

Pathos for Latros

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 19 Mar 2010

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/5561>

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Son of Witz — 19 Mar 2010, 16:34

I just began part II of Soldier of Sidon this morning. I'm really loving this book. Very spooky.

It's really easy to get caught up with Wolfe's puzzle-boxes and amazing writing chops, but now and then his books hit me on such an emotional level that I'm stunned. In *Short Sun*, the "Oh Scylla" exclamation had me crying. In *Sidon*, chapters 27 & 28 have me close to tears. Were I reading it alone at home I might shed some, but as it was I read it on the train, so I manned up and choked em in. ;)

In 27 everything goes haywire, they are caught after escaping the mines. In 28, he's in a sick bed, sold into slavery, and is saved / and saves Myt-Ser'eu. Poor Latro. I can't imagine having this dilemma. The moments where his love shines through his lack of memory, and he kills Kitty's abusers are heart wrenching.

Chapter 28 really illustrates his dilemma. Where would he be without a friend to help him out? It's easy to read his story and almost forget the absolute discontinuity of his experience. He has friends and a bit of the night before to help him out. When he wakes up in the sick bed in Chap 28 though, he's really lost. He doesn't even know for sure if he is the "L" that writes. Reading that really struck me. I'm not a man who looks back to the past very much at all, but these books make me extremely grateful for memories and friends. I don't have the words to express how chilling this chapter was for me.

Another aspect of Wolfe that amazes me is his ability to put himself into this world and find the small details another writer wouldn't even imagine. It's simple details that summon profoundly human musing that really floors me, such as the geese in this quote.

[quote]

Geese fly overhead, flying by night, calling like new boots across the sky to their fellows. It may be the last sound I hear. Every man hears a last sound. For many it must be the clash of arms. That is a good last sound, but the shouts of geese is a better one. We sink into the earth, down into the lands of the dead. Where I shall drink from Death's river to forget a life I cannot remember. [/quote]

This is a paragraph written by a man with remarkable depth of soul. Gene Wolfe may be a great and tricky science-fantasy author, and a lot is made of his head scratching acrobatics, but first and foremost he is human with a profound sense of empathy and an amazing gift for conveying it across the gulf between our souls. I'm grateful to read his work. I think Latro might be my favorite of his narrative voices. So very human.

~Witz

PMorris33 at aol.com — 19 Mar 2010, 21:19 · follows Son of Witz

Does anyone know if there will be another book coming out in the Latros series?

In a message dated 3/19/2010 2:07:59 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time, urth-request at lists.urth.net writes:

Send Urth mailing list submissions to
urth at lists.urth.net

To subscribe or unsubscribe via the World Wide Web, visit
<http://lists.urth.net/listinfo.cgi/urth-urth.net> or, via email, send a message with subject or body
'help' to urth-request at lists.urth.net

You can reach the person managing the list at
urth-owner at lists.urth.net

When replying, please edit your Subject line so it is more specific than "Re: Contents of Urth
digest..."

Today's Topics:

1. Pathos for Latros (Son of Witz)

Message: 1
Date: Fri, 19 Mar 2010 12:34:38 -0400
From: "Son of Witz" <sonofwitz at butcherbaker.org>
To: Urth at urth.net
Subject: (urth) Pathos for Latros
Message-ID:
<4a322928e1c85c142f2fbf50f2d26399.squirrel at email.fatcow.com>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1

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