

Time Spans and the Conciliator

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 16 Dec 1998

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David_Lebling — 16 Dec 1998, 11:18

Something I noticed in the chapter of _Shadow_ dealing with the destruction of the Pelerine's altar. Agia is telling Sev about the Conciliator. She remarks that he may have lived thirty thousand years ago.

I have two wonderings about this.

First, I wonder if the original intent of this passage was to refer to Jesus, not Severian-as-Conciliator? As usual, it seems wrong for the span between the age of Typhon and TBoNS to be that long, given other evidence, though to me they seem emotionally correct, I must admit. (I've mounted this hobby-horse before, though, so I'll be quiet about it).

Second, why is Agia telling Severian about all this (and Severian finds it to be news) if the fourth book he brought to Thecla is _The Book of the New Sun_? Wouldn't he know all this stuff already? Hmm. Well, perhaps the original _Book_ only deals with the time up to the Conciliator's disappearance, and makes no mention of the Claw, a later addition like the pieces of the True Cross.

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