

The OutSever

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 07 Apr 1997

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/169>

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.

m.driussi — 07 Apr 1997, 19:41

Reply: Item #1627691 from WHORL at LISTS.BEST.COM@INET00#

While I myself don't much believe that Severian the Great (or more properly, Severian the Sleeper of Ushas) is the Outsider, I admit that the clues and cues appeared to me independently. Since alga is outnumbered (here comes Keith--he should have more ammo for her side) I'll put in one chip to try and help her out.

One of the first arguments I could see to push Severian out of the picture would be the time frame--NIGHTSIDE was taking place 300 or so years after Monarch Typhon's time, 700 years before Severian's birth.

Even taking into consideration Severian's time travel in URTH, still it seems that Severian would have to have solid time/space coordinates to intervene. But this timeline is challenged by the revelation that the voices of the gods have been dead for over a thousand years--now suddenly the books of Long and New Sun are happening at roughly the same time. Not much, but there it is.

Keith's interesting idea that the criminal on the scaffold is one of Severian's clients. In CLAW (ch. 2) recall Barnoch, the Vodalarii spy who was entombed within his own house for so long, then drawn out to be executed--we do not see his execution, yet with Keith's notion in mind, the whole set up =does= have elements we normally associate with the Crucifixion: one of three executions (Morwenna, the cattle thief, and Barnoch); the criminal most reviled, called a traitor/seditionist; a three day event; emergence from a tomb (Barnoch entombed prior to execution, but still) . . . again, we don't see the deed done (in fact, in fresh hindsight it seems that if Barnoch is executed at all it isn't by Severian's hand--so there's a new mystery right there) but the idea that Barnoch's mother and a few friends are witnesses makes perfect sense, Saltus being the village where Barnoch presumably grew up.

=mantis=