

Nadan's easter eggs

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 22 Aug 1997

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Peter Cash — 22 Aug 1997, 13:25

From: "Alice Turner" <al at interport.net>
Subject: Nadan's Diary
Date: Fri, 22 Aug 1997 06:33:32 -0400
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Here's my count of Nadan's account. I get six---but I'm missing an egg or two!

1. Nadan disembarks, goes to bed quietly.

Yes

2. Attends Visit to a Small Planet, purchases eggs, acid, engages prostitutes.

No. On the second day, he ambles around the North of the city, gradually coming to realize how deformed the Americans are. The crucial thing is that the "fear" passage cannot have been written any earlier than the third day. This is because he speaks of the fear as coming on him the previous day. This cannot have been on the first day--the day of his arrival--for his narrative of that day is clearly upbeat. It may have been on the second day, which ends with his realization that the Americans are more deformed than he had thought. There may even be one or more entire days missing here; there's no way to tell. But one thing is sure: the "fear" passage _cannot_ have been written earlier than the third day. Everything follows from this.

It follows that your chronology is now at least two days off--he visits the museum on the fourth day, because the "fear" passage was written late at night on the third day, and the museum visit cannot have taken place on the third day because of the passage where Nadan tells of opening the shutters on the sunset just after he returns from the museum.

Basically, I think I agree with Jim, except that I should have said in my earlier email that it is the third day that is missing from the account, and not the second--though what Nadan has written on the third day is present. There is also the possibility that there are additional days missing between the first walk and the "fear" passage.

By the way, it's only fair that Nadan should eat two eggs on the last night--it was Easter, after all...

Sgt. Rock