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Letters

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Letters

Abstract

Miller, Ryder W.; ed. *From Narnia to a Space Odyssey: The War of Ideas between Arthur C. Clarke and C.S. Lewis*.



LETTERS

THANK YOU FOR REVIEWING MY BOOK (*From Narnia to A Space Odyssey: The War of Ideas Between Arthur C. Clarke and C.S. Lewis*, reviewed in *Mythlore* 27:3/4, #105/106, Spring/Summer 2009), but I am not sure *Mythlore* was the appropriate venue for a review. The book was not intended for a scholarly audience, but I hoped it would hold some interest for scholars as well as science fiction fans and general readers.

I am bothered by the fact that the book was not treated as a contribution to Inklings studies even though it told a story about Lewis that was not widely known. This review, like some I have seen, seems less concerned with the contents of the book and more with protecting C.S. Lewis. This is partly my fault because I wanted the book to be provocative, and it is a secular criticism in an age of culture wars. The book is actually more of a documentary than a work of scholarship or journalism. Unfortunately, there probably will not be an opportunity to update the book and correct the transcription errors in Lewis's letters pointed out by the reviewer.

The review discredits the Lewis portion of the book, but I stand by my opinion that Clarke won the debate. I think he has had a bigger impact on the modern world than Lewis has had. I think history has taken his side even if Lewis had some important reservations about space exploration.

For what it's worth, the book also brings together some of the short stories of both authors on similar themes, and as such serves as an introduction to their works and their battle of ideas. I think the book shows how the dialogue Clarke and Lewis shared impacted each other, in effect polarizing their views.

The book was not intended as the last word on Lewis and Clarke's debate, but as an inspiration to explore and think about these writers and the subject of space exploration ethics.

—Ryder W. Miller



The Mythopoeic Press



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illustrations by Tim Kirk and Sarah Beach

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