

Latro for Larry (spoilers)

The Urth list — 6 messages, 6 voices, 17 Dec 2011

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/6146>

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Marc Aramini — 17 Dec 2011, 00:54

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Latro: "No, I don't know that. Nor that I'm a common mortal. perhaps I am. Perhaps not."

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Let's look at the concluding poem of Soldier of Arete at the olympics: "you quench the bolt, the lightning's fearful fire, the eagle rests his wings, that never tire; to hear you shaken by your song, Fell Ares quits the spear proud throng." Ares is tired of war and leaves it behind, or at least this particular conflict: he has quit the war mongering crowd.

Thamyris starts addressing Latro

as Pleistorus in Chapter 24 of Soldier of Arete, and Pleistorus is their version of the war god Ares. Also, Pleistorus has been missing from his temple for a very very long time, and is equated with Ahura Mazda as well in the book, who is for all intents and purposes the "great" good god most similar to the Christian God.

One more thing, and this is new. Xalmoxes, the boar shape changer, gave his followers the promise of immortality and heaven with a resurrection of the body. (a historical figure) He disappeared into the ground for three years and then emerged. As the enemy here of Ares, he predates Christian "resurrection"/heaven philosophy because it is a false version of what, I think, Ahura Mazda will bring when he assimilates the turning away from war for war's sake: the peace of the world that will allow Jesus to be born.

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Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 17 Dec 2011, 01:13 · in reply to Marc Aramini

Fascinating, Marc.

I won't comment in detail at this point because I have learned to take your theories seriously and with a LOT of thought, whether I wind up agreeing with them or not.

On Fri, Dec 16, 2011 at 4:54 PM, Marc Aramini <marcaramini at yahoo.com> wrote:

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David Stockhoff — 17 Dec 2011, 02:07 · in reply to Marc Aramini

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That's brilliant. I always suspected Latro was possessed by a god, but which one? this is a well-researched answer.

Is it possible that he was at first "visited" by Ares after his head wound simply because he has been a good soldier, then subsequently/simultaneously by Ahura because he has been even "better" as a god (Ares himself being in reality an aspect of "Ahura," at least as far as his more noble qualities)?

Larry Miller — 17 Dec 2011, 02:43 · in reply to Marc Aramini

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Gwern Branwen — 17 Dec 2011, 02:45 · in reply to Marc Aramini

Impressive work. I haven't read *Sidon*, but I re-read the others recently, and this seems like it might be right.

gwern
<http://www.gwern.net>

Lee Berman — 17 Dec 2011, 15:46 · follows Gwern Branwen

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Gene Wolfe: Pas is certainly not Zeus. (No doubt he would like to be.) The classical gods are, in general, not as people today imagine them. Ares is the *soldier god*, not the war god, for example. Aphrodite is the sex goddess, not the love goddess; the love god is Eros, her son.

From: *Some Moments with the Magus: An Interview with Gene Wolfe*
by Nick Gevers, Michael Andre-Driussi, and James Jordan