

# A commentary to Tolkiens Letters.

## A study of motivation and method

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

First I would like to state that I find Tolkiens statements of faith beautiful.

He writes about his faith many places and I would like to mention that he has a care and a hope for our times.

He states that in order to cure our sick society, short of universal conversion <sup>\*1</sup>(See notes on commentary to Tolkiens letters), the only remedy is to decentralize. Much like Russel Brand advocates. I share this view, perhaps because I read and reread Lotr extensively., although I do not nurture a great hope we can reach decentralization, I have greater hope for universal conversion.

The only reason I started to read Tolkiens letters was because I had never before heard that he considered himself as a recorder. And I am happy I did. His letters are a beautiful testament to love.

I found that he invented stories in the beginning of his path of writing. But he write in a letter in january 1956 that he has long ceased to invent and now wait until he seem to know what happened, or until it writes itself. And in another letter he write that in the matter of the third age he see himself as a recorder only.<sup>\*2</sup>

I still remember reading about Faramir and feeling unhospitable towards him, and when reading that was how Tolkien felt it as well is truly amazing. He is able to convey that feeling through machines and people and time. It does indeed seem like Faramir is a real entity, and Tolkien exclaims that if he goes on much more, much of Faramir has to be removed from the tale into the appendices which are brimming with other superfluous information.

There are many more references to the inspiration he had and how it came to him. But it seem pointless to study this more indepth for me. If I could meet the man and converse with him the case could be different.

So with this subject covered, I would like to invite you to follow me along as I discuss the rest of my findings in the letters of Tolkien and my musings around the findings.

It is clear that our dear Tolkiens main source of inspiration was his love for language and particularly the aesthetics of languages <sup>\*3</sup>. But his love for myth, fairy-tale and heroic legend was also a very substantial part of his motivation, as were his passionate love for growing things.<sup>\*4</sup>

He informs the reader that at one point he discovered that legend depends upon the language it is belonging to, and also that the languages equally depend on the legends they convey by tradition. Furthermore did I find that Lotr was written as a personal satisfaction <sup>\*5</sup>, he was driven to make it out of scarcity of comparable literature.

To me it is evident that Tolkien was able to live in love and he labored in love with his creations, of which Lotr is a part.

I encounter many mysteries in contact with Tolkien, here are a few:

I was baptized as an infant, and when I was 15 I confirmed the baptism. Not because of faith, but because of tradition. I even started with pagan worship after confirmation. I spent a great deal of my childhood and youthyears in a Christian boyscout organization. RFAA. In this time I rejected Christ but embraced Lotr, The Hobbit and Starwars M - M - M.

Tolkien writes that it seems fatal to him that the Arthurian world is involved in and explicitly contains the Christian religion <sup>\*6</sup>, so it seems to me he knew something about this spiritual situation. But I didn't find any more on this subject.

He also writes that behind his stories there is a nexus of languages. <sup>\*7</sup>

1. Corinthians 14:10 Every language has its own meaning.

This is very interesting to me, as mysterious as the connection with "good" in Lotr and Starwars while rejecting Christ is, that area is beyond my capabilities, but the subject of languages stirs my imagination.

Lastly I'd like to direct your attention to Salomos proverbs 18:9

He that is slothful in his work, is a brother to the destroyer.

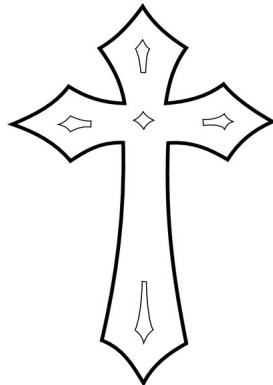
Tolkien does not try to brag, but he informs his reader that he has had a colossal labor on Lotr and that "hardly a word" of the more than 600.000 words had not been considered. And that he considered the work to be done. <sup>\*8</sup>

Here Tolkien really has displayed godly attributes.

He worked and labored until finished. Tolkien states the work is not perfect.

To me it is the best fiction I have ever come across.

I am truly a fan of Tolkien and his works.



The love of God and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy ghost  
be with you all.