Religious references? *possible spoilers*

LAWJ (20) **Topic Archived**

HollowNinja 6 years ago #1

Where are they? Everyone talks about religious references in this game, but I don't see any.

Please avoid spoilers, except for Ep 1. I haven't played 2 or 3.
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http://backloggery.com/hollowninja
PSN: DJ_iLLi_iLL Spiral on! http://sites.google.com/site/thedaigurren/

Tiertrach 6 years ago #2

o_o

Not trying to be rude or anything, but how long has it been since you played?

The name Gnosis, including some of their names such as Azazel, Armaros, Sophie Peithos, etc
KOS-MOS tied to cross
666
upside-down cross symbol in Pleroma
names of the zohar emulators and containor for the original on the Durandal
308th Vulgata Division

Wilhelm's reference of Abel's Ark at the end
Mizrahi quoting "REJOICE ALL YE!" "HALLELUJAH" etc
the actual names Joachim and Mizrahi
Albedo quoting "EXCEPT A CORN OF WHEAT" etc
Nephilim's name and her cross necklace
Nataraja
Pleroma
Proto Merkabah

There is a whole FAQ of Xenosaga 1 references which includes those of religion.

FeelMyBlade 6 years ago #3

I really dont see any major religious references either. I mean it's there, but it doesn't affect my attitude towards the game.

Moral #5: Early to rise, early to bed, makes a man healthy, but socially dead.

True_Fan 6 years ago #4

Read the Pied Piper Script. its also cool how ziggy killed himself to save himself when the act of suicide actually damns you to hell automatically.

Pokwang

Threesixtyci 6 years ago #5

Ep1 really doesn't have very much. And in my opinion of all 3 episodes is that there is really nothing in any of them that attacks Christianity.

trewerd 6 years ago #6

^right, it REFERENCES religion.

"You realize, before you can beat the game, game must beat you!" ~Ryu Hayabusa (AVGN Ninja Gaiden)

Tiertrach 6 years ago #7

Uhhh Xenosaga does a little more than just reference religions. Consider what Ormus is and how the religious references actually tie into the story unlike in most games that simply make a reference or use a name and leave it at that.

I suppose Ep1 by itself at first appears to have only 'references' and hallow allusions (and some actually are). KOS-MOS being tied to a cross and Jr's 666 have proven to be offensive to some players. But at the same time, when we first see those scenes, they provide hints at the true character of Jr and KOS-MOS.

And even though I don't think Xenosaga outright attacks any religion, I do believe the game claims that some ancient scripture (IE the Bible) doesn't tell everything there is to know. As if the scripture is just a piece of the entire

puzzle.

But then again I'm including information about II and III and this is the board for I. So I guess I'll just say that Xenosaga I appears to have simple references and hallow allusions and leave it at that? lol

Vilurum ▾ 6 years ago #8

Space Pope - and to a lesser extent Ormus as a whole - are probably the most noteworthy nods to Christianity (Catholicism in particular) which could be genuinely construed as offensive. Maybe the crucified KOSy.

Most of the other references are little more than references or thematic/symbolic allusions, but have completely different usage and/or meaning as compared to their real-life counterparts. In many cases it's only a name similarity.

That's not to say that people won't necessarily take offense to those too, but at some point one has to draw a line between "ok, I can see why that would offend you" and "dude, you're making a mountain out of a molehill". Where that line falls depends on the individual, but it does mean that:

- Some offenses, almost everyone would respect the merit of.
- Some offenses, you'll get mixed results where some would agree it's offense-worthy and others would not.
- Some offenses, almost everyone would agree you're just being hyper-sensitive.

Ultimately, for references intentional and otherwise, positive and negative, it's important to keep in mind that the story and all its components are entirely fictional. The most it can do is provide the *opportunity* for human reaction. The reaction itself, however, depends entirely on the individual experiencing it. This is true for any story. While there may (or may not) be an *intended* or *expected* reaction, the audience of a story is by no means obligated to experience that.

As for what does and does not offend us, that is, in the end, up to the individual who is (or is not) offended. Though it's the *reasons* for taking offense which will determine whether others - and how many others - are sympathetic to that offense. :)

- Vilurum Xaren, leader of the happy turtles, and knowitall.
... And if you can't spell "Vilurum", call me "Vil". :)

SuperSocrates ▾ 6 years ago #9

Nicely put, Vilurum.

Nihil curo de ista tua stulta superstitione.

overlordofemo ▾ 6 years ago #10

I honestly didn't see many religious references when I was playing through, as I really wasn't looking for it. Not to mention, I'll admit that I'm ignorant in many ways when it comes to religion. I don't really concern myself with it.

Greatest story ever: The entire universe comes crashing down because a nerd got horny.
http://izayummikiwi.deviantart.com/

Threesixtyci 6 years ago #11

trewerd posted...
^right, it REFERENCES religion.

"You realize, before you can beat the game, game must beat you!" ~Ryu Hayabusa (AVGN Ninja Gaiden)

And I said it doesn't have very many.... get a grip.

SuperSocrates 6 years ago #12

From: Threesixtyci | #005
Ep1 really doesn't have very much. And in my opinion of all 3 episodes is that there is really nothing in any of them that attacks Christianity.

From: trewerd | #006
^right, it REFERENCES religion.

Threesixtyci, you said that there isn't really anything in the series that attacks Christianity. What trewerd is pointing out is that what they're talking about are references, not attacks on Christianity, and so he probably thought that the second part of your statement was not necessary.

The Christian resolution to find the world ugly and bad has made the world ugly and bad. ~Friedrich Nietzsche~

HollowNinja (Topic Creator) 6 years ago #13

@TierTrach:
I just beat the game. Less than a week ago. And I don't recognize some of those.
Yes, I see KOS-MOS tied to a cross, and the number 666, but what do the Gnosis and their names have anything to do with religion?
I don't remember what the Zohar emulator names were, so I don't know whether I recognized them.
308th Vulgata Division? I don't see anything there.
Joachim and Mizrahi? Don't ring any bells. Nor do the quotes.
Abel's Ark? I didn't know about any Abel's Ark, through I recognize Abel.
Nephilim? Okay, I know what nephilim are, but that's nothing that's not in a lot of other games.
Nataraja? Pleroma? Proto Merkabah? I have never heard those games outside Xenosaga.

Maybe it's just because I follow a religion that's not Christianity, but most of thse are going over my head.
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Tiertrach 6 years ago #14

Oooh okay. :) I'm not Christian either but I like theology so I tend to pick up on things. There are a LOT of references to Gnosticism, which is basically the older (although comparatively 'obsolete') sister of Christianity.

Vulgata/Vulgate was a form of the Bible used before the King James version (a hallow reference)
The quotes are direct quotes from the Bible, one is from Shakespeare's Hamlet
Names of the Zohar emulators are the apostles of Christ
Marienkind means Child of Mary

Other ones are more minor, but you can check out the reference guide for everything else, religious or not:
http://www.gamefaqs.com/console/ps2/file/519264/24989

Nephilim? Okay, I know what nephilim are, but that's nothing that's not in a lot of other games.

True, but part of the point I was trying to make is that while many games simply reuse names from Christianity/religion and leave it at that, Xenosaga actually makes use of them as part of the story so it's better to know about the references so you can fully understand the characters and story. :) But many of these wont make full sense until Episode III.

HollowNinja ▾ (Topic Creator) 6 years ago #15

I think I did recognize the Zohar emulator names then, because I know who the apostles of Christ are. And I probably just didn't notice the reference to Vulgata, because I'd heard the term before.

Alright then, I'll just wait until Episode 3.
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Algur ▾ 6 years ago #16

Tiertrach gnosticism is not an older version of christianity. the gnostic gospels were written about 100 - 200 years after christs death while the 3 of the gospels were written by people who directly knew christ and the other was written by luke who was a historian by trade
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Cowboy Casanova

Yuriev ▾ 6 years ago #17

^Actually, the Gospel of John is a gnostic gospel and was the only gnostic gospel to be recognized by the church.

Tiertrach ▾ 6 years ago #18

I didn't say Gnosticism was an earlier version of Christianity. I said it was like an older sister; related but different.

Much like Christianity has changed since its birth, Gnosticism also 'changed'. Unlike Judaism, Gnosticism accepted Jesus, but differed from Christianity about his nature. Basic Gnosticism, before the time of Jesus, already existed and was heavily influenced from Platoism and refers to the Timaeus which is from circa 350BC.

What I'm trying to say is that while Christianity broke away from Judaism because of the events of the time of Jesus and became a new religion on its own, Gnosticism, as we define it today, simply refined and renamed itself after the events at the time of Jesus. Not entirely different from how Christianity has refined itself over the times.

As much as I like to parallel religion with history because of reoccurring themes and names, it is not so. As much as we rely on the Gospels, the fact is that they were written decades after the time of Jesus and refer to both similar and perhaps different sources, some apparently missing from history. Not to mention the Gospel of John where nobody even ****ing knows if it's canon or not, and no one knows whether those arguing for or against it has ulterior motives or beliefs bent by their own interpretations/expectations.

And not to smear the name of modern religion, but the transition from actual events, people, and documents to organized religion is vague at best. If the church was going so far as to slaughter countless people to force a conversion, it's not out of the realm of possibility to also conveniently omit some documents(IE, theoretical Source Q/L/M). If you hold all universal truth in the form of text, it's human nature to blur the line between truth and what is convenient for us at the time. I mean, at least Judaism admits that god isn't so friendly such as about the whole mass murder during the great flood and other events, but Christianity is all OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD flowers and sunshine etc. Just saying that just because something is thousands of years old doesn't make it the whole truth. We have to remember that ancient text and religion is the product of man, not God. For all we know the ancient texts are what Xenosaga describes as Lemegeton... entirely mistranslated by man.

Gnosticism is intentionally written to be vague and metaphorical, but Christianity is almost suspiciously so... does that make any sense? xD

But now I'm completely off topic. :(

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