

Malrubius's ghost and Paeon's

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Dan Rabin — 19 Jul 2003, 06:29

Any explanation of the appearances of Malrubius to Severian should also account for the appearances of Paeon, the honey-steward who trained the Autarch when the latter was a servant in the House Absolute.

The old Autarch says in *_Citadel_*, ch. 25, that this Paeon-image appeared to him while Severian was with the false Thecla in the House Azure to tell him that Severian would be his successor:

"You remember everything, and so you must recall the night you came to my House Azure. That night someone else came to me. I was a servant once, in the House Absolute. . . . That is why they hate me. As they will hate you, for what you once were. Paeon, who trained me, who was honey-steward fifty years gone by. I knew what he was in truth, for I had met him before. He told me you were the one . . . the next. I did not think it would be quite so soon. . . ."

This seems to me to accord with the view that idolons in the form of trusted mentors from an Autarch's youth are sent to counsel them.

-- Dan Rabin