

(no subject)

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 12 Mar 2001

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/1260>

Exported from an unofficial mirror of a public mailing list. Copyright in each message remains with the person who wrote it. Email addresses are obscured as `user at host`, the form the original archive published. This file was rebuilt from parsed fields rather than retained headers, so it is faithful in content but not byte-exact.

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 12 Mar 2001, 08:41

An Agnostic says:

"I don't know whether or not there's a God."

A Militant Agnostic says:

"I don't know whether or not there's a God. And neither do you."

... so you're the guys who came over and burned a question mark on my lawn last fall?

... did the exposition have to be so damn oblique that many of the very knowledgeable people here disagree about what happened?

Perhaps that was precisely the purpose? Not suggesting that Wolfe is writing for/at this list (though I can think of at least one case of an extraordinarily talented musician doing the analogous thing, writing a song directed obliquely at an online fan group); but that Wolfe deliberately might write a Rorschach blot of a book, intentionally setting it up so that what you find in it depends even more than usual on what you bring to it.

Were Silk's injuries caused by an attempted suicide or a fight? Both viewpoints have been argued here and I'm still not sure which I believe. I prefer a fight, since I just don't see sufficient motivation for Silk to attempt suicide. He seems more aware than that.

Again, neither answer seems as likely as this: if you will reread the account of Orpine's "final sacrifice," you will note that gashing yourself is an accepted way of expressing grief in Viron (as indeed it has been in some Urthly, uh, Earthly cultures). Silk, in a fit of grief and despair, tearing the room up and gashing himself seems to me the most obvious answer.

I also agree with those who deplored the fractured locution of Wijzer, Olivine, etc. It began to wear thin after a while. Especially Olivine.

Yes: especially Olivine. Pig I found difficult but tolerable; I rather liked the Dorpish dialect, but I used to live around Lancaster County PA & Pencildutch dialect (which is how I read it) doesn't seem stilted or unnatural to me.

Quick question: Does anyone know who originated the saying "The more I know people, the more I like animals."? I personally couldn't agree more...

Le plus je connais des hommes, le plus j'aime ma chatte. -- Voltaire

--Dan'l
(who thinks misanthropy is a probable symptom
of militant agnosticism, nyaaaah.)

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