

Fallible Narrators and Even More Fallible Copyists: a Textual Consideration of the "Book of Silk" (a tangent)

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 11 Jun 2001

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/1443>

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Alex David Groce — 11 Jun 2001, 13:39

Nutria wrote:

FWIW, this is exactly and precisely what Roman Catholic James Blish does in his classic **A Case of Conscience**. Wolfe shares Blish's Thomism. Blish provides both a "nature" version of the story, and a "grace" version of the story, and only the "eye of faith" can see which version is the more "ultimate" explanation of events. It would not surprise me if Wolfe, who certainly knows Blish's work, would do the same thing.

Blish was Catholic? Somehow I'd gotten the impression he was, at some point, an atheist and at another point (I forget the ordering) an Anglican, and that heresies and theology were to a large extent more a hobby to him than a matter of faith. Was I off-base? Google doesn't quickly confirm either hypothesis for me.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32

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