

Sorry, but he used the "B" word

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 05 May 1999

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Tony Ellis — 05 May 1999, 09:42

Roy C Lackey wrote:

...And the clincher is this: after getting inside and struggling with Sidero for control -- a contest which he wins, because he is a human -- he forces Sidero to go back and get his weapons and belt. He then puts the belt on " ... and buckled it around Sidero's waist without a thumb's width to spare." (second page of ch. IX) How much slack would there be in his belt? Six inches? Eight? Bulky, Sidero ain't.

So Sidero has a trim waistline for a suit of animated armour; I'm pleased for him. He also has knees and ankles big enough to thrust a booted foot through, and a chest cavity big enough to contain the

-whole- of Severian. It's only -after- Sidero has closed his chest, with Severian inside, that Sev starts pushing his arms and legs into Sidero's.

If you regard these as human-sized proportions, I hope I never spill your beer.

(As for Sev taking off his knife and gun belt to get in: bear in mind that the blade of this knife alone is about two spans (18") long. Stick a handle on that, and add one of those hunting-knife sheaths with a separate pocket, and a gun, and holster, and you can see his point.)