

Christian worldview bedrock

Of the things that surround us, we say we know them ... and acquired them, having acquired them, ...

A world of fantasy frees the drab blur of triteness and familiarity from the mundane and rediscover its wonders and delights (lovers of nature rather than her slaves)

"Goal in LoTR is to support secondary beliefs to allow readers to invest themselves in it"?

Elevated style in LoTR -- no English words before 1500

Hobbit children lighthearted style and tone - modern words, mixed words and made-up words; whimsical -- "this was the most awkward Wednesday he had ever remembered" (Bilbo when dwarves intrude his hobbit-hole)

Dwarves jovial, comic troupe outward appearance, behaviors

Dark, grim; jealous; greed thoughts and journey (Dwarven song of Erebor and dark vengeance on Smaug)

Bilbo's turning point occurs when he gives over to his Took side by *will* instead of just by *imagination* (long walk, going without bed and breakfast -- "Took side had won"; struggle between Took [poetry] and Baggins [prose] side)

Tolkien models the subversion into the secondary world through Bilbo's own introduction, reluctance, and difficult in adjustment gives readers time as well

The Ridiculous and the Sublime: Trolls die due to sunlight because they cannot stop arguing over how to cook the dwarves - they are not overthrown or defeated but are undone by their own greed and hunger. (common theme in Tolkien)

At the roots of the mountain

Bilbo passes the first turning point of his career when he awakes alone in the goblin cave. In all previous journeys he was only a passenger, a sufferer, but now he is alone and must either choose to become an adventurer or perish. He takes hold of a Tookishness when he finds Sting comforting and chooses to take action by scaring them in order to survive.

Goblin rhyme monosyllabic onomatopoeic verse illuminate character. Skills paralleled to dwarves, but goblins enjoy forcing others (prisoners) to work whereas dwarves enjoy smithing and working, crafting.

On Wingless Balrogs and Tom Bombadil

Balrogs don't have wings - misunderstanding of simile, metaphor, and word use (flight)

Tom Bombadil is a *mayá*, "Eldest" - unlike Treebeard (Oldest mortal being, awoken by first elves)

Tolkien and the Environment

Lecture with a former student - No living thing should be controlled including the environment, living beings must live alongside each other for mutual benefit. Sarumanism is controlling even if for a greater cause.

On Dragons and Orcs

Morgoth developed dragons, first Glamrung (wingless) to take old elven cities then winged dragons for final battle of 1st age. Orcs created by Morgoth (the most powerful Valar) as he desired domination over will of living beings - orcs were elves that were enslaved and bred to hate.

On Tolkien's Secondary World

Tolkien encourages investment in the secondary world (secondary belief).

Masters and Servants

Social structure of Shire mimics early 20th century Britain with distinct social hierarchy (Manservant Sam always refers to Frodo as Master). If people are on different levels, condescension is a good thing where the master comes down to a lower level, kindness/respect/almost equality although one is inherently above. Frodo calls Sam's father Master hamfast (very positive).