

fountain online

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 15 May 1998

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/619>

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m.driussi — 15 May 1998, 00:04

While the white fountain is heading towards Urth as some kind of probability wave function in TBOTNS, Apheta's comment, if taken at 100% veracity (granted: how often do we grant that?), proves that Severian doesn't yet have an energy link to it until after he leaves Yesod.

(Unrelated detail:

If the white fountain arrives 50 years after main events of TBOTNS, and it is travelling less than light speed, then it must be relatively close-by in TBOTNS. If speed is 99% c [speed of light], then distance is 49.5 light years; if speed is 50% c, then distance is 25 light years; if speed is 20% c, then distance is 10 light years; and so on.)

The idea that Severian is an unconscious energy vampire is one of those revelations that casts a look back at the past (the previous text) and a look ahead (to the remaining text of URTH). The Mother Earth link tends to look and feel like . . . oh, what's his name? The son-of-Earth wrestler that the Greek Hero could only defeat by lifting him off the ground [de-feeting him, in a way] from whence flowed the Earth energy. So Severian lying dead on Sanguinary Field, there's an Earth case, maybe.

Gives new meaning to the term, "living off the land." <g>

"Ah, here comes journeyman Severian, bringing the wasteland in his wake; drawing the green from the grass, milking the blush from the rose, drinking the spring rain from dull roots."

(But I think this energy use is "limited" to the miracles of healing and resurrection attributed to the Claw, rather than simple survival without food. In the past I too wondered about the long, lean stretch from the shores of the lake to the point where Severian was going to cut a haunch of dead destrier, but in the end I concluded that he could do it without super powers. Just imho, fwiw.)

And just when we'd gotten rid of the Claw-power paradox, here comes another "destiny device." In Yesod, when all of Severian's victims choose to fight for him against the sailors, they are said to be aquastors drawn from his mind. Ah, but we know how slippery =that= is now! (I.e., the ghosts are real.) And Apheta refers to them as the unborn, since their universe is over. So what we have is: the Trial educates the souls of all of Severian's victims, giving them all the predestination from beyond (or "outside of") time, so that as they are born into Briah there is a part of them that knows; but Severian in TBOTNS doesn't have their knowledge and thus they (victims) serve as his teachers in this hidden way as well as in the more obvious ways regarding compassion, mercy, etc.

=mantis=

Michael Straight — 15 May 1998, 09:00 · follows m.driussi

On Fri, 15 May 1998 m.driussi at genie.com wrote:

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It's been too long for me to remember where that passage comes, but could it serve as a kind of Christ fasting 40 days in the wilderness episode? Does he face either major temptation or something that could be called the beginning of his ministry afterwards?

-Rostrum