

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

LOST Q&A

Theories and questions in a conversation between myself and AoD. Please join in using the comments. Everything below the fold will spoil LOST up to the episode that aired on April 20th, so be forewarned. Please don't post anything from tonight's episode. We'll create a new thread for that. AoD:

I'm not super-thrilled that the writers have announced they're not going to be answering most of the unanswered questions :l

MG:

there seems to be a good percentage of fans that are unhappy about the final season
what questions are left that you feel are unanswered?

AoD:

Some of the bigger ones would be:

Who were the original inhabitants of the island?

Who built the statue, how, and why?

Who installed the wheel that moves the island?

When did Widmore and Elanor leave the island, respectively, and why?

How did the wheel slip off its axis between the time Ben used it and the time Locke used it?

What was the ash that was around the cabin when Jacob was still alive, and what effect does it have on the Man in Black?

Was the healing water at the Temple good or evil? (Jacob sent Sayiid there to be sent into it, but both of the people who have been brought back by it seem to be evil)

Why did Claire abandon Aaron and then blame everyone else for Aaron being "taken" from her?

Did The Numbers actually cause Hugo bad luck? If so, why - they seem to be indicators of something good.

How and why was Locke initially cured of his paralysis, and why did it come back some times?

Was it Jacob who said "Help me" to Locke when he and Ben visited the cabin? Why didn't Ben hear whoever it was?

How is Jacob able to grant Richard immortality?

Is baby Aaron good or evil?

Where is Christian Shepard's real body?

How did Christian Shepard appear to people off the island if he was The Man in Black and TMiB can't leave the island?

What is the sickness? Does it really exist? If not, WTF was going on with Rosseau on her team after they entered the area under The Temple and she did not?

How did Radzinsky survive the incident, and still end up living and working in The Swan years later?

What are the blast doors in The Swan for?

Was there ever actually anything behind "The Door" station? If so, what happened to it? If not, why would they build such an elaborate door leading to only a rock wall?

Where does the door in The Staff labelled "Escape Hatch" lead?

Why do the Dharma Initiative supply drops continue when the Dharma Initiative members have all been killed and the project has been cancelled? How does a plane intentionally find The Island in order to drop supplies there anyway?

Why couldn't The Man in Black kill Jacob himself?

Was Richard ever a Candidate? If Jacob brought Richard to the Island, why didn't he recognize him when they meet on the shore and Jacob attacks him?

Which Kwon is a Candidate - Jin, Sun, or Ji-Yeon?

Who was crossing out names, and why? For example, Kate's name is crossed out in the cave, but not on the compass rose in the lighthouse - but Kate is still alive. Does that mean TMiB eliminated her as a possible candidate, but Jacob hadn't?

Ilana says she has to protect six people, but there are only 5 candidates left at the time she says this: Sawyer, Hugo, Jack, Sayiid, and "Kwon". Who is the 6th person?

Since Desmond's name doesn't appear on either list (neither The Compass nor The Wall) does that mean he's "Richard" to the next "Jacob"?

Was TMiB really ever a man - and, if so, how did he become what he is now? (this one I suspect will probably be answered in some degree)

I could continue, but won't :)

MG:

well, I think 3 or 4 of those have been answered already, 3 or 4 will be answered, and the rest are left to your imagination, because this is a tv show not a novel :)

AoD:

lol

Which 3 or 4 have been answered?

I've been taking tedious notes for 6 years - if they answered any of those, I must have just missed it completely

Well, not for "6 years", but for "6 seasons"

MG:

Who were the original inhabitants of the island?

Who built the statue, how, and why?

People Jacob brought to the Island previous to Richard
that's really all that needs to be said about it, in my mind

AoD:

So you don't think Jacob and TMiB were at one point normal inhabitants of the Island?

MG:

I think we will get more history on Jacob and TMiB

one of the questions I believe will be answered

if they don't answer more of their history, I will be disappointed

I would guess that due to several clues given on the show that Jacob is from Roman times

AoD:

Such as calling Richard Ricardus and the whole "I'm an Other - we speak Latin"?

How about Ilana & co? There's a ton of unanswered questions around them.

I mean - reams of them.

MG:

meh

we won't get any more on her

AoD:

But yes - I agree with your assertion that they're going to ultimately disappoint the viewers because they didn't have the decency to actually plan to answer all the questions they posed.

MG:

lol

it has to have background dude

AoD:

yes, but that background should be EXPLORED

MG:

in your mind it should be

it's like in the first Star Wars, when they talk about Obi Wan fighting in the Clone Wars

it's not part of the story, it's part of the background

you don't want to answer that question, you want the viewer's mind to fill that in

as far as Claire. . .well, I think ultimately her sickness, Sayid, Rousseau, her team. . .that whole mess will hopefully get a little more, but I'm not sure. I'm expecting that to be a bungled mess. Although I do think that Claire died in that rocket blast, to the same extent that Sayid died, and that is why she wandered off

we need to move this to the blog so others can chime in

Posted by The Mad Giggler in TV at 12:08

Saturday, May 1st is Free Comic Book Day!

Stop by Night Flight Comics and pick out a free comic book. (While supplies last.)

FCBD at Night Flight Comics (Library Square - 210 E. 400 So.) will start at 11:00 a.m. and end at 6:00 p.m.

FCBD at Night Flight Comics (6222 South State Street) will start at 11:00 a.m. and end at 7:00 p.m.

X-Men Writer Chris Claremont at Library Square

The central theme of Claremont's X-Men stories is prejudice. The X-Men are blessed and cursed with genetic mutations; some with visible differences, some not so visible. Claremont portrays the mutant experience as no one has, with parallels to our own human experience.

His initial unbroken 17-year run on the X-Men is the stuff of industry legend. His run culminated with the launch of the new title, X-Men, whose first issue sold over 7.6 million copies, a record that stands today. In total, Claremont has sold in excess of 500,000,000 comics worldwide including work on Aliens Vs Predator, Sovereign Seven, Star Trek and many more. His X-Men story, "Dark Phoenix," with its radical treatment of the story's central character, paved the way for reinterpretation of the superhero mythos throughout the industry.

Artists at Library Square on Free Comic Book Day

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. " Comic book artists and writers will be in front of The City Library auditorium to autograph comics and do sketches for kids!

3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. " Mutants Unite! X-Men Godfather, Chris Claremont discusses his writing, X-Men and the mutant experience in The City Library Auditorium. (To win free tickets RSVP at www.night-flight.com)

4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. " Artist signing session with Chris Claremont (X-Men Forever), and local artists: Bill Galvan (Archie, Simpsons), Patric Reynolds (Hellboy), Jake Black (TMNT, Supergirl), and Quinn Johnson (Rune Stone).

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. " Dewey Lecture: My Life in Comics by Chris Claremont. Broadcast live from The City Library Auditorium (open seating)

Please share with interested parties.

PDF link of this information here: www.night-flight.com/ChrisClaremont/images/FCBD2010PR.pdf

Posted by The Mad Giggler in Comics at 07:50

Monday, April 26. 2010

What Is The Island?

I can't remember which one of you I was talking to that asserted that we don't know what the island is yet. In a recent interview given by Damon Lindelof, he said this question had been answered. While Mr. Lindelof didn't actually tell WHEN it had been answered, I'm quite confident that it came to us in "Ab Aeterno", as Richard and Jacob were talking about the nature of the Island, Jacob, and The Great Deceiver. Holding a wine bottle, Jacob tells Richard Alpert:

"Think of this wine as what you keep calling hell...there's many other names for it too--malevolence, evil, darkness, and here it is, swirling around in the bottle unable to get out because if it did, it would spread. The cork is this island. And it's the only thing keeping the darkness where it belongs."

You can find more at Lostpedia's entry on Ab Aeterno.

Posted by Ancient of Days in TV at 22:20

Podcast 62: Surgeon General's Warning: Too Much TrekWest5 May Be Bad For Your Health

We had a lot of fun this week as we were joined by the TrekWest5 Intern to discuss a wide range of topics - from the "War on Drugs" and the legalization of marijuana, to marital arguments and Presidential Pardons. Joey runs counter to form and argues that we should just pardon everyone to make people "feel better" - perhaps he had been doing too much research on the legalization of marijuana before the podcast? We discuss episodes 13-16 of The West Wing, Season 2.

Various topics discussed in this podcast include:

Â Â Â Â Listener Si explanation of The British House of Commons & House of Lords

Â Â Â Â Flamingo's explanation of Global Warming

Â Â Â Â Principles of an American Life: The 12th Amendment

Â Â Â Â School Uniforms

Â Â Â Â Why aren't we talking more about Social Security?

Â Â Â Â How do you diffuse a spousal argument?

Â Â Â Â Should we decriminalize Marijuana?

Â Â Â Â Joey hates time zones

Â Â Â Â Liberal Joey invades the podcast and wants to pardon guilty people, like the pinko bleeding heart that he is.

Â Â Â Â Music by Shayna Zaid

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Here are the ratings that we gave for each show: Bartlet's 3rd State of the Union: 1hr 26min 16sec

Peter: Television - 7

Joey: Television - 7

Aaron: Television - 6.5

The War at Home: 31min 27sec

Peter: Television - 7

Joey: Television - 6

Aaron: Television - 5.5

Ellie: 26min 53sec

Peter: Television - 7

Joey: Television - 7

Aaron: Television - 6

Somebody's Going to Emergency, Somebody's Going to Jail: min sec

Peter: Television - 8

Blog Export: Annals of the Homestarmy, <http://www.thehomestarmy.com/s9y/>

Joey: Television - 7

Aaron: Television - 7.5

If you have something to say then we welcome your comments below, or feel free to email us at trekwest5@thehomestarmy.com, twitter us at hashtag [TrekWest5](#), or leave us a voicemail at 801-788-4913.

Posted by Radar in Podcast at 04:00

Friday, April 23. 2010

Links worth checking out

I thought I would share some of the links that have given me enjoyment with you all. Most are interesting, and some are funny.

-Mainly for AoD but some of the other geeks will enjoy this rant by a SysAdmin.

-The site Today's Big Thing may actually be my go to site for funny stuff. Here are a few that caused me to laugh: Pop Songs with 4 Cords, A pitcher giving too much info, and why I have never been more turned on or scared at the same time.

-Why I sometimes hate my clients and sales people.

-I really believe that this is how Dickens intended for this play to be done.

Enjoy.

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 11:39

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

Objectivism and Christianity, Part One

Bumped to continue discussion. Original post date: 2010-04-11 09:28

[I am posting this here because Radar had mentioned that he would be interested in reading it. It's not complete, and the writing still needs to be polished, so please have some patience with it -- AoD.]

“You’ll come back,” said Hugh Akston, “because yours is an error of knowledge, not a moral failure, not an act of surrender to evil, but only the last act of being victim to your own virtue.”
Rand, Ayn. Atlas Shrugged. New York: Penguin Putnam, 1999. Print.

From time to time, I have a conversation where someone asks me to justify how I can claim to be both a Christian and an Objectivist – the speaker believing these to be views in opposition. I’ll start off by saying that I’m no philosopher. I have no formal education beyond the 11th Grade at a sub-standard high school, and everything I know of Objectivism comes from Ayn Rand’s volumes Atlas Shrugged, The Fountainhead, For the New Intellectual, The Virtue of Selfishness, and Introduction to Objectivist Epistemology. However, the first time I ever read Atlas Shrugged, I was astounded that someone had captured so well so many of the things I already knew to be true.

Additionally, I have nothing more to recommend me as any kind of authority on Christ than a lifetime of study of the record of His works and the deep ring of truth that comes when I hear someone speak of Him.

That being said, I believe there is plenty to recommend a Christian to a life of Objectivism and that any conflict between the two is – as Dr. Akston says to Dagny – “an error of knowledge.”

Probably the most common confusion I run up against is the seeming conflict between Rand’s glorification of “selfishness” against Christ’s sermon (among others) about the Samaritan. Besides telling those individuals who labour under this confusion of ideas to go read her works for themselves and see if they can’t resolve the dilemma, perhaps the following excerpt from Atlas Shrugged can help.
During John Galt’s missive to the world after taking over Mr. Thompson’s radio broadcast, he tells those listening the following:

Accept the fact that the achievement of your happiness is the only moral purpose of your life, and that happiness – not pain or mindless self-indulgence – is the proof of your moral integrity, since it is the proof and the result of your loyalty to the achievement of your values. Happiness was the responsibility you dreaded, it required the kind of rational discipline you did not value yourself enough to assume – and the anxious staleness of your days is the monument to your evasion of the knowledge that there is no moral substitute for happiness, that there is no more despicable coward than the man who deserted the battle for his joy, fearing to assert his right to existence, lacking the courage and the loyalty to life of a bird or a flower reaching for the sun. Discard the protective rags of that vice which you called a virtue: humility – learn to value yourself, which means: to fight for your happiness – and when you learn that pride is the sum of all virtues, you will learn to live like a man.

As a basic step of self-esteem, learn to treat as the mark of a cannibal any man’s demand for your help. To demand it is to claim that your life is his property – and loathsome as such a claim might be, there’s something still more loathsome: your agreement. Do you ask if it’s ever proper to help another man? No – if he claims it as his right or as a moral duty that you owe him. Yes – if such is your own desire based on your own selfish pleasure in the value of his person and his struggle. Suffering as such is not a value; only man’s fight against suffering is. If you choose to help a man who suffers, do it only on the ground of his virtues, of his fight to recover, of his rational record, or of the fact that he suffers unjustly; then your action is still a trade, and his virtue is the payment for your help. But to help a man who has no virtues, to help him on the ground of his suffering as such, to accept his faults, his need, as a claim – is to accept the mortgage of a zero on your values. A man who has no virtues is a hater of existence who acts on the premise of death; to help him is to sanction his evil and to support his career of destruction. Be it only a penny you will not miss or a kindly smile he has not earned, a tribute to a zero is treason to life and to all those who struggle to maintain it.

I see in this much the same as I see in many teachings of Christ. Jacob tells us what he knew of the great plan of happiness:

25. Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy.
2nd Nephi 2:25

And Christ himself extolled the virtues of loving both God, and our neighbour:

36. Master, which is the great commandment in the law?
37. Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.
38. This is the first and great commandment.
39. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
40. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.
Matthew 22:36-40

If you are dealing with a man who is struggling to be good, and if you value that struggle as Christ, if not your OWN struggles, would teach you to then it is perfectly moral and properly Objective to assist him. If he is wallowing in his sin, and not making an effort to strive, than providing him pennies and smiles will only enable him to continue to drown the Light of Christ that is admonishing him to turn back to the Lord. And, if we are truly taking upon us the name of Christ in all we do, then it should be well within the bounds of our own selfish pleasure in the value of his person to help the former, for remember the worth of souls is great in the sight of God.

More to come on this at some point, but feel free to respond below.

Posted by Ancient of Days in Personal Entry at 14:32

Monday, April 19, 2010

Podcast 61: Yo Yo Ma Rules!

While we cut the part where Joey gets all girly emotional during our discussion of Noel, it still should be said that it is an incredibly moving piece of television; few parts of television or movie can move someone like that. Few parts of television and movie can move someone like that. Even though I give Joey a hard time for crying, you have to be a robot not to feel the pain that Josh does. Bravo Mr Sorkin. Bravo Mr Whitford. Incidentally Bradly Whitford's newest venture is sure to bring us just as great moving scenes. We discuss episodes 9-12 of The West Wing, Season 2.

Various topics discussed in this podcast include:

- Â Â Â Â Why Peter is the face of TW5
- Â Â Â Â New nickname for Christa: Flamingo
- Â Â Â Â Principles of an American Life: The 11th Amendment
- Â Â Â Â Nobody likes a know-it-all
- Â Â Â Â Why not make Puerto Rico a state?
- Â Â Â Â Noel is a phenomenal episode of television
- Â Â Â Â Should we tap in to the Strategic Petroleum Reserves?
- Â Â Â Â Toby is an idiot
- Â Â Â Â Minimum Wage
- Â Â Â Â Missile Defense Shield is a dumb idea
- Â Â Â Â Peter thinks that Peanuts is a dumb comic
- Â Â Â Â Official TW5 Position: Jury is still out on Global Warming

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Here are the ratings that we gave for each show:Galileo: 30min 22sec

Peter: Television - 8

Joey: Television - 7

Noel: 43min 39sec

Peter: Television - 10

Joey: Television - 10

:The Leadership Breakfast 35min 53sec

Peter: Television - 7

Joey: Television - 7

:The Drop In 26min 11sec

Peter: Television - 6

Joey: Television - 6

If you have something to say then we welcome your comments below, or feel free to email us at trekwest5@thehomestarmy.com, twitter us at hashtag [TrekWest5](#), or leave us a voicemail at 801-788-4913.

Posted by Radar in Podcast at 04:00

Sunday, April 18, 2010

New religious podcast

I have joined a new venture with some friends. It is strictly a religious endeavor. As most who read this blog will know the church I attend is made of members that have their own callings or responsibilities in the congregations in which they attend. My friend Jon Madsen has such a responsibility that precludes him from being able to come to any Sunday School class. So he thought that he would like to be able to have a weekly discussion of Gospel principles and other points of LDS doctrine.

It is called The Iron Rodcast. The typical format for the show will be an expanded discussion of that weeks Sunday School lesson and then a random topic. That random topic could really end up being anything (hence the word random). Our first podcast was recorded last week and is now available for direct MP3 download [here](#). I am not completely certain why we called the podcast Genesis considering that we are starting in Exodus, but whatever. I imagine eventually it will be available on itunes. I won't be posting regularly here on this blog about it but I did want to let all of you know that it is now out there and that you should go and take a listen.

Posted by Radar in News at 08:52

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Good and Goodest

I can't think of anything I love more than this. Except maybe this

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 13:48

Monday, April 12. 2010

The Mysteries of the Inter Nets

This is a conversation I overheard this morning at breakfast. E is 9 years old. S just turned 7.

E: When I am a teenager Iâ€™m going to have a Faceboog.

S: A face bug?

E: Yeah. You can talk to you friends on a Face Bug.

S: You mean like . . .

E (impatiently): Like you can use a Face Bug to talk to your friends in internets!

S: Uh . . . You mean like a taste bug?

E: Yeah. Taste bugs live on your tongue -

S: -But-

E: -and they tell you how food tastes.

S: Do they come out of your tongue ever?

E: DUH! Yes, when they come out of your tongue they -

S: -theyâ€™re on your face?

E: - they go onto your face and then theyâ€™re Face Bugs. And then they go in internets and -

S: they crawl into inter nets?

E: Hello, yes, Iâ€™m telling you! They crawl into internets and then they talk to your friends.

S: Oh! Thatâ€™s . . . weird. I mean cool.

E: Yeah. (tosses her hair) And when Iâ€™m a teenager Iâ€™m going to have one. Because theyâ€™re cool.

S: (looks mystified and impressed) me too!

Posted by Daboo in Oddities at 08:47

Podcast 60: Soft on Turkeys

It seems like every President is soft on turkeys. They all seem to pardon one every year. What I want to know is what crimes are these turkeys committing that they are even getting in to our penal system in the first place. Alas it will go on and on. I wonder if any criminals have accidentally been pardoned by dressing up as turkeys? Emboldened by our 2 newest listeners we discuss episodes 5-8 of The West Wing, Season 2.

Various topics discussed in this podcast include:

Â Â Â Â Our Diamond Anniversary!

Â Â Â Â Calendar of scheduled podcast

Â Â Â Â Joey was WRONG about the census

Â Â Â Â 2 new listeners: The Professor & Christa (nickname to be determined later)

Â Â Â Â Principles of an American Life: The 10th Amendment

Â Â Â Â Does the President have a health care plan?

Â Â Â Â Is it ok for a Lame Duck Congressman to vote?

Â Â Â Â Would you participate in a strike?

Â Â Â Â Technical writing is tough work

Â Â Â Â How a bill becomes a law

Â Â Â Â Would a "GI Bill" for educators work to get more teachers?

Â Â Â Â Can you tell if someone has faith or is a true believer?

Â Â Â Â School Prayer

Â Â Â Â Josh Woodward's track Morning Blue

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Here are the ratings that we gave for each show:And it's surely to their credit: 57min 14sec

Peter: Television - 7

Joey: Television - 6

Lame Duck Congress: 21min 27sec
Peter: Television - 6
Joey: Television - 4

The Portland Trip: 32min 22sec
Peter: Television - 7
Joey: Television - 5

Shibboleth: 29min 20sec
Peter: Television - 9
Joey: Television - 8

If you have something to say then we welcome your comments below, or feel free to email us at trekwest5@thehomestarmy.com, twitter us at hashtag [TrekWest5](#), or leave us a voicemail at 801-788-4913.

Posted by Radar in Podcast at 04:00

Monday, April 5, 2010

Podcast Movie Special: Star Trek III The Search for Spock

For a movie that is supposed to be all about Spock, there is shockingly very little of him in it. While I suppose one could argue that the title, The Search for Spock, itself indicates that he is going to be involved in some interstellar game of hide and seek, I still wanted to see more of Spock/Nimoy. The good news is that our lack of Spock is made up for with a phenomenal performance of a Klingon Captain by none other than Doc Brown himself: Christopher Lloyd. Man that guy is versatile. While no one would ever mistake Star Trek 3 as a cinematic giant, it is, for all Trek fans, a great continuation of a wonderful story/dynasty. We really enjoyed it and if you are a true geek/Trek-fan then you will too.

Various topics discussed in this podcast include:

- Â Â Â Â Doc brown is a Klingon
- Â Â Â Â Leonard Nimoy can't get away from Spock
- Â Â Â Â Dumbest security personnel costumes ever
- Â Â Â Â Vulcan mysticism/religion
- Â Â Â Â Why have a Self-Destruct system on a starship?
- Â Â Â Â My Friend Jon Madsen's Star Trek III podcast
- Â Â Â Â I Fight Dragons

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Posted by Radar in Podcast at 04:00