

# Life on Mt. Typhon

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 23 Jun 1998

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Dan Parmenter — 23 Jun 1998, 09:30

From: Michael Straight <straight at email.unc.edu>

As I read this (with the hindsight of URTN), Typhon recognizes Severian, and thinks Severian is playing coy with him. I doubt Typhon suspects that the Conciliator he met was a future Severian. Rather he might think Severian is some sort of descendant of the Conciliator, or that the Conciliator is somehow very long-lived. He thinks Severian is either pretending ignorance of the Conciliator, or pretending not to remember Typhon.

Yes, yet another instance of Severian not quite getting the point (we can forgive him - he's only meeting Typhon for the first time) but still more or less doing the right thing.

As for what exactly Typhon makes of him, it's entirely unclear. Perhaps it took an act of supreme will for Typhon not to say "ack! You again!" when first seeing Severian. And of course the Conciliator Severian, at the point of his second meeting with Typhon is in considerably better shape than the first time.

So much mystery and intrigue within the Typhon sequence - was it Severian who awakened Typhon? Why does Typhon call himself Autarch when in fact he is the final Monarch?

D