

finally read AEG

The Urth list — 6 messages, 6 voices, 30 Nov 2010

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/5788>

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Cliff Judge — 30 Nov 2010, 18:57

It was definitely my least favorite Gene Wolfe novel and I have read all of them except for that one really old one.

One question and one observation:

Q. When Cassie was watching the news, to get across the idea that the world of this novel was kind of fallen, the reporter interviewed a young man on the street who wore a golden phallus about his neck. Why did Wolfe choose to give the Autarch a cameo appearance?

O: Izanami was one of the two most important gods in the Japanese pantheon; she married Izanagi and they had several children. The last child was the god of fire.

Jerry Friedman — 02 Dec 2010, 14:33 · in reply to Cliff Judge

From: Cliff Judge <transient at gmail.com>

It was definitely my least favorite Gene Wolfe novel and I have read all of them except for that one really old one.

I liked it much better than my least favorite, TUotNS.

According to somebody, possibly with the initials J. W., Wolfe seems to be very proud of it and especially proud of Cassie and Bill Reis. I'm not sure anyone here has said they understand why. Wolfe mentioned in that recent interview in Black Gate that he's tempted to write a sequel.

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Q. When Cassie was watching the news, to get across the idea that the world of this novel was kind of fallen, the reporter interviewed a young man on the street who wore a golden phallus about his neck. Why did Wolfe choose to give the Autarch a cameo appearance?

Assuming the "obscene symbol" was a phallus, I still don't see him as the old Autarch. The young man has an incipient beard.

But there are lots of cameos in AEG.

O: Izanami was one of the two most important gods in the Japanese pantheon; she married Izanagi and they had several children. The last child was the god of fire.

Thanks, I didn't know that.

Jerry Friedman

Ryan Dunn — 02 Dec 2010, 14:48 · in reply to Jerry Friedman

On Dec 2, 2010, at 9:33 AM, Jerry Friedman <jerry_friedman at yahoo.com> wrote:
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As someone who was fortunate enough to have spoken with Gene about AEG on more than one occasion, I can deduce with some confidence that Cassie reminds Gene of his wife Rosemary. Some of you may have heard the interview with Gene where he chokes up when saying how Cassie took the reins of his story and became the star. Well, he expressed the exact same emotion when talking to me about it in front of my house whilst walking Bobby around the block.

I may also be so presumptuous in saying Gene sees turns of himself in both Chase and Reis, but that would be even more speculative.

...ryan

Rebecca Bushong-Taylor — 03 Dec 2010, 04:46 · in reply to Ryan Dunn

Hi Ryan -

There is certainly a tart sweetness to Cassie that is very much Rosemary Wolfe. He told me once that Cassie is motivated throughout by love (as opposed to Chase and Reis who are motivated by a number of other things). He's quite fond of the character. I'm less sure about his pride/affection for Reis.

I don't know if Gene is especially proud of AEG, but I do know that he had a great deal of fun writing it.

Hope you and your family are well -

RBT

On Thu, Dec 2, 2010 at 9:48 AM, Ryan Dunn <ryan at liftingfaces.com> wrote:

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James Wynn — 03 Dec 2010, 05:00 · in reply to Rebecca Bushong-Taylor

I don't think I seen Wolfe light up the way he did when I asked a question about AEG. But then, he might feel the same way about Home Fires right now.

On 12/2/2010 10:46 PM, Rebecca Bushong-Taylor wrote:

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Andrew Mason — 03 Dec 2010, 20:25 · follows James Wynn

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Perhaps he was an earlier Autarch. Or perhaps he was the Autarch we know, but before his testing.