

Spoiler on the connection between New Sun/Long Sun

The Whorl list — 5 messages, 4 voices, 16 Feb 1999

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Kevin J. Maroney — 16 Feb 1999, 10:28

At 11:19 PM 2/15/99 -0600, Robert Patterson wrote:

I searched the archives and also for a FAQ, but I cannot find any discussion of direct links between New Sun & Long Sun. Has anyone proved that they are from the same universe? Or do we simply take it on faith because Amazon says so? (I worry that this is a bone-crushingly stupid question, but I can't remember any obvious connections.)

The link is explicit, but like so many things in Wolfe's works, is mentioned only once, and you have to make the connection yourself.

Somewhere in _Lake of the Long Sun_, one of the characters (Cypris, if I recall correctly) mentions that before he entered Mainframe, Pas's name was Typhon.

So it is clear that the _Whorl_ was built and launched by Typhon, the two-headed tyrant autarch of long-ago, whom Severian meets in _Sword of the Lictor_.

That's the only explicit connection between the two works that I've seen or heard. Other links have been guessed at, but as nearly as I can tell, there is no conclusive evidence about them.

Kevin Maroney | Crossover Technologies
kmaroney at crossover.com | (212) 777-1190

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

Kieran Cleary — 16 Feb 1999, 15:51 · follows Kevin J. Maroney

Well there's also the depiction of Pas as being two-headed in Kypris' temptation of Silk at the end of Exodus. So unless Wolfe has an undue liking for two-headed tyrants.....

There may have been a mural as well, but I can't quite remember.

Kieran C.

North West Labs
Finisklin Industrial Estate
Sligo
Republic of Ireland

Tel. +353 71 69441
Fax. +353 71 69451
email: kieranwn at tinet.ie

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Kevin J. Maroney — 16 Feb 1999, 11:35 · follows Kieran Cleary

At 03:51 PM 2/16/99 -0000, Kieran wrote:

Well there's also the depiction of Pas as being two-headed in Kypris' temptation of Silk at the end of Exodus. So unless Wolfe has an undue liking for two-headed tyrants.....

Pas is depicted as two-headed throughout Long Sun--I believe that the description of the mural in the auditorium in the brothel in Nightside mentions his two heads (and two penises, since the mural is a blasphemous ribaldry).

Pas being two-headed would not be an *explicit* link to New Sun. But people probably would have made the connection even without Kypris's comment--I can't imagine Mantis not having noticed it eventually, for instance, and I distinctly remember that when I read that sentence in Lake, I slapped myself on the forehead (literally!) for not having made the connection myself.

Wombat, a.k.a. Kevin Maroney kmaroney at crossover.com Kitchen Staff Supervisor, New York Review of Science Fiction <http://ebbs.english.vt.edu/olp/nyrsf/nyrsf.html>

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Charles Dye — 17 Feb 1999, 09:43 · follows Kevin J. Maroney

At 10:10 PM 2/16/99, Robert Patterson wrote:

I noticed in the archives a discussion of the derivation of some of the Long Sun words. The one I saw for "talus" failed to give the most important reference. Talus was a demigod character in Spencer's "The Fairie Queen" who accompanied one of the knights on many of his adventures. He was invincibly strong, fairly stupid, and rather unpleasant for a "good" guy. His whole purpose was to implement justice untempered by mercy or extenuating circumstances. In one scene he slaughtered an entire town for a minor infraction. He was similar to Long Sun taluses in many important ways, and I am certain that is where Wolfe got the name.

Not bad. Not bad at all -- this fits the Long Sun taluses nicely!

But doesn't Mr. Wolfe explicitly mention guard robots under the Talos entry in "Onomastics?" A role Dr. Talos actually plays in Chapter XXXV of Sword -- there's one small connection for you.

raster at highfiber.com

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Robert Patterson — 17 Feb 1999, 11:14 · follows Charles Dye

Charles Dye:

But doesn't Mr. Wolfe explicitly mention guard robots under the Talos entry in "Onomastics?" A role Dr. Talos actually plays in Chapter XXXV of Sword -- there's one small connection for you.

Okay. Perhaps Wolfe & Edmund Spencer read some of the same books!

Robert

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