

Orchid's Manteion

The Whorl list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 15 Mar 1997

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/212>

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.

m.driussi — 15 Mar 1997, 04:00

Reply: Item #5705130 from WHORL at LISTS.BEST.COM@INET02#

Tercel,

I think I agree with you, since I've been working on the idea that Orchid's "profaned" manteion is actually not so very profaned--that it was and is a manteion dedicated to Kypris-the-party-girl, or, as you put it (bringing Chicago geography into the picture) the "Playboy Manteion." (The profanity involved, making bawdy fun of the imperious ruler, makes perfect sense for a saturnalia, or "satyrnalia" if you prefer.) This has echoes with mytho-historical practices--Love Goddess temple prostitutes in the ancient Middle East; societies where a girl earned her own dowry by serving as a temple prostitute; and stuff like that.

An argument agin' it: the manteions we see are not so specialized, rather they serve all the gods. Shrines, yes (specialized); manteions, no. Then again, it is an interesting notion and it sure answers "Why did Kypris show up there?" in a big way! (It is =her= temple where her favored rites are still being practiced, feeding whatever psionic godfood into her divine person--via patented Wilhelm Reich Orgon collectors, no doubt <g>. As opposed to the Moloch crowd--they've been on a diet.)

(Hey, wait a second--did you title yours "Thought for the day" because today is =Friday=? Very clever!)

=mantis=

Questions or problems to whorl-owner at lists.best.com

Derek Bell — 16 Mar 1997, 15:34 · follows m.driussi

In message <199703150509.VAA08876 at lists1.best.com>, m.driussi at genie.com writes:

Tercel,

I think I agree with you, since I've been working on the idea that Orchid's "profaned" manteion is actually not so very profaned--that it was and is a manteion dedicated to Kypris-the-party-girl, or, as you put it (bringing Chicago geography into the picture) the "Playboy Manteion."

Really, I didn't know that the Playboy Mansion was near Chicago! Come to think of it, it makes it look more likely as a joke that would appeal to Wolfe - he's certainly included Chicago geography in his works before, as well as some other places he's lived. (I think I read that Caissonsville in _Peace_ is based on a town he grew up in - I'm not sure which.) For that matter, Wolfe has used some elaborate puns in TBoTNS. (E.g. the two puns in the version of the Thesus legend.)

An argument agin' it: the manteions we see are not so specialized, rather they serve all the gods. Shrines, yes (specialized); manteions, no.

It struck me afterwards that the manteion may have been some kind of haven for Kypris, assuming that she told Silk the truth about being hunted. Perhaps she made multiple copies of herself and the one in Orchid's survived because the manteion was in disrepair. Then again, Mucor turned up shortly before and she seems to have an "awakening" effect on Sacred Windows. (They're one kind Microsoft has no hand in! ;-))

Another thing about Orchid's and the exorcism conducted there: after Kypris' theophany, Silk remembers that they haven't completed the "third circuit" of the manteion. I loved that phrase when I reread that scene last night. It reminds me of the scene where Silk buys Oreb in the market and Tick says "add word", which reminded me of assembly language! (OK, I know Tick uses the wrong words all the time, but I'm sure Gene Wolfe wouldn't pass up the opportunity for a little wordplay.)

(Hey, wait a second--did you title yours "Thought for the day" because today is =Friday=? Very clever!)

Because the Friday is (according to Merriam-Webster) indirectly derived from _dies_Veneris_? I'm afraid that wasn't my intention; it seems my pun is cleverer than me!! Or else I was possessed by a minor god! (I don't remember there being a Whorl god of puns and wordplay - maybe he's a minor one, possibly demoted for punning in Pas' presence too often! Perhaps Lupercus is the deity responsible!)

Tercel

Questions or problems to whorl-owner at lists.best.com