

If You Sidhe Something, Say Something

In Greg Bear's work The Infinity Concerto, the Realm of the immortal Sidhe is called "Sidhedark", among other names. We learn that the root word "Sidhe" is an ancient Gaelic name. It may come as a surprise that many people in our culture are already familiar with a derivative word – *banshee* – meaning one who wails of an impending death. There are no banshees to worry about here, but beware of Umbrals, Meteorals, and Riverines!

In this story, Savarin is one of the humans trapped in Sidhedark and, owing to his scholarly nature, he becomes the de facto teacher for all who suffer the same fate. Savarin instructs Michael that the correct pronunciation of Sidhe is "somewhere between 'Shee' and 'Sthee.'" "Shthee" is perhaps the best phonetic spelling available to us.