

Nutria's first hint

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

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m.driussi — 01 Feb 1998, 02:12

Reply: Item #6848705 from URTH at LISTS.BEST.COM@INET02#

Yeh, I've seen you say this more than once, but I don't recall the evidence, let alone proof. Inquiring minds want to know....

Well gosh, Nutria, that's a helluva way to ask about something that, in all honesty, seems to me to be so blindingly obvious that I guess I never bothered to publish it anywhere.

By preface, let me point out for what seems to me to be the umpteenth time yet I understand it cannot be so . . .

A science oriented mind, reading the scientifantastic fabulations of THE DYING EARTH, might well ask itself--"But how can this be? How can the sun be guttering and about to go out? Since at =that= late stage of stellar evolution it would have =long= since grown to such enormous size as to sterilize if not vaporize the innermost planets, including the Earth itself?"

After all, these are the facts as we currently understand them.

Without further ado, then, here is your first hint. (It's free--the ones that come later will cost you.)

"Increate, it is known to us that those who will perish here are no more evil in your sight than we. Their hands run with blood. Ours also. . . . by thy will they may, in that hour, have so purified their spirits as to gain thy favor. We who must confront them then, though we spill their blood today . . . You, the hero who will destroy the black worm that devours the sun; you for whom the sky parts as a curtain; you whose breath shall wither vast Erebus, Abaia, and Scylla who wallow beneath the waves; you that equally live in the shell of the smallest seed in the farthest forest, the seed that hath rolled into the dark where no man sees. . . . have mercy on those who had no mercy. Have mercy on us, who shall have none now" (II, ch. 4).

But wait--I would almost swear that I did see this obvious fact printed somewhere . . .

"The time scale of the tetralogy is never made explicit, as the characters possess no clear idea of their history, and only a few details--such as the fact that Urth still has seven continents--can be adduced to suggest that the age of the Commonwealth lies millions of years (as opposed to tens or hundreds of millions in our future. The sun is faltering, an event not expected for billions of years, but we know (from Typhon's account of his reign) that this proved a sudden, unpredicted calamity, and two further references--at Morwenna's execution and in Dr. Talos's play--suggest that it is being consumed by a tiny black hole" Feeley, "The Evidence of Things Not Shown," NYRSF No. 31, March 1991, pg. 8.

Drat, he gave away some of the other hints!

=mantis=