

Inire at the helm

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 11 Jul 1998

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m.driussi — 11 Jul 1998, 21:00

raster,

Right, I only meant leaving Inire in charge seems like a dumb idea if you know in advance you are going to be gone for more than a year. I'm quite comfortable with Inire running things while Severian was doing his slave stint in Ascia. And I can easily believe a similar set-up for Severian's presumed quick jaunt to Yesod ("a three hour tour . . . a three hour tour . . .").

Time to point out that memories of the old Autarch's trip (first one since Ymar) probably gives the itinerary, which then turns out to be false for Severian's trip. We can figure that the old Autarch was returned to his own timeline thirty to ninety days after he had left, if Severian has a sense that 100 days is getting somewhat late.

But I wonder what became of Inire himself. And I wonder if he was advising Valeria, before and/or after she took the throne.

Like you, I see trouble with the breakdown of the real autarchy. The way I see it, the autarchy is the pact with Yesod, the legitimacy by which Yesod recognizes the autarch as the representative of all Urth. If Valeria ain't a real autarch, and I believe we can all agree there (just like any man can't call himself Pope and literally be recognized as the Pope), then the pact is invalidated. Inire, vizier to countless autarchs, may be forbidden to deal with non-autarch usurpers--he might be on-loan from Yesod, like a diplomat, and subject to recall if the situation deteriorates. "I'm sorry, but the U.N. does not recognize your junta as the legitimate government."

The war with Ascia seems to have continued on. Eata's tale points to some criticism of Severian's Reign--that Severian was always off fighting the Ascians (this would be a good cover for that year as a slave, btw), that Valeria's Reign meant she could mind the domestic front while her Albertine consort (heh) could make passionate war with Ascia off at the front.

Re: age of hierodules. Well Baldanders may be only guessing, but if so I think he has stumbled into the truth, since O, B, & F say pretty much the same thing about themselves only (granting the different flavors of hierodules available): "Ages are aeons to us." Which leads Baldanders to make his dog statement. Later, on the Ship, he visits their chambers and decides they are uplifted kelpies or dolphins or what-have-you. In contrast to reptile Cumaeen and wryneck ibis thoth Inire.

Re: the flying sorcerers and Baldanders. Good points about the disjointed nature of dealing with them in their retro-time travel! Trying to think about how this would work in Severian's court, I long ago gave up and figured that they just arrived by ship early in his reign--he recognized them and they recognized him--and they hung out in realtime for the ten years or so until he got on the Ship, and then they started tracking backwards in time, never going forwards again

except in realtime.

=mantis=