

time bending headache

The Urth list — 3 messages, 3 voices, 09 Apr 2002

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/3135>

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maa32 — 09 Apr 2002, 17:21

I (half in levity, I admit) yesterday said something about sending horn a year into the past into Silk's body to finish up the healing, possibly leaving his home on Blue and Silk's home at the same time. This gave me such a headache that I got sick thinking about it: if Horn is transplanted into Babbie, then Horn can possibly be helping himself on the boat in Babbie, and he can see his own intelligence in the eyes of the beast. The headache was only beginning. Could Horn/Silk be writing about the things that happened to Horn as they happened, or even slightly before? ARGH. That damn two year comment destroyed my life - and I've wondered about it before. On the con side of this (meaning it MIGHT just be a typo) is the following from In Green's Jungles: "'How long has your father been gone?' About three ... Did you hear that, sir?" (pg 407 SFBC BOTSS, toward the end of Chapter 19 IGJ) How long does it take Silk to get from that point to Horn's home at last? A long time? What could Hide be saying besides three years? Why did he get cut short? Is it an important ommision? Three months? Three half years? Three and many moons ago? Could it really be a typo about the two year business? The idea that Horn is in two places at once at least reconciles one argument against him being in Babbie: that he was already riding a beast with three horns when he died (or was injured mortally) on Green. (incidentally, a literal beast we never see at all - he is on a lander). But it makes me sick to think about that.

That makes the book much too vertiginous for me. It really puts a new relationship between the random stuff Silk/Horn writes down and his confused and jumbled attempt at explaining a quest that may be contiguous with the time of composition. It might be better just to ignore this clue in order to sleep OK at night. This almost achieves the same disorientation for me as 7 american nights or the end of A Story in the Fifth Head of Cerberus. Marc Aramini

Roy C. Lackey — 09 Apr 2002, 20:01 · follows maa32

Date: Tuesday, April 09, 2002 12:22 PM

Marc wrote:

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To answer your first question: All of the "contemporary" action of books 2&3 (as recounted by Silkhorn), and part of the contemporary action of book 1, takes place in a single season, believe it or not. Silkhorn was back in New Viron when he wrote:

"Sunshine and a mild wind; winter is about over. So I pray. When it began, I was in Gaon fighting the Man of Han; I would never have guessed that when it ended I would be nearly home."

(RTTW, 261)

By "nearly home" he means, of course, that New Viron is not Lizard. Three "years" is the only word that makes sense in that quote. But the "nearly two years" figure for his quest is made again on page 260. I dunno.

-Roy

Michael Straight — 10 Apr 2002, 14:30 · follows Roy C. Lackey

On Tue, 9 Apr 2002, maa32 wrote:

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While I don't buy this theory (I think Wolfe would have done a little more with the concept if this was truly going on), I think it's my favorite of your theories. The idea of Silk writing about Horn's adventures while they're happening is pretty neat.

-Rostrum