

Claw & Baldanders

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 01 Feb 1998

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m.driussi — 01 Feb 1998, 05:24

Reply: Item #9595607 from CRCULVER at AOL.COM@INET01#

Christopher,

Re: the Claw as a device made by Tzadkiel? Uh, um, no. Remember, back at the metaphysical climax of Volume Four, when Sev figured out that the (by now replaced in altar) Claw was really just a rose thorn, and he picked a new one, there on the beach? And then (as if that weren't enough by itself) in URTH this "new thorn" became covered with Severian's blood (i.e., little cells of Severian) in the course of things (on the Big Ship), and even Apheta said that it had become the Claw, and then back on Urth in the past he gave it away to some soldiers who had just defected from Typhon?

The "nonchalant" response given toward the Claw by F, B, & O is due more to the fact that they understand it is only a tool of Severian, and they are probing him through questions to see if he understands that. And he doesn't yet understand that, so he "fails" their test--as they are so quick to point out.

Re: Baldanders the man who would be Autarch. You write:

I would like page references for this, if you wouldn't mind.
Incidentally, Baldanders would most certainly fail the test, because he seemed to think of the New Sun, the Claw, and the BotNS lore as superstition. So, Baldanders as Autarch would = Ragnarok.

How odd--you want references . . . yet you still =agree= with me in a way that seems somehow contentious! Yes, of course Baldanders would fail the test--probably by his refusal to even =take= it (likewise Vodalus, were he able to seize the throne); and thus the somehow crucial time window would slowly, finally close; the New Sun would not come; the Ragnarok probability wave (like Schroedinger's "50% Dead" Cat) would consequently grow from 50% to 100%.

I don't know about this "citations on tap" function I'm developing here . . . I'm starting to feel like a dancing bear or something. Are you writing a paper? I'd be more inclined to offer Cliff Notes if I knew you were working on an essay or . . .

Oh, here's one. From Apheta herself: "The giant [Baldanders] you saw might have mastered the Commonwealth, had Severian not defeated him [way back in Volume Three]" (V, ch. 22).

=mantis=