

Time & Map Tidbits

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

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m.driussi — 01 Feb 1998, 23:46

Reply: Item #5381601 from URTH at LISTS.BEST.COM@INET#

raster,

Okay, your "Mal & Pal" LOL!

Re: the polychrome sand, I know what you mean, but no, I don't know where it is at the moment.

Re: the state of the universe expanding. Doesn't "official" opinion on this flip-flop a bit? What was that recent thing in the news--wasn't it something like "whoops, not enough mass--no contraction--universal entropy here we come" (again, yet as if for the first time). Well, for the fiction of TBOTNS, of course it is (and has to be) a motor from Big Bang to Grand Gnab; so one has to pepper one's meditations with knowledge of this cycle, and being in a run down little dump like Urth, it might be comforting to think that the whole universe was poised on the edge of decline!

Anywho, here are some new fresh tidbits to play with:

"The billion aeons of its [Urth's] existence" (III, ch. 27).

--Lessee, we're currently at, what, five billion =years=, right? Well, "aeon" isn't usually used for such a paltry period as five or ten years . . . (then again, the "collapsing scales" I mentioned before often have to do with Severian's personal perception: for example, the citadel seems like a big world until he gets out into Nessus, which seems large until he crosses the countryside, which seems vast until he leaves the planet, etc.)

Text to the effect that: It takes 50 generations to shift a group of colonists into the continent's version of humanity; i.e., 50 times 20 years to transform colonists into neo-autochthons (V, ch. 10). Right. Well this means that all the non-autochthons we see in TBOTNS are offspring of offworlders who have come to Urth =since= the time of Ymar. Maybe this also helps explain the exultants, the things they do to maintain their ways and avoid "going native"?

Cartography:

Mount Typhon: the saddle of jungle is thousands of cubits above Nessus and lower reaches of Gyol (III, ch. 23).

Sugarcane Groves: after they cross the river (supposedly Gyoll, but the PLAN[E]T ENGINEER map shows us "Cephisus") at the sandbar (II, ch. 28) they see some sugarcane groves. Okay, so what latitudes can sugarcane be grown? Hawaii: 20 degrees N. Louisiana: 30 N. Peru: 18 S. Argentina: 23 S.

Coffee? 23 degrees to 0 degrees. (They drink coffee in Commonwealth.) Pampas? 37 degrees to 25 degrees. (There are Pampas.) Steppe/Prairie? 30 degrees to 53 degrees.

HOWEVER, all these numbers are for Earth and assume an Earth-level of Insolation (Solar energy). Lower Insolation will require a narrowing of the bands.

TIDES OF LUNE

There is talk that Lune at an orbit of 50,000 leagues will cause enormous tides.

$$T = M/R^3$$

(T = Tidal Force of Luna on Earth; M = Mass; R = Radius of orbit)

$$\begin{aligned} T &= 1/(0.6)^3 \\ &= 1/0.216 \\ &= 4.629 \text{ (or about four and a half times the tides we experience)} \end{aligned}$$

LUNE QUESTIONS

If Lune has been terraformed into a habitable world then it must have had its local day spun up from 28 days to something between 96 and 24 hours. The text is clear that Lune still has an orbital period of 28 days, but is there any indication in the text that Lune is rotating rather than being tide-locked with one face to Urth?

(raster--the gas loss on Luna isn't as bad as you seem to think.

Fogg in TERRAFORMING states that, once an Earthlike atmosphere is in place on Luna, it would naturally take longer than 10^8 years to bleed off. I wonder if those forests of Lune act as a natural canopy to hold atmosphere in as well as pollute it with their waste oxygen?)

=mantis=