

IMPRESSION OF MYTHOLOGY AND THE WAR BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL IN THE WRITINGS OF J. R. R. TOLKEIN

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ABSTRACT

John Ronald Reuel Tolkein has been a world renowned writer who in his works provides the reader with fantasies. In the Lord of the Rings series he suggested that good and evil exists together. There has always been a war between them. Elements of mythology also appears in his writings.

Keywords: *Lord of the Rings, good, evil, war.*

I. INTRODUCTION

John Ronald Reuel Tolkein has been recognized as an author depicting mythology in his stories. Also, the impression of good and evil is seen. He has written the Lord of the Rings series during the world war II in the year..... as in many other books, Tolkein has depicted the never ending war between good and evil. He suggests that as there is light there is also darkness. He has shown the spreading darkness in the Middle-earth. Here, he has used darkness and shadow as the symbols of defeat, loss of hope and gloom. He also suggests that, the light may be hidden temporarily but after its return the shadow and darkness no longer survives. He was somewhere inspired by Homer.

II. DISCUSSION

J. R. R. Tolkein is a world renowned author. He is famous for many of his books like The Hobbit and lord of the Rings series. More than forty million copies of The Hobbit and more than one hundred and fifty millions copies of The Lord of the Rings have been sold. The Lord of the Rings book has now been adapted for the cinema. In cinemas also, the movies has been a great success. He is recognized as the one who has created a completely different world of Fantasy by his own style which has then influenced many authors. He created a new world from old mythologies, old folklore and others writings of the early Middle Ages. He was very intrested in languages and his work on old writings played an important role in the construction of his fantastic world. It seems that his story mostly revolve around The Hobbit. The other important characters are Gandalf, Frodo Baggins, Gollum, Saruman, Sam Gamgee, Bilbo Baggins, Legolas, Tom Bombadil, Thorin Oakensheild, Aragorn II Elessar, Galadriel, Boromir, Faramir, Gimli and Smaug. He depicted trolls, dwarves, elves, hobbits, dragon and many other characters. He has also in his writings given importance to symbols. He has used many

symbols for good and evil. As in many mythologies Tolkein has also shown a war between good and evil. In all his books he has also suggested that the war between good and evil is never ending. The evil will put all its efforts for defeating good, but, will never succeed. Here, the story begins with, Sauron emerging in Middle-earth and forging the Rings of Power to bring everything under his control. With the ring, he wanted to control the wills of free creatures. The evil continued to spread its wings in Middle – earth and along with it flourished the dark conditions. The source of light started diminishing over the different ages of Middle-earth. Along with light, hope and faith was also diminishing. Elven kingdoms in Beleriand, and Numenor has been defeated. The kingdom of Gondor was also targeted. Here, Tolkein, through the diminishing light expresses, the feeling of growing darkness and the feeling of defeat. For us, light is a source of energy, happiness and life. And by showing the spreading darkness, he wanted to give the sense that evil is also stronger. But, as we know, we, including Tolkein cannot deny the fact that evil can never win. Because, it is only the denial of the only truth, God. Tolkein has, in his book, again and again used the word, Shadow. Sauron has also been called as shadow. A shadow is hollow and without light it has no existence. A spreading shadow definitely expresses depression and hopelessness. But, by using the word shadow, he wanted to show that the evil is temporary and have no substance. The light may be hidden or blocked, allowing darkness to grow, but it cannot be destroyed. The moment it flows again, it immediately illuminates the world as brightly as before. But bringing the light back may be a very difficult and cumbersome process and it could also cost you many precious lives. After the ring was forged, it was lost by Sauron in a war. The ring found Gollum, who became the owner of the ring calling it by my precious. Eventually the ring went to Bilbo, who is the central hero of the book The Hobbit. Bilbo Baggins would always gets through obstacles by his talent and wisdom. In all the parts of the Lord of the Rings, we find the ring travelling. After Bilbo, it went to Frodo for whom the ring became his burden as he is the Ringbearer. Tolkein lets us inside Frodo's sufferings and most of the times, the story presents Frodo's point of view. His internal thoughts, his dreams, his sufferings and his sacrifices are shown by Tolkein. The threat of becoming a shadow like one of the Ringwraiths or Sauron himself is one thought that particularly menaces Frodo as he is the Ringbearer. After the Lord of the Nazgul injured Frodo with the Morgul-knife, Gandalf notices that Frodo is becoming slightly transparent. As the Ring's evil power becomes stronger near Mordor, this process of turning into a wraith becomes more strong— Frodo is becoming a shadow. Here the reader can feel that there is a very thin line between good and evil, but it is not a process that happens all at once but progresses gradually. He also suggests through Frodo's helplessness that we are also helpless before the evil influence. In the last battle Aragorn and Gandalf decided to fight the Enemy and his great forces right outside the Black Gate of Mordor — not from any naive notions of victory but to buy necessary time for Frodo to destroy the Ring in the fires of Mount Doom. They know that Frodo's chances of success are less and even if he succeed, they may not be alive to see it. They are certain of their death, still they are ready to fight. As in many mythologies we find that though good is less in number, its good only that is victorious at the end. Through his books, he may have depicted the contemporary war. Tolkien's attitudes toward war in The Lord of the Rings closely resembles the outlook that War is not good and the world is a dangerous place, and the forces of evil are everywhere and numerous. In his books, heroes such as Gandalf and Aragorn are far from certain about the success of their desperate venture to fight Sauron's total domination of Middle-earth. Tolkien's heroes fight with little assurance of victory in their particular struggle. They fight knowing that they must resist evil to preserve their world and to

remove darkness from the world, even with no guarantee of success. His book ends with victory of good over bad.

III. SIMPLE BIOGRAPHICAL FACTS OF J. R. R. TOLKEIN

1892 : January the 3rd, birth of John Ronald Reuel in Bloemfontein (Orange State, South Africa).

1895 : he arrives in England with his mother and his brother.

1896 : death of his father.

1904 : death of his mother.

1908 : meets Edith Bratt.

1916 : he marries Edith Bratt and joins the army. He fights in France and becomes ill.

1917 : beginning of " The Book of the Lost Tales ", abandoned in 1920. Birth of his first son, John.

1920 : birth of Michael.

1922 : he publishes " A Middle English Vocabulary ".

1924 : birth of Christopher. He is appointed professor at Leeds.

1925 : appointed professor of Anglo-Saxon at Oxford.

1926 : meets C.S.Lewis.

1929 : birth of Priscilla.

1937 : publication of " The Hobbit ". Unwin asks him to make a sequel, so he starts to write "The Lord of the Rings".

1945 : appointed professor of English literature and tongue at Merton College (Oxford).

1954 : publication of the two first volumes of " The Lord of the Rings ".

1955 : publication of the third and last volume.

1959-1965 : wrote several novels.

1973 : he dies at Bournemouth on September, the 2nd.

IV. CONCLUSION

Tolkein's books are all about battle between good and evil. His heroes are always shown as fighting with evil. All the characters in his book, though they may be hobbits, dwarfs, humans or any other creatures, they may be different but their ultimate goal is to fight with evil. Tolkien's heroes fight with little assurance of victory in their particular struggle. They fight knowing that they must resist evil to preserve their world and to remove darkness from the world, even with no guarantee of success. His book ends with victory of good over bad.

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