

the wall and baldanders

The Urth list — 11 messages, 8 voices, 18 May 2010

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/5609>

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Cliff Judge — 18 May 2010, 14:39

What is the deal with Baldanders claiming he never dreams the morning after the show at Cteiphon's Cross, when the morning after Severian sleeps next to him he describes having a dream, possibly the same dream as Sev?

The Wall is a Long Sun class colony ship, isn't it? Sticking up out of the ground like the ships in the Citadel. Either incomplete or mostly buried.

Pedro Pereira — 18 May 2010, 14:43 · in reply to Cliff Judge

You mean the Wall around Nexus? I think it's a cyclotron (a particle accelerator).

Date: Tue, 18 May 2010 10:39:37 -0400
From: transient at gmail.com
To: urth at lists.urth.net
Subject: (urth) the wall and baldanders

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John Watkins — 18 May 2010, 14:44 · in reply to Cliff Judge

...that's a really good idea.

My question is, wouldn't constructing such a ship in-atmosphere be much more difficult than doing it in space?

On Tue, May 18, 2010 at 10:39 AM, Cliff Judge <transient at gmail.com> wrote:
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Jeff Wilson — 18 May 2010, 14:54 · in reply to Cliff Judge

The Wall is a Long Sun class colony ship, isn't it? Sticking up out of the ground like the ships in the Citadel. Either incomplete or mostly buried.

The Wall's big, but not that big.

Jerry Friedman — 18 May 2010, 17:18 · in reply to Cliff Judge

From: Cliff Judge <transient at gmail.com>

To: The Urth Mailing List <urth at lists.urth.net>

Sent: Tue, May 18, 2010 8:39:37 AM

Subject: (urth) the wall and baldanders

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As I recall, he had a dream with images from Severian's memory (I feel I should call it a Memory), and Severian had a dream with images from Baldanders's memory or thoughts or future or something. But that's a good question. Maybe Baldanders stopped dreaming? Maybe it was a random lie?

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It seems too circular for that, unless you think it's the end layer, like the first coil of a pot. But I don't think building a Whorl-class ship on Earth or Urth, instead of in space, makes any sense at all (which is my answer to John Watkins's question).

Jerry Friedman

Dan'I Danehy-Oakes — 18 May 2010, 17:22 · in reply to Jerry Friedman

Isn't it directly stated that the Whorl (and thus presumably any ship of its class) was constructed by hollowing out/inflating an asteroid?

On Tue, May 18, 2010 at 10:18 AM, Jerry Friedman

<jerry_friedman at yahoo.com> wrote:

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To: The Urth Mailing List <urth at lists.urth.net>

Sent: Tue, May 18, 2010 8:39:37 AM

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Roy C. Lackey — 18 May 2010, 18:15 · in reply to Dan'l Danehy-Oakes

Dan'l wrote:

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Yeah. From the list of proper names in RTTW:

"The _WHORL_, a spaceship whose vast interior cavity constitutes a small world -- originally, an asteroid."

-Roy

Cliff Judge — 18 May 2010, 18:43 · in reply to John Watkins

It would most likely be vastly more difficult to build the thing on earth. But if you have access to good contragrav technology, not impossible, right?

Wasn't Typhon at odds with some hiero-people when he was building the Whorl?

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Paul B — 18 May 2010, 19:06 · in reply to Cliff Judge

I'd always thought the Wall was just a scaled-up version of the Citadel wall. (And I thought that one was a blast shield for lifting spaceships like the Matachin tower.) That requires thinking that in some earlier age, planetfall-capable spaceships were a lot bigger - but not Whorl-sized.

Paul

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Cliff Judge — 18 May 2010, 21:06 · in reply to Jeff Wilson

I assumed Nessus was really really big. It's very old, still expanding, and yet there is a bunch of real estate inside the wall that is rural.

How big in diameter does the Whorl need to be? Fifty miles?

Apparently the Citadel is in the center of Nessus...and Sev leaves it, spends all day and all night walking, stays at the Inn and meets Dr Talos and Baldanders, encounters Agia, has a crazy ride in a fiacre, winds up at the Sanguniary Field, then after executing Agilus and rejoining the troupe, it seems like the next day they don't have to walk too far to get to the Wall.

It seems to me he could have crossed a pretty considerable distance in that time.

On Tue, May 18, 2010 at 10:54 AM, Jeff Wilson <jwilson at io.com> wrote:

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Jeff Wilson — 18 May 2010, 21:27 · in reply to Cliff Judge

I assumed Nessus was really really big. It's very old, still expanding, and yet there is a bunch of real estate inside the wall that is rural.

How big in diameter does the Whorl need to be? Fifty miles?

They might have similar diameters, but the Whorl is similarly long or longer lengthwise, and is visibly (from the outside) made from an asteroid. The Wall is overtly artificial and there's just not enough room for miles of height extending into the sky or depth below the soil.

The best-sounding guess I've heard is that the great Wall surrounded the world's primary spaceport in some earlier age, partly for controlling ingress and egress and partly as a protective berm in case of an accident. The towers of the citadel are the grounded ships of course, and the citadel's curtain wall was added in a later but still antique age to form a redoubt within the Wall. The curtain wall is generally masonry, but the Great Wall may also be an atom smasher or otherwise serve a third purpose.