

(no subject)

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 14 Jan 2011

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/5901>

Exported from an unofficial mirror of a public mailing list. Copyright in each message remains with the person who wrote it. Email addresses are obscured as `user at host`, the form the original archive published. This file was rebuilt from parsed fields rather than retained headers, so it is faithful in content but not byte-exact.

Lee Berman — 14 Jan 2011, 20:07

David Stockhoff- Interestingly, both are possibly related to fertility---but the irrigation cultures handed down more of our mythical material than did the slash-and-burn cultures. So I agree there: better to drown and cover the world in green than to burn in satanic sterility.

Excellent anthropological point. And so true. Oral traditions are nice, but for longevity and accuracy, they are inferior to writing systems. And writing always originated in river-based civilizations not jungle-based tribal cultures (well, there are the seaside Phoenicians but they needed to develop writing for their trade between river civilizations).

I'm not aware of studies of the mythical supremacy of fire among swidden agricultural tribes but I bet there are some interesting contrasts to irrigation-based societies.