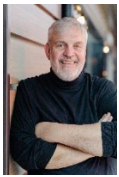


The Literary Titan Interviews Louis Sauvain

LITERARY TITAN

LT: *Thaddeus and the Master* follows three Brother Apprentices who have arrived at the College of Sorcerers only to face new challenges and tribulations set upon them by both the senior students and the Faculty. What was the inspiration for the setup of your story?



SAUVAIN: Back in the 70's, I used to drive to Chicago from Milwaukee for certain post-graduate studies I was attending in the Windy City. On those drives, I began to entertain the fantasy of what it would be like to attend a Sorcerer's school – what sort of trouble would the students get into, what sort of pranks would they attempt and what measures would the faculty – with centuries of this sort of behavioral experience under their belts – employ?

The concept gradually evolved over time to more of a full-fledged story and the details filled themselves in.

LT: *In a lot of contemporary coming-of-age fiction novels, authors often add their own life experiences to the story. Are there any bits of you in this story?*

SAUVAIN: Yes, especially in several of the characters who I 'borrowed' from various high school friends. I found it easier to take a person I already knew about in a way and modify them to fit the story as opposed to inventing an entire personality on the spot. Just being lazy, I suppose.

LT: *In fantasy novels, it's easy to get carried away by the magical powers of characters. How did you balance the use of supernatural powers?*

SAUVAIN: In this series, our Sorcerers are limited by the fact that each and every time they use their powers – even in the learning process – their life-spans are reduced by a random, variable and unknowable amount. One could cause a tea cup to appear on Monday and lose 13 minutes of life-span. On Tuesday of the same week, the same act could cost a Sorcerer 2 years of life span. The fact that it is certain but unpredictable causes a great deal of parsimony in the use of Sorcery in this world.

LT: *Can you tell us more about what's in store for Thaddeus and the direction of the third book?*

SAUVAIN: In *Thaddeus and the Daemon*, Book 3 the evil plot of the corrupted Master Sorcerer and his Daemon accomplice is at last uncovered. Our Hero then goes to confront the pair knowing that he, a first-year only student, is sadly out-classed in power in facing the twain. Grasping at straws he begins to entertain the counter-intuitive idea that if he surrenders *all* of his Sorcerous powers he will, achieve the advantage over his antagonists. The results of this desperate move are eye-opening.

