

**THE PROTAGONIST'S CONFLICT IN J.R.R
TOLKIEN'S NOVEL *THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE
FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING***

A THESIS

BY

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**SUBMITTED TO
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APPENDIX A

Biography of the Author

John Ronald Reuel Tolkien or J.R.R. Tolkien was born in Bloemfontein, Orange Free State, South Africa, January 3, 1892 and died in Bournemouth, Hampshire, England, September 2, 1973. Tolkien's family originated in Germany, but moved and settled in England in the 18th century. Tolkien's father was Arthur Reuel Tolkien (1857–1896), an English bank manager, and his mother Mabel Suffield (1870–1904). Tolkien had a younger brother, Hilary Arthur Reuel. At the age of three his father died in South Africa from a severe cerebral hemorrhage. After that they moved to Birmingham, England and in 1896 they moved to Sarehole.

Tolkien preferred lessons related to languages. His mother taught him the basics of Latin at a very young age. He attended King Edward's School, Birmingham. Later he attended St Phillip's School and Exeter College, Oxford. In 1904, Tolkien's mother died of diabetes. In his later life as an orphan, he was raised by Father Francis Xavier Morgan of the Birmingham Oratory, in the Edgbaston area of Birmingham. He lived there in the shadow of Perrott's Folly and the towers of the Edgbaston drinking water company built with Victorian architecture, which later influenced Tolkien with his description of the dark towers in his works. Later, Tolkien became a student of English Language and Literature at Oxford University, and became a specialist in Old English. There was March 22, 1916, Tolkien and Edith Mary Bratt married.

After graduating from Oxford University with a degree in English in 1915,

Tolkien joined the British Army struggle in World War I with the rank of second lieutenant in the XI battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers. Tolkien's first assignment as a civilian after World War I was to work on the Oxford English Dictionary. In 1920 he accepted a post as a lecturer in English at the University of Leeds, and in 1924 was appointed professor there, but in 1925 he returned to Oxford as an Anglo-Saxon professor at Pembroke College. Tolkien and Edith had four children: John Francis Reuel (November 17, 1917), Michael Hilary Reuel (October 1920–1984), Christopher John Reuel (1924) and Priscilla Anne Reuel (1929). While in Pembroke, Tolkien wrote *The Hobbit* and the first two volumes of *The Lord of the Rings*.

In 1945, he moved to Merton College, Oxford, and became a Merton Professor in English Language and Literature, which he held until his retirement in 1959. Tolkien completed *The Lord of the Rings* in 1948, nearly ten years after his first design. In the 1950s, Tolkien spent most of his long academic vacation at the home of his son, John Francis in Stoke-on-Trent. Tolkien disliked the side effects of industrialization very much, he hated cars and preferred to ride bicycles. This attitude can be felt in some of his works, such as the forced industrialization of The Shire in *The Lord of the Rings*.

In his retirement, from 1959 until his death in 1973, Tolkien increasingly became a public and illustrious concern in the literary world. Tolkien was awarded the CBE by Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace on 28 March 1972. Edith Tolkien passed away on November 29, 1971, at the age of 82, and Tolkien requested that Lúthien's name be engraved on a tombstone in Wolvercote Cemetery, Oxford. When

Tolkien died the next 21 months on September 2, 1973, at 81, he was buried in the same burrow, with Beren's name added to his name, so that his engraving now reads: Edith Mary Tolkien, Lúthien, 1889–1971 John Ronald Reuel Tolkien, Beren, 1892–1973. Tolkien never expected that his fictional stories would become popular, but he was persuaded by a former student to publish a book he had written for his children entitled *The Hobbit* in 1937.

However, the book also attracted adult readers, and turned out to be quite popular with its publisher, George Allen & Unwin, until Tolkien was asked to write a continuation until the creation of a three-volume novel *The Lord of the Rings* (published 1954–55). Both *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* are set against the backdrop of *The Silmarillion*, but a long time later. Tolkien originally intended *The Lord of the Rings* as a children's story like *The Hobbit*, but the story soon grew bleaker and more serious. Although this story is a direct continuation of *The Hobbit*, it greets older readers, and borrows heavily from the backstory from Beleriand that Tolkien had built in previous years, and which was eventually published posthumously in *The Silmarillion* and other publications. Tolkien's influence greatly influenced the fantasy genre that developed after the success of *The Lord of the Rings*.

APPENDIX B

J.R.R. Tolkien's Literary Works

1. The Hobbit (1937)
2. Trilogy The Lord of the Rings (1954-1955)
3. The Adventures of Tom Bombadil (1962)
4. The Father Christmas Letters (1976)
5. The Silmarillion (1977)
6. Unfinished Tales (1980)

APPENDIX C

Summary of the Novel

The Fellowship of The Ring is a novel that tells the story of the journey of Frodo and his friends who have the same goal of destroying the main ring. The ring belongs to the dark lord, Sauron, in the land of Mordor. On the way, Aragorn sings the Ranger of Eriador, helping them arrive at Elrond's home in Rivendell after passing through devastating dangers.

In Rivendell, Master Elrond held a large meeting and invited all envoys from all corners of the central world to discuss how to destroy the Main Ring. In a meeting full of debates finally decided that the ring would be taken to Mount Doom. Mount Doom is a very dangerous place where darkness never sleeps. Master Elrond appointed Frodo as the Ring Bearer. In performing this task Frodo was assisted by several envoys from the middle earth.

The nine Ring Bearers were Aragorn, and Boromir the son of the Lord of

Gondor, representing Man, Legolas the son of the Fairy King of Mirkwood, as the representative of the Elves; Gimli son of Gloin of the Desolate Mountain, as a representative of the Dwarves; Frodo with his servant Samwise, and his two young relatives, Meriadoc and Peregrin, representatives of the Hobbits; and Gandalf the Gray. The Ring Bearers made a secret journey away from Rivendell in the North, until one day they failed in their attempt to cross the summit of Caradhras in the snow, then they were led by Gandalf through a hidden gate and into the vast Moria Mine, while looking for a way under the mountains. There Gandalf falls into a dark abyss after a battle with a terrible creature from hell.

Aragorn, who turned out to be the crown prince of the ancient Western Kings, then led the party out of the East Gate of Moria, through the land of Fairy, Lorien, and wading through the Anduin River, until they arrived at Rauros Falls. They already realize that their journey is being monitored by spies, and a terrible creature named Gollum, who was once the owner of the Main Ring and still yearns for it, is following in their footsteps. When it turns out that the Ring Bearer is determined to continue his reckless journey to the land of the Enemy, Boromir tries to seize the Ring by force.

The first part ends with the tempting of Boromir by the Main Ring; the escape and disappearance of Frodo with his servant Samwise; and the disintegration of the rest of the Ring-Bearer entourage by a surprise attack by the Orc army, some serving the Dark Lord of Mordor, and partly the traitorous men of Isengard, Saruman. The Journey of the Ring Bearer has apparently been wreaked havoc. Frodo and Sam

continued to walk towards Mordor despite being separated from the group. In the third book, Frodo and Sam managed to destroy the ring on Mount Doom and Aragorn was made king of Gondor.

APPENDIX D

Characters in the Novel

1. Frodo Baggins

The main protagonist of The Lord of the Rings. A young Hobbit who is adventurous, has a high curiosity and is the heir of Bilbo Baggins.

2. Samwise (Sam) Gamgee

Frodo friend and gardener. Sam has a good personality, tends to be innocent and shy, but he has courage, strong determination, and is very loyal.

3. Gandalf the Grey

One of the five great Wizards in Middle-earth, second in his order only to Saruman. Gandalf is considered the wisest figure and has a very wide range of knowledge.

4. Legolas

An Elf from Mirkwood. Legolas is light on his feet and masterful with a bow. Legolas is also a master of archery and can fight very well. Legolas can move quickly and agilely compared to other ring-carrying members.

5. Gimli

A Dwarf, the son of Glóin (one of Bilbo's company in *The Hobbit*). Gimli bristles when he feels insulted, but he is noble, stalwart, and brave.

6. Aragorn

The heir of Isildur, one of the few Men from the great race of Númenor left in Middle-Earth. Aragorn is also known as Strider. Aragorn himself is described as calm, tough, and quite wise.

7. Boromir

One of the Men of Gondor, from the city of Minas Tirith in the south. Boromir is a valiant fighter and is always trustworthy in battle, but his pride and recklessness make him vulnerable to the Ring's power.

8. Peregrin Took (Pippin)

Pippin is a cheerful Hobbit, but sometimes he does something without thinking until it ends up creating problems.

9. Meriadoc Brandybuck (Merry)

Merry is a cheerful and ignorant Hobbit. However, Merry has a smart character, is responsive, organized, and always has preparation when he wants to do something.

10. Bilbo Baggins

Bilbo Baggins was one of the Hobbits living in the Shire, the uncle of Frodo, and was a good friend of Gandalf who took the main ring from Gollum.

11. Sauron

The antagonist and title character of *The Lord of the Rings*. The Dark Lord Sauron, a servant of Morgoth, the Great Enemy, took his master's place after the First Age.

12. Gollum (Sméagol)

A hunched, miserable creature who was once Sméagol, a young boy of a Hobbit-like race. Sméagol killed his friend Déagol after Déagol found the One Ring on the bottom of the Anduin River. The Ring corrupted Sméagol and changed him into his current form, the creature called Gollum. Gollum maintained possession of the Ring until he lost it in his caves in the Misty Mountains, where Bilbo recovered it.