

The Silver Chair

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 27 Jul 2000

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Nigel Price — 27 Jul 2000, 19:11

Currently reading the Narnia books to my younger daughter as bedtime stories, I've been struck several times by vaguely Lupine echoes or, at least, "prefigurings" in Lewis' narratives. A while back I read "Prince Caspian" while rereading OBW, and wondered whether the account of the children's rediscovery of the ivy covered ruins of Cair Paravel on the mysterious island contributed to GW's account of the ruined buildings of the Neighbours which Horn explores on the island where he falls in the pit, or in the forest near Gaon.

No, far too vague and general a parallel, I concluded, for all that GW openly acknowledges his admiration for Lewis' books.

But in "The Silver Chair" this evening, the following line particularly caught my eye. Puddleglum is speaking...

"Now a job like this - a journey up north just as winter's beginning, looking for a Prince that probably isn't there, by way of a ruined city that no one have ever seen - will be just the thing." (The Silver Chair, ch 5, p70 in the Puffin edition).

Of course, the lost city here is called Harfang rather than Pajarocu, and the journey to Pajarocu takes Horn west rather than north...

Yes, well, all right, it's not a close parallel, I agree, but it made me smile.

Does anyone agree with me that the tame lion in GW's "Operation Ares" is a deliberate parody of cum homage to Lewis' Aslan?

Nigel

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