

More Specula Speculations

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 09 Dec 1999

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/2020>

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 — 09 Dec 1999, 23:07

Previously, while discussing Hethor's mirrors I mentioned that the Good Ship Tzadkiel did not appear to be a lightsail craft in anything like the conventional sense. Lightsails would be better suited to generation ships like the _Whorl_ since the acceleration would be so slight.

I had argued that if the sails resembled the mirrors of Father Inire, as indeed they must to apport creatures as described, then the Ship must actually be teleporting itself using the exotic properties of those sails.

The explanation Father Inire offered Domnia about their principle of operation is indeed nonsensical for conventional mirrors; the process he describes would result in an interference pattern, not hyperdimensional travel. But then again, Wolfe signals that the specula are not merely perfect mirrors, but something much more. Severian, although he is not an expert on these things, muses after Jonas' departure: "How foolish to call them mirrors... They reflect light indeed, but that, I think, is no part of their true function. They reflect reality..."