

The Book of the New Sun

The Usenet list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 21 Feb 1986

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pete — 21 Feb 1986, 10:57

There's been some good discussion in this group about the merits or otherwise of _The Book of the New Sun_. Now I'm going to stick my oar in.

C.S. Lewis, who knew a thing or two about writing fantasy and SF said:

"To tell how odd things struck odd people is to tell one oddity too many"

I think that it is a demonstration of Gene Wolfe's ability that he breaks this rule and (just) gets away with it. There is a sense of living dangerously in the style of the book that is very exciting.

I have tried (on a subsequent reading) checking the 'funny words' in a dictionary. This is a bad idea, because most of the time the words are used as much for their sound and feeling as for their literal meaning. Nevertheless, those words that I found (in Chambers' 20th Century) _were_ correctly used _and_ not flogged to death by repetition like Donaldson.

BTW, Prince Caspian's horse was called 'Destrier'.