

Black Hole Sun

The Urth list — 4 messages, 4 voices, 30 Nov 1999

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Jim Henley — 30 Nov 1999, 20:06

-----Original Message-----

From: urth-errors at lists.best.com [mailto:urth-errors at lists.best.com] On
Behalf Of Greene, Carlton

Personally, I prefer the theory that Erebus and Abaia took up
shop on Urth
in part because of an absence of harmful solar radiation that made the
planet a comfortable dwelling place.

I tend to think of them as home grown - Abaia as maybe the first giant (or maybe just the guy
who was meaner than the first giant, if you get my drift), and I'm really taken with the idea
that Erebus is a "chem"/giant robot/machine intelligence now. He might then be a leftover from
first-empire days. Why is he in Antarctica? Why, so the chips don't overheat of course! <g>

Scylla and Ariocho? Oh who cares. Let's face it - they just don't have the Q Rating the other two
do. It was a bad career move on Ariocho's part to leave Moorcock - he was a star there.

One last thought: Has anybody questioned why a White Fountain
would stop a black hole?

I can see it. A "white fountain" is a wormhole, which is (or was, I'm hardly current) conceived of
as the opposite of a black hole. On the theory that black holes are drains into other universes
and white holes are drains
from other universes, one could imagine some physical interaction whereby the white
fountain adds more stuff than the black hole takes away. (At first I thought they might just
"cancel out," but that wouldn't be enough because the sun needs rebuilding, not just an end to
its consumption.)

Best,

Jim

"What fades in time Costello/
will hurt much more" Bacharach, "My Thief"

Daniel Fusch — 01 Dec 1999, 06:13 · follows Jim Henley

Hello!

Jim said...

(snip)

"Scylla and Ariocho? Oh who cares. Let's face it - they just don't have the Q Rating the other two
do. It was a bad career move on Ariocho's part to leave Moorcock - he was a star there."

That's pretty funny. I suppose we could also say that Scylla should have stuck with the Odyssey!

I like the north/west/east/south hypothesis that's up in the air, by the way....

(snip)

"On the theory that black holes are drains into other universes and white holes are drains from other universes, one could imagine some physical interaction whereby the white fountain adds more stuff than the black hole takes away. (At first I thought they might just "cancel out," but that wouldn't be enough because the sun needs rebuilding, not just an end to its consumption.)"

This is how I've always pictured it, too. However, this does raise the question--if the White Fountain adds more than the black hole can take, then won't that build up, causing the New Sun to grow constantly brighter at a steadily increasing rate? That doesn't sound very hospitable! Hmmm...any thoughts on how this is supposed to work? (Physics isn't my strong point, I fear.)

One final conjecture: when reading TBOTNS, I always received the impression that the giants/entities/whatever were immeasurably ancient (of course, all of Urth is immeasurably ancient). They had an "eternal" feel to them. Certainly, there is never any mention in the Book of how these entities arrived. Granted, at the moment, I have no textual evidence to give you, but here's a speculation: what if Abaia & Co. are presumed to be already living in the sea (or on Mt. Erebus, if that is taken as Erebus' physical throne) in our own age--simply inactive (because they are young, or because they are waiting, or for some other reason). Only a hypothesis--but perhaps an interesting one.

Well, that's all I have for now.

Michael Straight — 01 Dec 1999, 08:30 · follows Daniel Fusch

On Tue, 30 Nov 1999, Greene, Carlton wrote:

One last thought: Has anybody questioned why a White Fountain would stop a black hole? One cannot (at least as we understand it now) "fill up" a black hole by bringing another star (or quasar) into the picture. So does this mean that the White Fountain is merely outshining the black hole while the hole slowly feeds off it? Is the Messiah's salvation merely a temporary fix (albeit a long one)? That seems very unsatisfying from an allegorical standpoint. Perhaps the lesson is that Man is not truly redeemed, merely on probation.

On the other hand, it doesn't make much sense to assume the white hole is an eternal solution to entropy. All the stars are gonna die eventually (unless this is a gnab gib universe). The white hole prevents the premature end of the sun.

-Rostrum

Greene, Carlton — 01 Dec 1999, 09:23 · follows Michael Straight

I wrote:

One last thought: Has anybody questioned why a White Fountain would stop a black hole? One cannot (at least as we understand it now) "fill up" a black hole by bringing another star (or quasar) into the picture. So does this mean that the White Fountain is merely outshining the black hole while the

hole slowly feeds off it? Is the Messiah's salvation merely a temporary fix (albeit a long one)? That seems very unsatisfying from an allegorical standpoint. Perhaps the lesson is that Man is not truly redeemed, merely on probation.

Rostrum wrote:

<<On the other hand, it doesn't make much sense to assume the white hole is an eternal solution to entropy. All the stars are gonna die eventually (unless this is a gnab gib universe). The white hole prevents the premature end of the sun.>>

Certainly the White Fountain will not prevent the eventual fizzle or re-crunch of the universe. What disturbed me is the notion that the White Fountain may not "root out" the worm gnawing at the heart of the Old Sun. It just gives the worm more to gnaw on -- "chew all you want -- we'll make more!" From an allegorical standpoint, it takes away much of the punch of the New Sun burning away the old corruption, etc.

Carlton