

Wolfe RPG

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 30 May 1997

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Joel Priddy — 30 May 1997, 14:30

mantis say:

Finally, this anecdote: when Neil Gaiman heard about the project he

said (words to this effect), "How neat--a game where everybody tries to figure out who his own mother is." <g>

Literally, LOL. What if all the player characters turn out to be time duplicates of each other? That's gotta screw up character points...

I'm gonna hold off on signing up as an IO member in order to download the playtest version of GURPS New Sun, however. (1) I'm not sure I'm mentally and emotionally prepared to start spending money on RPGs again. (2) I just got my copy of the Lexicon, which should hold me for awhile.

And speaking of the Lexicon... What a groovy book! A nicely designed cover, to boot (it looks a lot nicer than the New Sun paperbacks, the covers of which I, frankly, find a little embarrassing). I can't wait to read the Book again, looking up every third word. And once I do, boy, will I start to nitpick each little detail until this mailing list is bursting with my ingorant obsessings.

Here's one to start myself off on... Flipping through the Lexicon randomly, I came across a couple Ushas-related passages where mantis talks about Sleeper-Severian waking up the other gods, and these four gods forming a strong base in the brave new world. What is this based on? The only place I can possibly imagine any evidence of this coming from is the Green Man, although I don't specifically remember that happening (not that that means a thing. Severian I ain't). This is an idea that appeals, and makes plenty of mythopoetic sense, but didn't present itself to me as the definite ending of _Urth_.

And speaking of the Green Man, in the Lexicon mantis says that his symbiotic bacteria attests to his peace with Fauna. This reminds me of a Blake quote along the lines of getting past the vegetable world before you can see the domes and spires of Golgonotha(?). "Vegetable" referring to gross matter in this instance, and the city of Golgonotha being a higher spiritual state.

I think about Blake a lot when reading Wolfe, but I don't think I've seen his name show up here yet. Wolfe's religious beliefs seem very Blakean to me, if I'm reading them correctly. Seeing the cycle of Christ occuring in each individual, the Final Judgement happening on a personal level, the need to create seemingly pagan pantheons in order to illustrate Christian thought...

I'm no Blake scholar and am in no position to make my case clearly, but has anyone else drawn a connection? If not, I'll do my reading and try to restate this more cogently.
How about you,alga? It was that gorgeous Blake print on th cover that made me notice your History in the first place.

-cephalothorax-