

Not using Quadrifons's name

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 18 Feb 2001

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Dan Rabin — 18 Feb 2001, 21:38

There are injunctions in the Torah against using the name of God, including one in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:7). The name, which occurs in written form throughout the Torah, is not pronounced when reading the text out loud; indeed, it is not currently known how to pronounce it. In most English translations the name is given as "the Lord", which is a translation of the Hebrew word that is substituted for the name when read aloud.

This makes sense as a manifestation of the Outsider, especially in association with an exodus! If the principal narrator of *_Short Sun_* indeed communicated with Quadrifons, this would echo Moses, who spoke to God face to face.

Aside: I myself tend to view these correspondences as associational rather than allegorical. Wolfe doesn't have to write the Bible--it's already written. We spend a lot of time here trying to make all the puzzle pieces fit together, but I'm not sure they're meant to. Silk/Horn might still have Mosaic coloration, even if he wasn't denied entrance to Blue by the Outsider, and even if he didn't have a brother as high priest...hmm... Quetzal as Aaron? Naah.

-- Dan Rabin

*This is WHORL, for discussion of Gene Wolfe's *Book of the Long Sun*.