

Severian as New Sun

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 02 Apr 2003

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Matt DeLuca — 02 Apr 2003, 21:38

Im still trying to figure out the history and events that resulted in Severian becoming the New Sun. I have a few questions:

- 1) What is the New Sun
- 2) What are his talents/abilities
- 3) Is there any specific prophecy
- 4) What is the Claw?
- 5) What is the New Sun supposed to do?
- 6) How does Severian do it?
- 7) What is the mystery of the guild?
- 8) How can Severian use the Claw in the books before Urth of New Sun
- 9) Any info on the Pancreator?

any information on this would be welcomed.

And i have read the series approximately 11 times. I'm still slightly confused about the New Sun....

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Brandon Mason — 05 Apr 2003, 02:59 · follows Matt DeLuca

1)What is the New Sun?

I have only read the series twice, but I was always under the interpretation that the New Sun is the NEW SUN itself (that is, the old sun with the white fountain placed in it, thus making it new) and also it is Severian, who is called the New Sun because he brought it.

2)What are his talents/abilities?

Well, there are many that are listed within the text of Urth of the New Sun. I suppose some would say that he has the ability to be able to work miracles. But I think that there are probably many more things that Severian can do that are not listed within the text, using the power of the white fountain. I would go so far as to say that he probably has the ability (whether he uses it or not) to be able to do anything that he wants.

3)Is there any specific prophecy?

Hmmm...I don't have the text with me right now, but I don't think so. The only prophecy that there may be about the New Sun or Conciliator is the one that Severian would have spread on his own (about himself) in his brief period of teaching in Urth of the New Sun (in the past.) I have always assumed that he probably time traveled even more after the telling of the tale in his memoirs and probably even after he wrote the memoirs themselves. He does say somewhere in Urth of the New Sun after the incident at the Chowder Pot that he thought he saw himself out in the hall with the men that tried to restrain Zama. What I am getting at is I have a feeling that Severian might have went back into time and spread the word about himself so that people would know what to expect.

4)What is the Claw?

The Claw of the Conciliator is the thorn that Severian picked up from the rose bush when he was walking along the beach of Ocean. In Urth of the Sun when he is sent back to Typhon's time after his capture he gives that same thorn from the rose bush to one of Typhon's soldiers. This thorn somehow ends up in the hands of the Pelerines, and is what Severian later finds in the distant future when he crashes into their temple and tries to return it to them.

5)What is the New Sun supposed to do?

The New Sun as Severian or the New Sun as the New Sun itself? Severian is called the New Sun because he was the one to bring it, but if you are talking of the other meaning (the New Sun as the New Sun) it is supposed to bring a cleansing to Urth and restore the old sun's light. I've always thought the prophecy about the New Sun is somewhat like the prophecy of Anakin in Star Wars Episode I and II, no one really knows if the coming of the New Sun will be good or bad.

6)How does Severian do it?

I know I might not be totally answering this question (as you might want a specific) but in Urth of the Sun it is explained that Severian will (mind the paraphrase) "just know" how to do it. Its something that is innate within him, and I believe that Tzadkiel placed the knowledge of how to bring the white

fountain closer (or the ability to do so) in Severian when he resurrected him as an eidolon. re-read the section in Urth of the Sun after Severian falls through the ship (and dies) and I think that is where he gains the knowledge.

7)What is the mystery of the guild?

EXCELLENT QUESTION...and one that I think we can only speculate to be able to find an answer to. After reading Urth of the Sun, (in which Severian meets Ymar at the guild) I have always had an idea (and I am sure most will agree that it is not a good one) that it has something to do with the bringing up of Autarchs. Not Typhon, mind you, who is a monarch, but the new generation of Autarchs that began with Ymar and ended with Severian. Also, I have always thought that Severian himself might have had something to do with the formation of the guild of torturers (even though there is not a lot of textual evidence to support it.) I just thought it was interesting that when he became Apu Punchau in urth of the New Sun his people strangled him. Also, his mother is named Catherine correct? And the Holy Patron Saint for Order of Seekers of Truth and Penitence is Katharine. Other than that, the only secret that I can remember within the text that Severian reveals is that, "torturers OBEY."

8)How can Severian use the Claw in books before Urth of the New Sun?

I think it is explained in Urth of the New Sun that he is drawing off of future power (which is actually rooted in the past.)

9)Any info on the Pancreator?

At the end of Urth of the Sun, Severian's friends the Heirodules explain to him that who he calls the Pancreator (or maybe it is the Increate, not sure,) they call "God." So the Pancreator is God, right? I was always under the assumption (and I am probably wrong about this as well) that the Pancreator = God, the Conciliator is a Jesus figure, and the Increate represented the Holy Spirit.