

Short Story 71: Silhouette Mephisto/Johann limp

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 03 Aug 2014

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Marc Aramini — 03 Aug 2014, 12:03

Even though Borski loves to assert Goethe's Faust is everywhere in Wolfe's fiction, it really is everywhere in Silhouette. But why is it Johann who has a limp in the story when it is Mephistopholes in Faust? Does this complicate his imagery? Is he taking his silhouette off the planet of neuerddraht to infect the galaxy? Algol has such a bad astronomical reputation, and the images of a civilization which drowned in sand and perished on the planet are a bit apocalyptic. Are the seeming good guys in this bad, in light of the fact that the diabolists keep scrying Johann's name rather than, say, Satan's?