

What Clute Said

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 01 Jul 1997

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/79>

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.

m.driussi — 01 Jul 1997, 22:45

Reply: Item #2197133 from URTH at LISTS.BEST.COM@INET00#

Speaking of strange thoughts (rana--I =do= know what you are talking about, I've just never been able to come up with an answer for Agilus's ribbon. The comic book has his long hair tied back in a ribbon, I think.), I was thinking of Clute's recent review of THE BOOK OF THE LONG SUN in the New York Review of Science Fiction, especially his point about investigation/interrogation/confession which is always going on therein.

And I asked myself what would be the complementary motif within THE BOOK OF THE NEW SUN, and answered, "storytelling." The brown book; Severian telling Thecla's tales of Father Inire; Cyriaca's legend of the librarians; guild lore; town lore of Saltus; etc.; and much later, Severian telling his entire story to Tzadkiel, then again to little Tzadkiel beside Brook Madregot, and to Eata after the flood. (And the fact that Eata nods off at the beginning is simultaneously funny, in-joke [like how in URTH ch. 49 the poignant tag endings of the four previous volumes is burlesqued as, "Had you been with me then, reader, and insisted I walk farther with you, I think I would have taken your life."], sad [in that Severian is losing his power with words], and gloomy [energy is running down, hinting at the mortality that has been haunting the whole volume].)

Which is neat, because on the Whorl they are all possessed by a drive to learn the Truth (objective) and become ensnared by the veils of maya (subjective truth); on weary Urth they while away the watches with seeminly discursive stories which (might?) reveal deeper truths.

Father Brown contrasted with Scheherazade.

=mantis=