

Holy Moses!

The Whorl list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 28 Jun 1997

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Kieran Mullen — 28 Jun 1997, 16:29

From: Alice Turner <al at ny.playboy.com>
Subject: Go Down, Moses
Date: Fri, 27 Jun 1997 16:32:56 -0400

At 12:26 PM 6/27/97 -0700, you wrote:

To me Silk has more of a Mosaic flavor to his character than Christic. He leads his people out of bondage to a promised planet. However, he does not get to walk in the Land himself. I mean, "Exodus"? The burning bush?

Kieran Mullen

What if the Moses role was played by Quetzal?

He is never really seen as a leader of the people. His image is primarily serpentine, and therefore devilish in this mythology (IMO). I don't think that Moses led the Hebrews through the desert so they could get eaten in the promised land :-).

I also don't mean to press the point too strongly. Symbolism is not allegory. We don't have a Mr. Goodworks and a Ms. Gossip running around. It also occurs to me that Wolfe's soteriology (story of being saved) doesn't have to rigorously follow the Biblical paradigms.

Can anyone think of sf novels that follow other spiritual traditions off planet? I think it's in Simmons' *Hyperion*, where he replays the story of Abraham and Isaac. (There are lots of such novels that involve the Christian tradition). By "follow" I don't mean simply that there are Moslems or Buddhists on another planet. I mean novels that use their cosmology on an sf scale.

Kieran Mullen

m.driussi — 30 Jun 1997, 01:16 · follows Kieran Mullen

Reply: Item #6730944 from WHORL at LISTS.BEST.COM@INET#

Re: non-Christian Religion in SF. Well, before I look at the encyclopedia, DUNE obviously. And Zelazny stuff, like LORD OF LIGHT (Hindu) and CREATURES OF LIGHT AND DARKNESS (ancient Egyptian). And a trilogy based upon the (modern synthetic) Scandinavian (Finnish?) epic poem that starts with a "K"(?).

Hmm. Encyclopedia not much help at the moment. The "Religion" section is mainly re: Christian. I'm not looking hard enough.

=mantis=