

Katharine and the Conciliator

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 03 May 1998

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/549>

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.

J. Schultz — 03 May 1998, 20:39

I always figured Katarine was a robot (or whatever you would call it) and never assumed it was a real person. Thus I never tried to place her in the larger context of the story. I will admit that your story seems to ring true. Here are my reasons for believeing as I did (although now I'm not sure)

- Severian admits not being of his wits at the time: "I felt dizzy and tired."
- The blade seems to meet resistance and then thuds into the block.
- The Block is cut in half by the sword!
- A bloody head rolls onto the stage (supposedly a fake head, but...)
- Even though Sev knows the lady's head is covered in fuligin, TO HIM it looks like the head is missing.
- She returns the wax head to her shoulders and is whole again. (Sev explains this as some slight where she ditches the 'wax' head in the fuligin, but how?)
- She is never seen except on feast day AND she never appears to age or change.

It just smells fishy.

CRCulver,

While I am at a loss on how many Sev's there are and what they all did, (I would have to reread the whole series several more times!) I can add to your discussion. When 30,000 years elapses between the time you have disappeared and the next time you act on the world, people would automatically assume you had died. I don't think a body would be needed to lead many to believe he had died. Few people actually saw him dissapear and I doubt any would understand what had really happened. Do you really believe that the tomb of the Conciliator would remain unguarded, open and accessable. Maybe the tomb is really Sev1 who returns to Urth from Yesod (in the past of course), marries, has children, and lives out his days in defeat. (or do you die when you fail the trial?) If this theory is true, what a messed up circle it would make if Sev was his own ancestor!

FunkMonkey

J. Schutlz

jschultz at wcnet.org

C R Culver — 04 May 1998, 02:07 · follows J. Schultz

FunkMonkey,

<Do you really believe that the tomb of the Conciliator would remain unguarded, open and accessable.>

I guess not...

<Maybe the tomb is really Sev1 who returns to Urth from Yesod (in the past of course), marries, has children, and lives out his days in defeat. (or do you die when you fail the trial?)>

For those who have failed the trial (Ymar and the Old Autarch), the punishment was castration. I suppose it would be the same for Sev1. He wouldn't have had children.

Hypothesizing on which Severian is in that tomb is easy; what is hard is trying to explain why that Severian would pick those three symbols to put on the tomb (a fountain, a rose, and a ship volant).

Christopher R. Culver <crculver at aol.com>
<http://members.aol.com/crculver/index.html>

"Ignorance, that light of fools steers a wayward path"
-Brendan Perry