

No Planets Strike question for those with religious backgrounds ...

The Urth list — 10 messages, 5 voices, 26 Apr 2015

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/6739>

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Marc Aramini — 26 Apr 2015, 11:58

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These words are Somalian words, and "maser" is tissue. If it stopped there I would expect it to be mere coincidence, but in Somali Barr means "important events" and Bilad means "sword" ... so we have three Somalian words.

Does "tissue of Swords" or "Tissue of important events" mean anything to anyone here with a knowledge of the Christian religion or the transition from the pagan world to the Christian one?

I do not think the sound similarities to a Jewish concept such as a bar mitzvah (where bar implies son) is necessarily the way to go with this, since all three components are actual words in an existing language ...

Marc Aramini — 26 Apr 2015, 12:17 · in reply to Marc Aramini

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The story also uses the donkey and the bull to re-enact the rather famous allegory of the long spoons - hell would be much more like heaven if the people fed each other rather than simply tried to feed themselves.

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"How the Bishop Sailed to Inniskeen" is intensely dependent upon T.H. White's biographical travels to the Inniskeas, where White became obsessed with a possibly pagan stone used as the pillow of a holy man which was appropriated in Catholic reverence, depicted in his nonfictional "The Godstone and the Blackymore". There is a scene at the start of that in which the historically ambiguously sexually oriented White talks to his older patron Bunny passionately about falconry that reminded me so strongly of Blood and Musk in The Book of the Long Sun that it was almost shocking.

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Marc Aramini — 26 Apr 2015, 14:21 · in reply to Marc Aramini

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Stephen Hoy — 26 Apr 2015, 19:46 · in reply to Marc Aramini

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Matthew King — 26 Apr 2015, 19:55 · in reply to Marc Aramini

Could this be a joke related to the maser/master mixup with The God and His Man?

On Apr 26, 2015, at 6:58 AM, Marc Aramini <marcaramini at gmail.com> wrote:

Biladmaser

marcaramini — 26 Apr 2015, 20:00 · follows Matthew King

I thought about that too but that feels a bit too self-referentially meta- for Wolfe to me ... I feel like the majority of his short stories do not refer necessarily to other of his own works for interpretive cruxes, even if they are variations on a theme (but ironically... he doesnt mind doing that with older references to culture, literature, or whatever external to his work)

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Alpha?, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Matthew King <automatthew at gmail.com>

Date: 04/26/2015 12:55 PM (GMT-07:00)

To: The Urth Mailing List <urth at lists.urth.net>

Subject: Re: (urth) No Planets Strike question for those with religious backgrounds ...

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On Apr 26, 2015, at 6:58 AM, Marc Aramini <marcaramini at gmail.com> wrote:

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marcaramini — 26 Apr 2015, 20:02 · follows marcaramini

Could very well be, since it is a place and makes more sense than using somali there ...

Thanks!?

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Alpha?, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

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From: Stephen Hoy <stephenhoy15 at gmail.com>

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Jason Cassidy — 26 Apr 2015, 20:24 · follows marcaramini

Sorry if this has been mentioned before, but I wonder if a connection could be made regarding the story of the talking donkey in the book of Numbers? If recollection serves, the prophet Balaam is hired by the king of the Moabites to curse 'a people who have come out of Egypt' and settled near his lands (the Israelites). God is not keen on Balaam cursing his Chosen people and figures they can live anywhere they want now that they're free of Egypt, but tells Balaam to go ahead and see the Moabite king anyways, and to only say what God tells him to say. On the way there, Balaam is riding on his donkey and Angel of the Lord keeps getting in his way. However, the donkey is the only one who can see the angel, so it keeps stopping and Balaam keeps whipping it. Eventually God gives the donkey the power of speech and it says something along the lines of 'why do you keep whipping me every time I stop? Have I ever steered you wrong before?'

Balaam admits to the donkey that it hasn't and only then does the prophet see the Angel of the Lord. God again reminds him to only say what God tells him to say.

Perhaps if, as Stephen suggested, Donkey actually heard something akin to 'the land of the messiah,' could he be referring to, in a sense, the land where the chosen people settled and God wanted them to have? Is it a request for the Beautiful Ones to just get out of the way so that a more deserving people can inherit the planet?

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Norwood, Frederick Hudson — 27 Apr 2015, 12:07 · in reply to Marc Aramini

T. H. White is one of my favorite authors — up there with Wolfe, Tolkien, and Peake. I hope the reference in the first X-Men movie brought him new readers. I recently read Farewell Victoria for the first time. Does anyone know what Wolfe thinks about White?

Rick

From: Urth [mailto:urth-bounces at lists.urth.net] On Behalf Of Marc Aramini
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2015 10:21 AM
To: The Urth Mailing List
Subject: Re: (urth) No Planets Strike question for those with religious backgrounds ...

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Norwood, Frederick Hudson — 27 Apr 2015, 14:38 · in reply to Stephen Hoy

T. H. White's biography makes it clear that he was sexually attracted to young children, and that he lived asexually for most of his life, substituting erudition for sexuality.

Rick

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