

Salica's first story

The Whorl list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 02 Jan 2002

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/1509>

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maa32 — 02 Jan 2002, 01:59

Have we been able to account for the presence of the strego with the talking bird in Inclito's mother's first story? What does that story reflect in the work as a whole? Here is my association, if anybody has any ideas I'd love to go over them.

In the story, a bunch of husbands are killed by a fang in a boot long after the original grave desecrator has been destroyed. The moral seemed to be that while all the men resembled the first husband to Salica, to the first husband's ghost they resembled the evil suitor; therefore, that while everyone thinks the narrator resembles Silk, he thinks he is someone else. I would like to go deeper than that.

The names of the suitor's in translation are weird:

they mean Helmet, Soldier, Joy, Solemnity, etc., and Silk and Oreb seem to be in it. Ok. Where do helmets, soldiers, and figures of Joy and Solemnity occur in one scene elsewhere in the text?

Well, it seems to me that all these figures are joined in Return to the Whorl when Pig, Silk, and Hound study the statues of the gods. In it, Sphigx is represented by a helmet and it is explained at great length that this is to conceal her from the Trivigaunti, who habitually destroy her image. The gods that are discussed at length are Feasting Phea (joy), Molpe (sorrow), and Quadrifons, as well as Scylla through Oreb and Pas through Silver or Silent Silk. And Pig was a soldier. How does Salica's story reveal anything about the situation of the gods? In it, we learn that someone is striking from beyond the grave (and in the other scene, we learn that Heirax, the god of death, is dead). We know that a significant portion of Silk is trapped in Pig and cannot be returned to Mainframe until Pig gets an eye back. We know that Scylla wants to get to "Blue Mainframe". In the story, the Strego warns Casco not to strike at the grave. Does Silk need to get back to Pas to stop a desecration from occurring? Or does he need to get back so that he can send his spirit into the body of Silk, from which Silk's original spirit has been displaced by his tragedy and replaced by all that remains of Horn? (Unless Horn's spirit enters Babbie - off the immediate subject: have we figured out who the two fanged ("with fangs bigger than a man's wrist") green mankiller that approaches the narrator in several passages in the last two books actually was? the description of Babbie in Return to the Whorl with huge tusks thicker than a man's wrist seems to parallel that description very strangely. And how do we account for the passage at the very end of On Blue's Waters where the narrator seems to be Babbie?)

Marc Aramini

Michael Straight — 02 Jan 2002, 20:30 · follows maa32

On Tue, 1 Jan 2002, maa32 wrote:

Have we been able to account for the presence of the strego with the talking bird in Inclito's mother's first story? What does that story reflect in the work as a whole? Here is my association, if anybody has any ideas I'd love to go over them.

In addition to your interesting connections, the strego is an excuse for Incanto to explain the difference between believing in ghosts, believing in witches, and believing in witchcraft.

It also helps us see how uncanny Incanto appears to the citizens of Blanko.

-Rostrum