

Digest urth.v007.n002

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 07 Feb 1998

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/361>

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.

Charles Dye — 07 Feb 1998, 15:17

Jason Voegele mentions:

I think this crops up when Severian comes to Typhon's little home in the mountains. I've heard two theories. One, Urth's magnetic poles have flip-flopped, thus North and South have taken on the opposite meaning that we are accustomed to. Two, Severian has some sort of depth-perception problem (sorry, can't recall the technical term) which causes him Somehow to confuse left/right/east/west etc.

You know, that's rather eerie, because I've played around with the same idea myself. Severian may well be spacially dyslexic. Take another look at the Typhon sequence. Severian, looking out the left eye of west-facing Mount Typhon, sees a battle ... to the northeast?

Another supporting detail: how many times is Severian given precise directions to reach some place, but gets lost anyhow? For most people, we could just chalk it up to imperfect memory.

(BTW, how's this for a Vancian chapter title: "The Eyes of the World" (could also be called "The Eyes of the Overlord!"))

David_Lebling at avid.com goes for the Gould:

On the question of whether evolution stops when civilization is achieved; I doubt it. If you buy into "punctuated equilibrium," you will see that species go through long periods with nothing much happening, then a rapid burst of evolution, and so on. Taking care of the sick and weak may effect somewhat the distribution of certain genes, but others can spread through humanity in a surprisingly short time. Evolution requires differential reproductive rates for different genetic makeups; the fallacy that that means the sick and weak have to die off is just that, a fallacy.

Punctuated Equilibrium, as I understand it, requires that a small subset of a larger population be reproductively isolated. The guardians of the Autarch's mines would certainly qualify!

raster at highfiber.com