

Madregot & Yesod Redux

The Urth list — 8 messages, 4 voices, 16 Aug 2010

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/5714>

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Lee Berman — 16 Aug 2010, 02:31

With all the question flying around about Yesod I decided to really re-check the text on Brook Madregot. I felt the answers would be there and I do think I have a clearer view of what is going on now.

Tinkerbelle Tzadkiel say Brook Madregot runs from Yesod to Briah. The "glory of Yesod "upstream to the "destruction of Briah downstream. Juturna confirms that it "rises in Yesod and rushes to Briah".

Severian uses Madregot (there is a meadow also) to travel four times. The first is from Tzadkiel's "skipper's quarter" to Severian's stateroom. Later he uses the Brook for time travel. We are not told which direction he moves except once. In his trip from Typhon's rule to Valeria's rule he takes 7 strides downstream. so we learn that downstream carries him to the future.

Brook Madregot doesn't represent time as much as energy and entropy. Entropy increases as you move through time, so Yesod, with higher energy, lower entropy would seem to be in the past from Briah

Downstream is to the future, and Yesod is upstream, I think we must conclude that Yesod is in the past from Briah. I think this is confirmed by Tony Ellis' observation that the Ship travels backward in time to get to Yesod.

With regard to branching, I will speculate that Brook Madregot is a straight, single path as Severian moves (upstream) toward the past. The past, his origin, is fixed. Severian only encounters branchings as he makes the long, future-ward journey all the way from Apu Punchau to the blossoming of Ushas.

One other feature about Brook Madregot is that tinkerbelle Tzadkiel warns Severian "Don't jump across it though, or you'll end up in another place". I'm not sure what that means..perhaps that there is spatial travel involved in Madregot also and Severian doesn't want to step out onto a place in Briah which isn't Urth/Ushas.

As the Jordan-Wolfe interview clearly suggests that Urth is a past iteration of Earth I think this rules out the guess that Yesod is our universe. Too bad. It would have been nice to get Jesus worked into the story somehow, however tangentially.

David Stockhoff — 17 Aug 2010, 11:34 · in reply to Lee Berman

Why do you think this rules that out?

Lee Berman wrote:

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Urth Mailing List

To post, write urth at urth.net

Lee Berman — 17 Aug 2010, 12:38 · follows David Stockhoff

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David Stockhoff- Why do you think this rules that out?

If Earth is a future manvantara version of Urth and Yesod is in the past from Urth it would seem that Earth cannot be in Yesod.

But that's just being logical. I don't really claim that the puny mental tools of a primate species from a small blue planet on the edge of the galaxy are sufficient to grasp the universe and beyond.

But perhaps my logic is faulty. Do you see an alternate interpretation?

António Pedro Marques — 17 Aug 2010, 12:55 · in reply to Lee Berman

Lee Berman wrote (17-08-2010 13:38):

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For the umpteenth time, temporality across universes is meaningless. Earth can be both in Urth's 'past' and 'future'. If you like it, Briah gnabs into Yesod and Yesod gnabs into Briah.

Not that I think Earth is in Yesod - for the quite simple reason that there's zilch about Yesod that connects it to us. One might as well wonder whether Winston Churchill worked as a postman in Togo in his spare time.

DAVID STOCKHOFF — 17 Aug 2010, 20:20 · in reply to Lee Berman

I didn't put the question well. You said, "It would have been nice to get Jesus worked into the story somehow, however tangentially."

That's what I don't see as ruled out.

--- On Tue, 8/17/10, Lee Berman <severiansola at hotmail.com> wrote:

From: Lee Berman <severiansola at hotmail.com>

Subject: (urth) Madregot & Yesod Redux

To: urth at lists.urth.net

Date: Tuesday, August 17, 2010, 8:38 AM

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DAVID STOCKHOFF — 17 Aug 2010, 20:22 · in reply to António Pedro Marques

Yes and no. We are told the universes "advance." There must be sequence even if time itself is meaningless.

--- On Tue, 8/17/10, Ant?nio Pedro Marques <antonio at gmail.com> wrote:

From: Ant?nio Pedro Marques <antonio at gmail.com>

Subject: Re: (urth) Madregot & Yesod Redux

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

Date: Tuesday, August 17, 2010, 8:55 AM

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Dave Lebling — 17 Aug 2010, 22:03 · in reply to DAVID STOCKHOFF

When I first read SotT, when it first came out, my interpretation was that references to the Conciliator were to Jesus. I am not 100% certain even today that when he wrote the original four books Wolfe didn't feel the same way.

-- Dave Lebling, aka vizcacha

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Lee Berman — 18 Aug 2010, 01:22 · follows Dave Lebling

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I also saw some echo of Jesus in the Conciliator on first reading. I remain convinced that Urth never had a Jesus nor a Flood and that's why it is the way it is and why it needed Severian.

(FWIW, Jesus doesn't seem a strong presence on Saint Croix or Sainte Anne either..I think Wolfe was going through a dark period in his life in the 70's)

Anyway, the absence of Jesus makes His presence felt through the story anyway. But it would be nice if we knew where he was going to eventually turn up and if it is anywhere in the story, I'd say the most likely place would be Yesod, after the Hierogrammates finish building all the planets and stars including Earth and Sol. If we have to bend what we think is logical time to have him, then so be it.