

Fate, undines, and autarchs

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 27 Jan 1998

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/306>

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CRCulver — 27 Jan 1998, 16:08

Xury wrote:

then why did the undine save him as a child?

It could be argued that the undine was fated to save him, because he was fated to live, i.e. the undine was a tool of Tzadkiel to ensure Severian's life and autarchy much like the unmaning of the past autarchs was.

She saved him so he could gain the Phoenix Throne, but they must know he would bring the New Sun also, thus bringing their own destruction.

The undines did not bring their own destruction, they survived the coming of the New Sun and Urth's transformation into Ushas, as Mr. Driussi explains. However, I wonder why the undine would have saved him if it led to the destruction of Erebus, who was an ally of Abaia.

Mr. Driussi wrote:

Correction:

The text tells us: (1) autarchs who fail the Test are unmanned; (2) there have been autarchs since Ymar, and he died about a chiliad before Severian's birth; (3) yet only three autarchs have actually taken the Test--Ymar, the Old Autarch, and Severian.

You are right of course. I seem to be making the most basic errors of late, perhaps it is time for me to reread the Book of the New Sun. I'm just waiting for my best friend to get back from France so that I can have returned my copy of _Shadow and Claw_.

Typhon was a Monarch, the last of the Monarchs.

Yes, I do remember how Typhon was the last of the rulers of the Commonwealth when it had legitimate space activity. Perhaps this is why the Commonwealth is called by Severian in _Urth_ the rightful ruler of all Urth, because they were first to achieve space travel(?).

Christopher R. Culver <crculver at aol.com>

<http://members.aol.com/crculver/index.html>

"Ignorance, that light of fools steers a wayward path"

-Brendan Perry