

Shadow + Claw

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 21 May 1998

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Peter Stephenson — 21 May 1998, 07:46

The Shadow here is VRT's (or the Shadow Child[ren] if you prefer): I like `Roy' for the middle name for the Celtic clues. However, given the Proust links it would have been nice if it were Robert, which would fit in with Proust's Robert de St. Loup ( `Robert of St. Wolfe[e]'). Is there another Robert? (Did someone else point this out?)

The Claw is the Claw: is it possible that Severian finds a real live thorn in Citadel, which comes back with him in Urth to become the actual Claw? Are there enough clues for or against to decide this?

pws

Michael Straight — 21 May 1998, 10:10 · follows Peter Stephenson

On Thu, 21 May 1998, Peter Stephenson wrote:

The Claw is the Claw: is it possible that Severian finds a real live thorn in Citadel, which comes back with him in Urth to become the actual Claw? Are there enough clues for or against to decide this?

There's the passage (in Citadel?) where Severian is on the beach and comes across the rose bushes and sees that the thorns all look just like the Claw and he removes his boots recognizing that he is always standing on holy ground, everything is holy, all thorns are the Claw.

Or maybe a better way to put it is that the Claw was not itself "magical" rather it was special because it was the particular thorn the Increate used to exercise his power (via the white fountain, via Severian), and that any thorn, any ground is holy because it is the creation of the Increate and a potential vehicle for his grace. (Or maybe I'm reading too much of my own sacramental/incarnational theology into it.)

So, to answer your question, I take this passage as saying, yes, any thorn that Severian picked up and brought back in time would become the Claw.

-Rostrum