

Sword with Terminus Est

The Usenet list — 5 messages, 5 voices, 12 Apr 1991

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/usenet/49>

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Sridhar Dasari — 12 Apr 1991, 21:53

I was just reading Gene Wolfe's Shadow of the Torturer. The swrod with the engraving called Terminus Est was mentioned. The name rings a bell; where did I hear this name before? The only famous swords I can think of are Excalibur, and Roland's sword (name starts with a C, I think) Anyone who can help me on this one?

Sridhar H. Dasari
sd1r+ at andrew.cmu.edu

The sign of an educated person is how clear was the line in his mind between what he knew and what he didn't know.

- Irving Babbitt

An insufficient talent is the cruelest of all temptations.

- anonymous

The average woman would rather have beauty than brains, because the average man can see better than he can think.

- Farrah Fawcett

Klaus Ole Kristiansen — 16 Apr 1991, 11:35 · in reply to Sridhar Dasari

sd1r+ at andrew.cmu.edu (Sridhar Dasari) writes:

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I can not help, but I have a question:

Wouldn't Terminus Es be a better name?

Klaus Kristiansen

Steve Simmons — 18 Apr 1991, 17:09 · in reply to Sridhar Dasari

klaus at diku.dk (Klaus Ole Kristiansen) writes:

sd1r+ at andrew.cmu.edu (Sridhar Dasari) writes:

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Wolfe is usually worth reading closely. His translations from the Latin appear to be quite deliberately suspect. I pointed out several to a latin-literate friend and she confirmed some significant differences between the phrases given and how the characters translated them. In particular he translates "Terminus Est" as "The dividing line", but my friend claims "this is the end" is a better translation.

Sorry, I can't bring other instances to mind.

Paul DuBois — 18 Apr 1991, 19:24 · in reply to Klaus Ole Kristiansen

In article <1991Apr16.113525.3350 at odin.diku.dk> klaus at diku.dk (Klaus Ole Kristiansen) writes:

sd1r+ at andrew.cmu.edu (Sridhar Dasari) writes:

I was just reading Gene Wolfe's Shadow of the Torturer. The sword with the engraving called Terminus Est was mentioned. The name rings a bell; where did I hear this name before? The only famous swords I can think of are Excalibur, and Roland's sword (name starts with a C, I think)
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Klaus Kristiansen

I don't know any Latin, but somewhere in the series they mention the translation of Terminus Est as being "The Dividing Line" for semi-obvious reasons.

Chris Adams — 23 Apr 1991, 17:07 · in reply to Steve Simmons

In article <1991Apr18.170927.22201 at lokkur.dexter.mi.us> scs at lokkur.dexter.mi.us (Steve Simmons) writes:

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Well, I can't really say how accurate Wolfe's other translations are, but he's not as wrong as everyone keeps saying... terminus, in addition to meaning "end," also can mean "border" or "boundary." and what is a border if not a dividing line? the est is definitely "is" and that's a little awkward, but he's not THAT far off...

love and xxx,
chris