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The Whorl list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 14 Oct 1999

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David Langford — 14 Oct 1999, 09:11

In-Reply-To: <199910132310.QAA09996 at lists1.best.com>

Alastair Reynolds wrote, of Wolfe:

And I believe in one of
q&a sessions I have read, either on this list or on the web somewhere,
he said he envisaged Severian's time as being about a 1000 years from
now (which always struck me as too short a span of time, but never
mind).

This has come up before. An on-line chat session included the following:

Q: About how far, really, is the New Sun series set in our future (or the future of the previous universe)? How much time elapses between Typhon and Severian?

Wolfe: That is never specified in the books. My offhand guess is between 1000 and 2000 years. I would have to reread the books with care to perhaps trim the estimate up a little bit.

Wolfe is surely answering the second question rather than the first, since passages in BotNS suggest a serious geological timespan between our age and Severian's (e.g. the fault-cliff in =Sword= which exposes three miles of vertically stacked human relics).

Dave

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*This is WHORL, for discussion of Gene Wolfe's Book of the Long Sun.

Alastair Reynolds — 15 Oct 1999, 07:09 · follows David Langford

David, in my reply to my query:

Q: About how far, really, is the New Sun series set in our future (or the future of the previous universe)? How much time elapses between Typhon and Severian?

Wolfe: That is never specified in the books. My offhand guess is between 1000 and 2000 years. I would have to reread the books with care to perhaps trim the estimate up a little bit.

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Many thanks for digging that up. Yes - he's obviously talking about the gap between Severian and Typhon rather than the era of the Urth. I must have skimmed the second part of the question when I read the q&a originally and assumed the answer referred to the first part - which troubled me, because - as you say - the timescale feels so geological.

AI

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