

brief "purpose of Whorl" reply

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 12 Dec 2002

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/3667>

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maa32 — 12 Dec 2002, 13:59

Recently, the interview in which Wolfe claimed that Blue and Green where the destination of Typhon was put forth, and that his purpose was returning man to the stars. I don't think this destroys the Blue is Urth idea. I have always insisted that Typhon wanted to re-colonize, and that he knew that the Urth was facing a calamity, and that he wanted his ship to return. I think it just returned much later in time than he planned, but still tried to drop off a copy of Pas/Typhon to be worshipped on the "new" ancestral home of mankind. THEN it continued on its way outward to the stars, as it left at the end, after insuring that Typhon (or at least some memory of him as Pas) was left behind in the minds of the new inhabitants - self aggrandizement was always his theme, and he wanted to leave a marker that would outlive and immortalize him. Then mankind could go back out to the stars, after the plan of Pas was fulfilled. That's the best I can do now. Marc Aramini

matthew.malthouse — 12 Dec 2002, 16:33 · follows maa32

On 12/12/2002 13:59:55 maa32 wrote:

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The problem with this is that the Typhon we see in tBotNS and mor particularly tUotNS wouldn't have thought this way. He'd not have considered that his plans would fail in such a way as need any future proofing. Even knowing that they once had, viz his conversation with Severian. "This time..." etc.

Typhon did not believe in the conciliator, or at least faced with an identifiable individual did not believe in the future prophesied.

He also recognised that retreating to Earth/Urth had been an error. His regard for Urth was too low to make it credible that he would be concerned with repopulating its future.

I also find it implausible that Typhon would have thought in terms of memorials that would outlive and immortalise him. His joining with Piaton and his explanation of it is unequivocal - Typhon fully expected to outlive all memorials. Remember Woody Allen.

If the author is authoritative (and I might myself argue otherwise) then you're caught. I don't think it's necessary because the internal coherence of the cycle itself requires Typhon to make an effort at re-establishing Empire in real time, not some indeterminate future. He doesn't need to repopulate the galaxy - it's power and authority that he wants. Blue/Green colonised by a Pas worshiping population would assist in that.

Matthew