

DOORS: time flow datapoints

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 18 Jan 2003

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/3769>

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.

Michael Andre-Driussi — 18 Jan 2003, 06:31

Roy wrote:

The numbers are inconsistent. When Green came back to our world it was April 15, 1989. (Based on the date 6/6/88 in the file on North that Green found, p-128. It was January in the Otherworld when Green left. After Yule.) April 16, he was put in the booby hatch. He got out during his second summer there (207-08). Then three Christmases went by after he went back to work. (210) The next February he was transferred to the uptown store. Sometime after Daylight Savings Time stopped, but before Christmas of that year (November, 1993?), he rediscovered Tina and went through a "door" in the arcade and was collared by the woman from the haberdashery. She had been holding the pants for "four months". (236) That would make it still May, 1989 in the Otherworld. Four months passed in the Otherworld, about 55 months in our world for Green.

Right, I've been puzzling over that "3 Christmases" thing. At first I thought it was less than one year (since Green is extra loopy at that stage and "Christmas" as he is describing it is more a feeling than a calendar date), but then his later comments about being middle aged make it seem almost as if 10 years have gone by, but then I thought it was 3 years exactly. Then he is transferred and spends most of the year at the new job, so it is up to five years (around 4.5, as you say).

Then when I took the "four months" of O-time and tried to reverse engineer it, it looks like this:

$4 \text{ (months)} * 28 \text{ (days)} * 8.25 \text{ (O-time multiple)} = 924 \text{ days} = 2.52 \text{ years}$

Another datapoint is Laura Nomos (nomos means "a lawed one," i.e., a lawyer!) and her fur coat in storage for 26 months (169). This suggests $790 \text{ (days)} / 8.25 \text{ (O-time multiple)} = 96 \text{ days (3 months)}$. (I don't know, but wouldn't storage be usually for longer than that? Maybe not: maybe storage is only for Summer?)

Anyway, that's as far as I've gotten.

If the O-time multiple is constant, then the calendar years could never be synchronized: the North file year of 1988 could never be seen by a guy who just came from Earth 1989 (unless, hmmm, it was a very old file).

It would be interesting if the O-time multiple ebbs and flows.

OTOH, here is a disturbing thought which you will probably dispell: what if there are more than just two worlds? I only bring it up because Green, at that 5-street intersection, seems to see five different corridors and then to experience different versions of the Otherworld, just as different versions of "Earth" seem to crop up.

To whit: when Green walks past the doll hospital again and sees that there is already a new doll

in Tina's bed (10) -- it looks something like a dimension splice has happened. That whole business of the doctor saying "Mr...?" (4), when we are later told this was his seventh visit (192) (which might resolve if in one Earth that was his first visit, as it seemed in the context of page 4, and in another Earth that was his seventh visit); and the photo of Dr. Nilson and a Lora Masterman who is not the Lora Masterman he later meets.

Then there's North's "C-One" term for "Nixon world." This is clearly messed up on the surface, since "C" is the door to the wing that Green is in (suggesting that North is just insane and making things up from immediate input). But the inclusion of a number (and the reality that there is dimension-crossing going on) makes it seem like there is a sequence of more than just two worlds (i.e., C-1 to C-5).

Furthermore, it is pretty well established that there are personal analogs ("panalogs"?) running around: a person Green meets in Otherworld has a twin on Earth, often in the same situation (I'm thinking of the mental hospital patient twins in both worlds: the bush message system guy is the chess player (207)); Fanny is like Ella (181, 182). North has five names (128); Fanny has three, or four if we count "Fanny" -- could each be a different panalog rather than just a simple alias applied to the same, single individual? That is, does North have all these names because his panalogs have always come crashing into this particular dimension of the five?

(I kept watching for Fanny's sixth finger to show up or be hidden. I didn't see either -- did you?)

Part of the fun of TAD is the Philip K. Dick-style warping of reality and madness. On one reading, Dr. N is involved in a conspiracy to mess with Green's mind ("the madman is right: paranoia validated!") with forged photos, false memory creation ("you've been here seven times before" "huh, I only remember the last time"). On another reading, it all makes sense in a Wonderland sort of way. But what I'm talking about is a more sfnal way, maybe.

(I like the way that the chess set at the Earth hospital is missing the white queen and two black pawns (206): a nice way of showing the Graves scenario.)

=mantis=

StoneOx17 — 21 Jan 2003, 13:55 · follows Michael Andre-Driussi

Mantis writes:

Another datapoint is Laura Nomos (nomos means "a lawed one," i.e., a lawyer!)

It's interesting that nomos is one of the words that Lovecraft combined to form "necronomicon," the meaning of which Gold discusses in Peace. I discovered a website discussing the etymology of necronomicon (isn't google amazing?) .

<http://64.156.188.97/yh/geous.htm>

One of the translations offered is "The Management of the Dead," which concurs with Gold's "The Book that Binds the Dead."

Another (which the website rejects as inaccurate) is "The Book of Dead Lawyers."

-- Stone Ox