

q: "How Old Mount Typhon?" a: "Old Mount Typhon fine!"

The Urth list — 3 messages, 2 voices, 30 Jan 1998

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/318>

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CRCulver — 30 Jan 1998, 16:43

Said Vizcacha

My suspicion is that there is either more time between Typhon and Severian than 1000 years (more like 10,000?)<

Woah, Gene Wolfe himself has said that there are only 2 chiliads between our present time here in A.D. 1998, and Severian's time. (I think it is in the People interview).

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

David_Lebling — 30 Jan 1998, 17:09 · follows CRCulver

CRCulver opines:

Said Vizcacha
My suspicion is that there is either more time between Typhon and Severian than 1000 years (more like 10,000?)<

Woah, Gene Wolfe himself has said that there are only 2 chiliads between our present time here in A.D. 1998, and Severian's time. (I think it is in the People interview).

Even Jove nods.

Unless someone (Dr. Talos? mantis?) is faking the geological and archeological evidence, there's a _lot_ more time than that.

The only out I see for the geology is that during the era of starflight (as described in the "Pandora's Box" story -- remarkably like Cordwainer Smith's future, by the way), there was enough power and energy to resculpt the entire face of Urth, and someone did.

The only out I see for the archeology is that a Trantor-like world-city grew and then died before someone started twiddling the geography.

But I still don't see this happening in two chiliads.

-vizcacha
(david_lebling at avid.com)

David_Lebling — 30 Jan 1998, 16:34 · follows David_Lebling

Vizcacha said:

How much time elapsed between Typhon's reign and Severian's?

Mantis has said that about a chiliad (1000 Urth years) passed between the reign of Ymar and the Reign of Severian. Typhon was the last of the Monarchs, Ymar was one of the first, or the first, of the autarchs.

Thus,

about 1000 (Urth) years have passed between Typhon's reign and Sev's reign.

This is a mantic or even lupine opinion have a lot of trouble with. Primarily, I look at the mountains, all or most of which have been carved in the likenesses of rulers. In `_Sword_`, we are told (as a guess by Severian) that Mount Typhon must have been the first of them, and (I think) this is confirmed in `_Urth_`, when Severian-as-Conciliator meets Typhon. So we have a space of 1000 years in which the entire future-Andes have been carved. Every ruler post-Typhon is an autarch: did they each carve a mountain? If each reigned 10 years, we only have time for 100 mountains, assuming that they `_all_` did one...

My suspicion is that there is either more time between Typhon and Severian than 1000 years (more like 10,000?), or there's an inconsistency between `_TBONS_` and `_Urth_`.

-vizcacha

(david_lebling at avid.com)