

Autarchial dynasties

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 20 Jul 1998

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mary whalen — 20 Jul 1998, 17:24

This is Sean Whalen (prion).

I can think of a number of ways that a genealogical line of Autarchs could fail.

The Autarch's children may not be near enough to eat his brain before someone else has to. Whoever is near him when he dies may just eat his brain to become Autarch immediately. There would even be plots to kill the Autarch and quickly eat his brains.

The children may not want to eat their parents' brains, or be unable if they're very small. The Autarch may not have had a chance to have any children. A plot could exist to put contraceptive agents into the food supply to keep this from happening by the Exultants, who would have many plots similar to this also.

It's also possible to go insane from the process of becoming Autarch. Gaining all those memories is very traumatic and could cause even one in two to go insane. The children may not be very lucky, especially as they will see their lives as part of their parents' perspective. Smaller children would probably be even more susceptible. They would have fewer memories of their own and be able to lose their identity easier. These would never become "self-rulers."

Plots could also exist to kill all the children and the Autarch at the same time, then feed his brains to someone else, or similar things, created by the Exultants or anyone else. Things like this could also happen by accident.

With all these problems, it's entirely possible that most of the Autarchs Severian remembers were originally commoners. Few dynasties are very likely, with all the hatred the Exultants feel toward Autarchs.

prion