

comments on "azoth"

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 06 Dec 1996

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/8>

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.

Peter Cash — 06 Dec 1996, 14:32

Ranjit Bhatnagar <ranjit at best.com>

Azoth -- an alchemical term for mercury. My best guess is that it's a punning reference to Terminus Est, Severian's sword in the New Sun books. (Master Gurloes translated "terminus est" as "this is the line of division," but I like to imagine Arnold Schwarzeneger translating it as "I am the Terminator." Anyway, the azoth is certainly a line of division.)

I always preferred to translate "Terminus Est" as "It is finished". And when that sword gets through with you, it is definetely all over! 8^)

In addition to "mercury", my dictionary (the huge Merriam-Webster) also gives "the universal remedy of Paracelsus" as a meaning for "azoth". If you think about it, the azoth was a pretty drastic remedy, just like Terminus Est! And yes, I want one!

~~~~~  
Die Welt ist alles, was Zerfall ist.  
(apologies to Ludwig Wittgenstein)  
~~~~~

Questions or problems to whorl-owner at lists.best.com