

Missile Base Absolute, Re: (urth) Jonas datapoints

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 08 Jun 1999

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/1672>

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Mitchell A. Bailey — 08 Jun 1999, 18:38

Michael Andre-Driussi wrote:

...

[Was the Antechamber originally] Dentist's office? ...

well, there IS that loong wait. Or maybe an airport/ commercial spaceport. The original residents of the Antechamber were "bumped" passengers, waiting to be assigned a new flight? <g>

Or is the House Absolute in fact
another spaceport ruin? The "wells" that dot the garden could be 20th
century-style launch silos.

...

Bravo, mantis! That's the impression I've always had of the House Absolute: it originated as a converted missile base/ command center, a ruinous overgrown complex of silos and underground bunkers (the chambers called "hypogea") and interconnecting tunnels. Like the Citadel, the conversion could have occurred during the Age of the Monarchs; probably land-based ICBM's and underground bunkers are totally obsolete in the age of the star empire which preceded Typhon. (Don't forget the complex of tunnels below the Citadel, which Wolfe hints is far older than the spaceport itself. Could it have been the remnant of a similar bunker complex converted and put to use at the time of the founding of Nessus and the spaceport?)

Item 11.7: Nicarete says, "This prison is not supposed to be a prison at all. Long ago--I believe before the reign of Ymar--it was the custom for the Autarch himself to judge anyone accused of a crime committed within the precincts of the House Absolute . . . Important cases were dealt with quickly, but the offenders in less serious ones were sent here to wait"

...

Further comment: since Ymar is generally agreed to have been the first Autarch, the House Absolute, at least as a command center used by the monarch if not his residence (probably Typhon and his predecessors had several, like Saddam Hussein?), actually predates the Autarchy itself? I suppose Nicarete could be forgiven for being confused on this point; history, like science, seems to be one of those fields allowed to degenerate in the Commonwealth. The reign of Ymar himself doesn't seem to be remembered in much detail by even the armigerial families who frequently appear at the House Absolute.

I don't think it's anywhere stated that Ymar or Father Inire actually _built_ the House Absolute from scratch. A little further along in _Claw_, after Jonas leaves, Sev encounters his contact, the old Autarch, who tells him "All these things...[...]make up...the Second House. They are the work of Father Inire, who was called by the first Autarch [presumably Ymar] to create a secret palace within the walls of the House Absolute". It would appear the House was already there; Inire simply adapted it to conform with his idea of a suitable seat for a new sort of head of state, the Autarch.