

What On Urth Would You Do With Monopoles if You Had'em, Anyway?

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 11 Aug 1999

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/1737>

Exported from an unofficial mirror of a public mailing list. Copyright in each message remains with the person who wrote it. Email addresses are obscured as `user at host`, the form the original archive published. This file was rebuilt from parsed fields rather than retained headers, so it is faithful in content but not byte-exact.

Mitchell A. Bailey — 11 Aug 1999, 14:24

Furthermore, regarding use of monopoles and interactions w/ Urth's alleged magnetic field - rising above the trees to see the forest...

Back when I first started posting, I posed a question about examples of the use of magnetic compasses on Urth. I couldn't find any. Most of the navigation portrayed for us takes place on Gyoll, a river channel, where a compass would be of limited use anyway. The exception was Eata sailing on the new ocean of Ushas, upon which he was lost regardless. Navigation on the open ocean of Urth I suppose could be accomplished in the absence of magnetic compasses by celestial sightings or the Polynesian method, by which adepts actually read the wave patterns. Or maybe a GPS network of some kind still exists. Eata and the other sailors never to my recollection make any reference whatsoever to the use of magnetic compasses.

Then there is that story "The Tale of the Student and His Son". You would think that a compass would have been a salvation in the channels of Ogre's Isle, yet no use was made of one. However, when the ship was given a directional datum (the flights of birds), it was soon able to reach its destination.

(Awright Bailey, what's your point?!) My point is that Urth should have little or no discernable magnetic field, and this seems borne out empirically by the text.

It is widely accepted that Earth's magnetic field is generated by the currents induced in its core of molten iron and nickel by rotation and convection. Urth is said to have nearly solidified through to the extent that plate tectonics and volcanism have ceased and the crust has shrunk. Urth presumably would have less of a magnetic field than Mars-er Verthandi. So I have to wonder how much good any levitation method which relies on interaction with Urth's magnetic field might be?