

New Sun/Long Sun/Short Sun as whole (RTTW spoilers)

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 20 Feb 2001

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/1204>

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Adam Stephanides — 20 Feb 2001, 08:21

I intend to respond on the "TBOTSS as fantasy" issue, but a line in your post suggests a question to me which, to my knowledge hasn't been addressed yet.

on 2/18/01 11:23 PM, William Ansley at wansley at warwick.net wrote:
I can't say you are not right, because I don't know what was going on in Wolfe's mind, But, if you are right, I think Wolfe did a grave disservice to his readers and has made it impossible to seriously consider NS/UNS/LS/SS as a cohesive whole, which is surely what he wants; else why did he link the books so strongly?

If we do consider all twelve books as a whole, one enormous (apparent) contradiction leaps into view. A while ago on the urth list, in (IIRC) a discussion of the morality or otherwise of the destruction of Urth, the point was made that one reason Urth had to be punished was Typhon's plans to colonize the galaxy, which would spread humanity's warlike nature across hundreds of planets. But at the end of RTTW we see Silk, who has been presented as the moral center of the Long Sun and Short Sun books, going off to help do just that. Does this mean that Silk is unknowingly planning to devote the rest of his life to an evil cause? (Come to think of it, from this point of view it would have been better if everyone had stayed on board the Whorl.) Or is space colonization not so bad after all?

--Adam

P. S. I didn't post this to the urth list because I wasn't sure that was correct netiquette; but if somebody else wanted to I wouldn't object.

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