

Geography

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 27 Oct 1999

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Alice Turner — 27 Oct 1999, 19:56

First, Daniel, there are two lovely trade paperback Borges compendia out, one fiction, one nonfiction. Check out Amazon. And Dan (the other), very interesting about DFW.

Roy Lackey said smugly:

autarch corrects him: "Half what you said of them was incorrect. They do not come from the hot countries of the north [i.e., near the equator], but from the continent that lies across the equator." Sorry, alga, but there it is.

No, Roy, there it isn't. Never for a minute have I claimed that Sev's part of Urth was not in the southern hemisphere. It is, definitely, irrefutably. My theory depends on two instances of plate techtonics: (1) that the land mass of Africa is pushing up against Europe (as indeed it is) and by the time this book takes place the Mediterranean is not a sea but a river, the Gyll, which debouches into either the Red Sea or the Nile or a kind of compendium; (2) that the land mass comprising Afro-Euro-Asia (with some parts broken off--Scandinavia becoming those southern islands) has migrated around the globe and southwards to where South America is now.

Thus it beomes possible to have a landscape of the heart, which is how I once described it to mantis. In my heart I know that Fr. Ultan's library is in Alexandria, that the labyrinth of the House Absolute is at Knossos, that the stone town is Athens (and that when you go back a million years [say] at that lattitude and longitude you find yourselves not in Greece but in South America), that Lake Diuturna covers Rome, that the Pelerine's camp is in Switzerland and that Master Ash's house is atop an Alp.

What is more, I can map my geography. Can you map yours? Lay a ruler on a map from Alexandria NW to Switzerland and have a look. Detour up to Istanbul for Acis, and Sev then goes overland through the witchy Balkans (then as now) to Typhon, whom I usually place at Mt. Etna.

I don't want to argue this geography. Let's just say that you're not going to change my mind. And I'm probably not going to change yours either.

-alga

Roy C. Lackey — 28 Oct 1999, 01:25 · follows Alice Turner

alga wrote:

[snip]

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that latitude and longitude you find yourselves not in Greece but in South America), that Lake Diuturna covers Rome, that the Pelerine's camp is in Switzerland and that Master Ash's house is atop an Alp.<<

[snip]

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How can I possibly argue with that!? <g> I surrender my sword, for...

"Where in dreams I have not wandered, my heart is slow to go."

Roy