

Aztec Moon Goddess = Wolfe Inspiration?

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 10 Nov 2009

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/5508>

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O'Donnell, Tim BOSI — 10 Nov 2009, 13:58

Hi,

I'm not very good at framing these thoughts well but here is a question for the list. I have scanned the archives but didn't find this mentioned.

Catherine/Katherine the patroness of the guild is represented by a maid who is decapitated every year.

There are theories as to her relation to Severian; most notably because of the quote where her face is described as like a reflection in a pool of water by moonlight [paraphrased].

So, two data points:

- * associated with moon
- * decapitated ritually

Also, the action on Urth is mostly set around the commonwealth which is in some sense South America (and other areas)

So, further data point:

- * South American influence

Finally, Severian is a solar deity and so one would expect any sisters or his mother to have a connection to the sun

- * relation to sun god

So how about this: <http://atheism.about.com/od/aztecgodsgoddesses/p/Coyolxauhqui.htm>

She is:

- * Aztec (OK, this is Mexico I know but it is close to the region)
- * Goddess of the Moon
- * Sister of the Sun
- * Was ritually decapitated in mythology and source of inspiration for ritual decapitations in the Aztec religion.

Think she could be an inspiration for Wolfe?

brunians at brunians.org — 10 Nov 2009, 18:00 · in reply to O'Donnell, Tim BOSI

Mexico is in North America. It is near 'the region' in the same sense that Ireland is near Kenya.

Catherine is obviously St Catherine of Alexandria:

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/03445a.htm> .

I note that both Mexico and Argentina are Catholic countries, but that Mexican Catholicism is a

lot more American Indian than the version current in Argentina. There are plenty of worshippers of Guadalupe who are only nominally Christian if that.

The website that you point at is not notably accurate. Here is the famous image of Coyolxauhqui from Templo Mayor:

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Coyolxauhqui_disc.JPG

There are definitely resemblances between Coyolxauhqui and St Catherine, and there may be a bit of influence, but they are obviously different entities.

St Catherine is a celestial, whose feast is celebrated on November 25. What constellation stands on the heliacal horizon on November 25? What constellation stood there 2000 years ago or so?

I am unable, currently, to discover the date of the feast of Coyolxauhqui, or if it took place in the context of the 365 day year, or of the of the 260 day / 52 year ceremonial calendar.

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