

Walls of Nessus

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 19 Jun 2003

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James Jordan — 19 Jun 2003, 19:02

At a symbolic level, we should remember that ancient cities (before cannon fire) were always walled. Especially Jerusalem (book of Nehemiah). We're symbolically in Byzantium, of course, but are we also in a fallen Jerusalem? I can't think of any clues along the latter lines, so I don't think so. But the walls of Byzantium would fit thematically.

Which brings up another possibility: Perhaps the walls were not set up as a blast shield, but to protect Typhon's project from angry armies of insurgents -- and we can be sure there were such: Who wants to be drugged and dragged off into space? These are walls that surely COULD withstand cannon fire, and much else. And even apart from Typhon, we know that Urth is divided into warring nations, so a strong wall might have been needed long before Typhon. Ancient cities usually had two walls: outer and inner, the inner-city or "citadel" on a high place for even better defense. In Russian, the citadel is called "Kreml[in]" and all older cities have them, not just Moscow. In London, it is the "Tower of London." In time of seige, the people living around the walls could crowd inside the citadel, where the palace and temple were, for protection if the outer walls were breached. Is this the original relationship between the Citadel of the Autarch and the outlying city of Nessus?

But I can't remember. The Citadel is within the outer walls of Nessus, isn't it? Even if not, the walls of Old Port could also function as a place of refuge for Nessusians under attack from Ascians or whomever.

So, maybe the wall as blast-shield is not the best answer.

Nutria