

dead rabbit and fox in leuan's room

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 05 Jan 2018

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/6770>

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.

Marc Aramini — 05 Jan 2018, 23:47

When Bax first comes across the younger set of twins, he makes "Emlyn" drop his light and flee through a closed window, ghost-like. Later, "leuan" beats him and kicks him (though he also does damage to that boy). When he sees Emlyn again, he hits him with a stick he cut for a fishing pole three times. Emlyn tricks him, and then Bax "took three hard blows from my own stick" - the damage between these characters is always tit for tat. Ellyn thinks that Bax might be leuan here, and thinks "you'd have a sword or a knife" (Bax will get both later).

Later he is walking with "Emlyn" and leaves him for a second to peer into leuan's bedroom - in it, he notes "A dead animal on the floor appeared to be a rabbit; another, sprawled over a chest, was clearly a large fox." (71). Given that later Lupine will give Doris's car keys to him and they will feature a pink rabbit, the dead animals here seem somewhat prophetic.

I think leuan and Emlyn are parts of Bax that want to embrace different parts of their nature. When Emlyn sees Winkle face to face he promises her he will never force her. When Bax meets Lupine, he promises he will never force her. When Lupine meets Bax, she says that she likes him. When Kiki meets Bax, she also says that she likes him. The morning after that strange trip to Lakeshore he meets with both leuan and Emlyn at different times, though both call themselves Emlyn. One wants to talk about the werewolf, the other introduces him to the werewolf. At one point Emlyn asks if Bax is their father, who he says is good at disguises. When Nick the butler, who is supposed to eventually be revealed to be Mr. Black, speaks of himself, he says that he is "a thing, if you will allow the word. A thing rather less fine than your sword, sir. .. Only a thing, like your sword, that strives to serve you." (256) He goes on to say: "[Nicholas] was made first, and I subsequently. We were grown in the same trough, sir. Our creator was their father, sir. Zwart is, or was, his common name." "You think he may be dead?" The old man cleared his throat. "You, um, sir. Or the boys, sir. Emlyn, I would think. Or both, sir." "I did not kill him, Nick ... I shot a wolf. (258)

Later he winds up somehow being Zwart Black, who is Alexander Skotos, according to Bax, but here we see that the butler's words might make sense in another way, if he is just an object in a story created to serve the purpose of Bax. leuan, Emlyn, and Bax might be three in one. When Bax asks if Zwart is dead, the old man does not actually use the verb "killed," but his answer could even be to provide the object to the previous sentence: "You think he may be dead?" [I think he may be] you, um, sir. Or the boys, sir. Emlyn, I would think. Or both, sir." The struggles between Bax and the twins is perhaps one for internal dominance. However, granting them anything beyond a metaphorical reality to illustrate the previous relationship of Bax and George seems somewhat unwarranted, save for the Hound of Horror stories and an inability to contextualize Lupine.

Do the dead rabbit and fox in leuan's room indicate that Winker and Doris will "die" when leuan's coldness comes to power in Bax? Can the fox spirit be corrupted into something more deadly? After the penultimate struggle with the wolves on his way back from Lakeshore in a letter to Millie, with no mention of Mary King, Bax says that the second determining incident

that occurred in the morning involved Emlyn introducing him to a woman he admired: "She was Lupine, the psychotic I had met beside the river." It seems to be the mirror image of a talk he has with Ieuan in a previous letter, who wants to talk about the werewolf and feels he might be blamed. Bax tells him that he cannot deceive him: "You should try to become accustomed to that, to internalize it." (181) He also says, "I recognized myself at once." (180) These meetings are frustratingly left inconclusive, ending with Bax asking why he came - "the werewolf, but that was while you were playing your brother. why did you really come?" (182)

Can anything be made of the dead rabbit and fox in Ieuan's room?