did-our-cosmos-exist-before-the-big-bang.html?full=true>

David Stockhoff — 01 Jan 2009, 02:39 · follows Craig Brewer

Sure, the but the issue is not running Briah, as is clearly in some sense the case. The issue is controlling each iteration to be nearly identical to, and presumably always slightly better than, the "last." Sorry, no.

Message: 3

Date: Wed, 31 Dec 2008 10:06:45 -0500

From: "Gwern Branwen" <gwern0 at gmail.com>

Subject: Re: (urth) The significance of Apu Punchau

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

Message-ID:

<cbf55b100812310706x17a799b5q9aada27924a0732a at mail.gmail.com>

Content-Type: text/plain; charset=UTF-8

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----

Hash: SHA512

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The limits are intimidatingly vast, and certainly many times (if not orders) greater than what they need to run BriaH.

- --

gwern