

Severian of Gabala

The Urth list — 3 messages, 3 voices, 17 Jan 2018

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/6775>

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Keith Sadler — 17 Jan 2018, 23:16

Hello all! This is my first post on this mailing list, and thus I apologize in advance if I've made an error, or offered a silly question. I've been following and reading through for a while.

Is there anything to be read into Severian sharing a name with Severian of Gabala? I'm currently half through 'In Green's Jungles' in terms of the Solar Cycle series and I've read through a number of his other books.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Severian_of_Gabala

One rather unhelpful friend suggested that Gene Wolfe was writing in a pre-Google era and thus it might be coincidence? I think I can be fairly certain that there is very little happenstance that Gene Wolfe offers in his worlds.

Keith Sadler
about.me/keithsadler
[image: Keith Sadler on about.me]
<<http://about.me/keithsadler>>

Ab de Vos — 18 Jan 2018, 00:06 · in reply to Keith Sadler

Hi Keith,

Probably you will make a lot of errors as everybody does who tries to make sense of Wolfes books. They have an impenetrable character almost esoteric so don't worry about it.

There is not much to connect between the two Severians except the name.

Op 18-1-2018 om 00:16 schreef Keith Sadler:

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Keith Sadler

about.me/keithsadler
Keith Sadler on about.me

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António Pedro Marques — 07 Feb 2018, 14:06 · in reply to Keith Sadler

No dia 17/01/2018, às 23:16, Keith Sadler <kthsdlr at gmail.com> escreveu:

One rather unhelpful friend suggested that Gene Wolfe was writing in a pre-Google era

Unlike the authors your friend may be familiar with, Wolfe comes from a school of writers who knew more stuff decades ago than Google will know in this foreseeable future. I don't know how they did it, but they did. Nowadays many can do it.

and thus it might be coincidence? I think I can be fairly certain that there is very little happenstance that Gene Wolfe offers in his worlds.

Very, very little is how I'd put it. Whatever is random is there just for the purpose of having a tiny bit of randomness in an otherwise stiflingly structured ball of thread.

That said, carrying the name of some historical person doesn't mean the character is that person. In the case of this bishop, I'd sooner see him as an inspiration for Gurloes (would that make Chrysostom an inspiration for Palaemon or Severian even?), but that's flimsy.