

socrates

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 17 Feb 2001

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/1179>

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Sheila Herndon — 17 Feb 2001, 15:25

I am still catching up on all the posts, but having questions at the same time, so I hope I don't cross wires and ask redundant things.

Oh, and I feel I have to confess - I am not a Christian. It is complicated to describe my attitude but I will quote James Morrow, a quote from an interview here, <http://www.sfsite.com/02a/jm97.htm>

[...]

As the British philosopher Galen Strawson recently observed, God loves the atheists best, because they're the ones who take him the most seriously.

[...]

"God" is so easily confused with the answers whose place he's holding.

I do not find God believable, but it so happens, find divine love believable. Anyway, I do not wish to belabor this point - beyond the scope of the book.

I hope I have not committed a faux-pas. It is often treacherous to mention one's beliefs online.

However, since the subject of the book is clearly religious, I though maybe I would risk it?

Anyway, one thing that strikes a cord with me about the godling (his huge stature aside - hmm, maybe he is a talus, yes that helps. I found myself very confused as to why Wolfe had to make the Godling so huge? Why does it matter how huge he is? weird.) and the conversation with the godling -

and I don't really get all of this so bear with me -

but I like how Horn makes no promise to the godling, even in a sly way. He nods. And he is resolved within himself to do what he judges to be right. Based on what he thinks. Not on what the godling says.

But what is even more interesting, because that is

an easy point to make I think, might != right, is that when he reaches Viron, and has seen many things, he changes his mind to agree with the Godling. This means, hey you silly human, just because someone is powerful, does not mean they are wrong.

On, and this also reminds me, perhaps inappropriately so, perhaps I am making a weak link here - of the dialog of Socrates and Euthypro - I may have spelled his name wrong - it has been a very long time since I read it.

The thing I remember from that was the question - are things good because God says they are, or does God say they are good because they are?

Very interesting question. In greek, it is not exactly good - it is perhaps closer to "pious"? I do not remember exactly.

Anyway, I love that dialogue.

I am not sure which way Wolfe would answer, but based on the godling thing - I think he would say that the human is to seek good, not out of coercion, not out of an idea of obedience, or of reward, or of punishment, but because it is good and that is what a good human wants.

And the human may want this, and then may mistakenly think it is at odds with the divine, yet, once the human travels to Viron and understand things more, then the human will find himself suddenly agreeing with God that things which are good, are good, and not just because God told him so. or because God is frightening and powerful.

Anyway, I was just wondering if anyone else would agree or disagree with me on that? Maybe I am reading too much of the wrong stuff into it.

mimosa