

Typhon his fall

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 15 Mar 2000

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Nicholas Gevers — 15 Mar 2000, 11:06

Mantis and Daniel Fusch are quite correct of course about Typhon's being besieged and ultimately helpless on his mountain. But I still wonder at the ease of this defeat: his starship captains may have fled, but where were his loyal robot soldiers, his digitization apparatus, all the other escape mechanisms he could have called on? Couldn't he summon even one lander to take him away? Hmm. Typhon of Urth seems oddly vulnerable compared with he who built the Whorl...

But all this is mere speculative detail. What I've really been expressing is my conviction that Wolfe intended an implicit causal and thematic link between the New Sun and Long Sun cycles. The construction of the Whorl impoverishes Urth; but millions of Urth's people escape aboard the Whorl to new worlds, avoiding (for their descendants) the annihilation brought by the New Sun. This could be read as some compensation for the effective genocide wrought by Severian when he created Ushas—in the form of Blue, there was already a New Urth elsewhere.