Religious Themes in Final Fantasy 7

LAWJ (20) **Topic Archived**

sixsoul 4 months ago #1

A buddy and I had a discussion about gnosticism in FF7, there are tons of parallels and we go pretty deep. What do you guys think?

https://youtu.be/PeJjHN7lf-I

Mako24 4 months ago #2

Whoah. 55 min? Can we get a tl,dr?

Gunbladelad 4 months ago #3

Haven't watched the video, but Final Fantasy (and many RPGs in general) take all sorts of religious and mythilogical references and uses them for the games.

R.I.P. Throwback Mode - 23rd April 2014 - We miss you.
PAL Gamers unite - *http://www.gamefaqs.com/boards/277-pal-gaming*

WingedMasamune 4 months ago #4

tl;dr

Same user who posted the last hour long YouTube video in this topic. Thinks Jenova is in control, every person ever is its puppet, etc.

http://www.gamefaqs.com/boards/197341-final-fantasy-vii/72120907

PSN: Grekaosangel
http://theepicgamers.com/downloads/grekaosangel/Project%20VII.pdf

manmouse 4 months ago #5

WingedMasamune posted...

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oh god it's that guy again.
thanks for the warning, before we ended up with a repeat of that.
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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-b18HMqJW5A
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nt1-XWiMveY

WingedMasamune 4 months ago #6

I thought the user seemed familiar, but I couldn't place it til I went to the video. Yep.

tl;dr version of tl;dr is ignore 'em.

PSN: Grekaosangel
http://theepicgamers.com/downloads/grekaosangel/Project%20VII.pdf

Ecclesiastes273 4 months ago #7

There is a multitude of religious references in Japanese RPGs. Most of them are inconsequential to the storyline, and are apparently there for flavor and if you're lucky some subtext. I don't know how VII is outside of this trend.

I don't even mind the random references so long as they're not Xenosaga levels of heavy-handed nonsense. I just see a pattern of people going nuts over the Gnostic/Christian references and failing to understand the basic chain of events of the game.

I'm sure someone who loves hearing themselves talk will be in to help you out shortly -VanilleHopen

Calmlander 4 months ago #8

One of the most important religious references in FFVII is a bit more subtle than putting Bahamut (A big fat fish in reality) or Shiva.

Some ancients religions used to worship Earth, as Earth was the provider of everything, all the goods, but also the disasters. Earth was a true God and have the powers of one.

Then, religions like Christianism and Islam put an "Entity" on the place of Earth, that entity have the powers of god and was the provider of all the joy and the torment. Earth was demoted as simply scenary, it was OK destroy the Earth and the wildlife because the important thing is the afterlife that super entity can provide. That vision is accepted even nowdays in western countries.

It seems like in FFVII Shinra has that vision aswell and the people of the Cosmo Canyon are the old worshipers of Earth, of course, the game provide a physical proof that they were right, the Lifestream.
---
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xuWkvyeAu0E

Ecclesiastes273 4 months ago #9

Yeah, it was a very clear and consistent point made by the game that the objective was to save the Planet rather than any particular persons or races, even at the risk of Holy converting the human race to spirit energy.

It makes it all the more frustrating when this is overlooked, or it's suggested that The Spirits Within invented this theme or the philosophy of the planet being the prime entity.

I'm sure someone who loves hearing themselves talk will be in to help you out shortly -VanilleHopen

HylianKnight1 3 months ago #10

To be honest, I don't really think there is a concise message behind the religious symbolism in the Final Fantasy games (or a lot of other JRPG's for that matter) because each game portrays them differently. The Japanese just like to incorporate themes and imagery from Western religion into their writing because they find it exotic and fascinating.

Now, a game like Xenogears is a different story.

Beep boop son, beep boop.

colon_three 3 months ago #11

WingedMasamune posted...

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Holy crap.

Like, I actually get how people get confused about whether Sephiroth or Jenova is the one in control, but **"every perceived evil human is a Jenova puppet?"** That's really above-and-beyond.

At one point I'm pretty sure I sold a woman. I didn't speak the language, but I shook a guy's hand, he gave me the keys to a Mercedes, and I left her there.

Calmlander ▾ 3 months ago #12

In the early concept of FFVII, Jenova wasn't an alien, but a part of the human mind, all the humans have it but in some of them is awake. That part was basically pure evil, and all the human race have that badness within.

In the end, they downgraded that concept and made Jenova an alien blight capable of infect humans.

See why i say all humans were originally erased at the end of FFVII?
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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xuWkvyeAu0E

terran3999999 ▾ 3 months ago #13

You have proof of that?

Katawa Shoujo: The visual novel that defies and kicks logic to the curb.
Official contender to fight for Lilly as waifu.

Calmlander ▾ 3 months ago #14

The part about Jenova is in the ultimania, it was planned to have more battles against it, for example, between Cosmo Canyon and Nibelheim.
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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xuWkvyeAu0E

terran3999999 ▾ 3 months ago #15

Why not link me to it than?

Katawa Shoujo: The visual novel that defies and kicks logic to the curb.
Official contender to fight for Lilly as waifu.

Calmlander ▾ 3 months ago #16

http://thelifestream.net/lifestream-projects/translations/2042/early-material-file-scenarios-and-scripts-p-519-

and-part-of-p-525-526-of-the-final-fantasy-vii-ultimania-omega/
---
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xuWkvyeAu0E

Ecclesiastes273 ▾ 3 months ago #17

Hard to say how far in development that focus on Jenova was scrapped, and how much was written on the basis of Jenova being as it is in the final game. IE, nonsentient genetic material that causes mental problems.

Even then, I'm not seeing in that link where Jenova is a representation of the mind, and it's all prefaced as things suggested and summarily rejected anyway.

I'm sure someone who loves hearing themselves talk will be in to help you out shortly -VanilleHopen

mikelight77 ▾ 3 months ago #18

This is one of the truest statements I've ever read.

Calmlander posted...

> One of the most important religious references in FFVII is a bit more subtle than putting Bahamut (A big fat fish in reality) or Shiva.
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> It seems like in FFVII Shinra has that vision aswell and the people of the Cosmo Canyon are the old worshipers of Earth, of course, the game provide a physical proof that they were right, the Lifestream.

PSN ID: Mike_Light_77

terran3999999 ▾ 3 months ago #19

In other words it was just a crackpot theory.

Katawa Shoujo: The visual novel that defies and kicks logic to the curb.
Official contender to fight for Lilly as waifu.

KlydeVividarium ▾ 3 months ago #20

I really want Phief to come back and school this kid again.

I'll just leave this here.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HF6LJAT0N0w

terran3999999 3 months ago #21

There's no point if the troll won't listen.

At first I thought he had to be doing it on purpose to rile people up but then this crap pops up.

Katawa Shoujo: The visual novel that defies and kicks logic to the curb.
Official contender to fight for Lilly as waifu.

Magnum_Dan 3 months ago #22

In Japan Christianity seams to be treated as a form of mythology and one they seam to enjoy having fun with. FF7 seams to borrow allot from some Christian "end of days" prophecies. It's about as serious and sacred to them as Disney's Hercules is to us.

Don't take it too seriously. Even digging deep in to subjects you don't necessarily believe or care about for ideas on which to build fiction stories is pretty common and even standard for fantasy story tellers.

'In this great world full of stuff that's neat there is one thing that cannot be beat. It's the feeling so sunny when your squeezing a bunny" ELMYRA DUFF

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