

Lives and Times of the Master Tortuers III

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 19 Aug 2000

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Talarican — 19 Aug 2000, 13:43

The second "Master Palaemon exiled incognito older Gurloes" scenario, supposes that Palaemon had already been a master prior to his disgrace and exile. During his exile he named himself a journeyman as an incognito. (a counterpart to Severian's ill-fated imposture of a master in the village of Murene by Lake Diuturna!) Or, he could have been stripped of his mastership if such a thing is possible.

Thus, Gurloes' age would correspond to that which LU conjectures, and "forty years ago" refers to the time Gurloes himself was Sev 's age, that is, about nineteen and about a year away from masking. Master Palaemon, not yet exiled, is his teacher and mentor.

The only real difference in this scenario is that it makes Gurloes sixtyish rather than fortysomethingish at the time Sev is masked, and Gurloes still gets elevated to master at a rather tender age, if he is to already be a master at the time Severian is born.

Chronology of the 3 guild masters

c. 90? p.s. birth of Palaemon (& Malrubius?)

c. 70? p.s. Palaemon (and Malrubius?) masked.

c. 70? p.s. Autarch Maruthas closes the roads "that was when I [Palaemon] was your [Severian's, in 1 p.s.] age"

c. 60 p.s. earliest probable date of Gurloes' birth

c.40? p.s. Scholarly Palaemon is elevated to master,

c. 42 p.s. as Gurloes remembers, "things were harder, much harder, forty years ago"; he is a senior apprentice at this time (as Severian is at the time Gurloes says this to him, about 1 p.s.)

c. 42 p.s. Master Palaemon teaches senior apprentice Gurloes. They have Gurloes cranking the generator.

c.40 p.s. Gurloes rises to journeyman, having been Palaemon's star pupil

c.35? p.s. Malrubius elevated to master

c. 32? p.s. Palaemon exiled for unspecified offences against the guild. He either was demoted or, as an incognito and/or out of a sense of remorse, chose voluntarily not to proclaim himself as more than a journeyman.

c. 30 p.s. "Journeyman" Palaemon flogs Winnoc, tells him he is exiled from the guild for an unspecified offense.

c. 28? p.s. All masters except Malrubius are dying. They decide to risk desperate unorthodox promotions to mastership to save the guild from extinction.

c. 27? p.s. Palaemon reinstated in Matachin Tower, elevated to master, assumes responsibility to teach older apprentices, and does research.

c. 25? p.s. Gurloes elevated to mastership in his mid to late thirties, older than in the other scenario, but still possibly the youngest master torturer in the guild's history. This may have been brought to pass by the deaths of all masters other than the parolee Palaemon and the ill Malrubius.

c. 20 p.s. Severian born.

c. 11 p.s. Malrubius dies, after being bedridden with a long illness. Palaemon becomes master of apprentices.

2 p.s., summer and fall Severian nearly drowns, saves Vodalus in the necropolis, encounters Triskele, Valeria, Thecla, Rundesind, Ultan, etc

2 p.s. spring Drotte and Roche masked. Severian becomes captain of apprentices.

1 p.s. Severian masked, proceeds to screw up royally