

Hierodules and Sev and Time

The Urth list — 2 messages, 1 voices, 30 Aug 1998

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/1070>

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Jon Camfield — 30 Aug 1998, 15:11

In Urth of the New Sun, Severian meets Ossipago, Barbatus and Famulimus >for what is apparently his last time, and their first. However, as much >sense as that may make, it seems to be contradicted just as Severian and >Burgundofora are about to exit the Ship, in the "hall made for crying," >when the three Hierodules appear again!

I took this (and their appearance in the time of Apu-Punchau, as well) as time perception vs. time reality. Sev met the three for his first time at Baldander's Castle, and since the Hierodules see that Sev does not know them, but they him, they believe that this will be the last time (for them) to meet with Sev. (I here refer to time relatively, not absolutely. The first time Sev remembers meeting them)

Severian then meets them for the first time, Hierodule time, on the Tzadkiel, which is travelling between times quite a bit. When the Tzadkiel returns to Urth, it is at a point in time for the Hierodules (who must have gotten separated from Severian's time-flow) in the future from their first meeting with Severian, as it is in the past history of Urth.

We see this mismatch again when the Hierodules 'rescue' Severian from his people when he is Apu-Punchau. It is a point in time in the future of the Hierodules from when they (mistakenly) perceived their last meeting with Sev to be, because it is (absolutely) a point in time before the rest of Sev's life, though further down the line in his personal timeline.

Just a bit complicated, huh?

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"The most incomprehensible fact about nature is that it is comprehensible"
-- Albert Einstein

Jon Camfield — 30 Aug 1998, 15:11 · follows Jon Camfield

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