

Grab Bag

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 31 Jan 1998

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/323>

Exported from an unofficial mirror of a public mailing list. Copyright in each message remains with the person who wrote it. Email addresses are obscured as `user at host`, the form the original archive published. This file was rebuilt from parsed fields rather than retained headers, so it is faithful in content but not byte-exact.

m.driussi — 31 Jan 1998, 04:49

Wow, so much activity!

Re: how many versions of THE BOOK OF THE NEW SUN (the book of the church of the Conciliator, rather than the skiffy adventures of Severian), there is at least one, which I refer to as "(Canog's) Book of the New Sun," since Canog is the criminal in the next cell who overheard Severian the Conciliator talking to his followers in URTH.

Re: "s" is for serpent, "t" is for sword. Patrick, while that line is everybody's favorite, I've never seen the "st" itself taken further as you have done. Interesting stuff! That area of the text is rich in symbols: if I remember right, he is saying that he is seeing an edenic world (island) suspended between two opposites (world of air and world of water) . . .

Re: Reechy. Right, r., Reechy grows up into Ymar, and then, perhaps because he'd been inspired by his meeting with the Conciliator, Ymar went off to fail the Test in Yesod. And then every other autarch chose to found a dynasty rather than go off to Yesod, until the Old Autarch--and his procreative capacity was sacrificed so that he wouldn't found a dynasty and Severian would ascend the throne and take the test and succeed. The Old Autarch really was a tool of those above; the game was rigged; and when he finds out (within Severian's head) he loses his usual "all knowing" cool.

Re: the age of the mountains and what Gene Wolfe said in the People interview. First, what Gene said: I thought it was a little ambiguous, and it seems that communications were a little garbled. However, having expressed those doubts, sure, we can enter two or three new models for posthistory based on this snippet (for example: one, that posthistory is two thousand years, starting at the year AD 2000; two, that the Age of the Autarch is two-thousand years long; or three, that posthistory from Apu-Punchau to Ushas is two-thousand years long).

Next, the age of the mountains. See, I =still= believe that the mountains of Urth are basically ruins of supercity arcologies built by the machines as described in the Tale of the Librarians told by Cyriaca to Severian. So yes, small scale terraforming along the lines that vizcacha says--perhaps (probably?) even to the point of raising an artificial continent. In any event, the implied geological time is short circuited.

=mantis=