

# Fate, Free Will, Power and Friendship in JRR Tolkien's Select Works

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## Abstract

**JRR Tolkien was an English writer and philologist. A philologist is someone who studies language in the oral and written historical sources. Philology studies literary criticism, history, linguistics etc. Both oral and written records are studied then philology. John Ronald Reuel Tolkien depicts high fantasy. High fantasy is also known as Epic fantasy. It is a genre of fantasy where an epic nature is assigned to the characters, plot and themes. This paper studies some of the author's critically acclaimed works.**

**Keywords: JRR Tolkien, The Lord of The Rings, The Hobbit.**

## I. INTRODUCTION

JRR Tolkien was an English writer and philologist. A philologist is someone who studies language in the oral and written historical sources. Philology studies literary criticism, history, linguistics etc. Both oral and written records are studied then philology. John Ronald Reuel Tolkien depicts high fantasy. High fantasy is also known as Epic fantasy. It is a genre of fantasy where an epic nature is assigned to the characters, plot and themes. The opposite is low fantasy, in which the setting is usually earth. He also work on the genre of mythopoeia, which refers to fictionalised mythology. Tolkien's most famous works include *The Lord of The Rings* series and *The Hobbit*.

## II. THE LORD OF THE RINGS

*The Lord of The Rings* series are an epic and fantasy novels. The novel is set in Middle-earth. Middle-earth is the setting for several of JRR Tolkien's works. Middle-earth is a continent of earth, set in the past, as part of an imaginary period. Middle-earth's inhabitants include not only human beings, but also hobbits, dwarves, elves and ents. Ents are sentient beings on Middle-earth and their name translate to giant. They are based in Fangorn Forest, located near the Misty Mountains. The Lord of The Rings series was adopted for film. The first book is titled *The Fellowship Of The Ring*, which was published in 1954. The second book is titled *The Two Towers*, which was published in 1954. The third book is titled *The Return Of The King*, which was published in 1955.

The antagonist is Sauron, who is referred to as the Dark Lord. He had created the "One Ring" to rule over all manners of creatures and conquer Middle-earth. The mission is to destroy the One Ring. The central characters are Frodo, Sam, Merry and Pippin. Gandalf is a wizard also helps frodo. Other people on the mission include Aragorn, Boromir, Legolas (an elf), and Gimli (a dwarf). The ring can only be destroyed in the fire of Mount Doom. Faith, free will, power and friendship are the main themes.

## III. THE HOBBIT

*The Hobbit* is a fantasy novel that comes under children's literature. It was published in 1937 and gained critical acclaim. It is one of the bestselling books. The protagonist is Bilbo Baggins, a hobbit. He joins Gandalf, a wizard and thirteen dwarfs who belong to Thorin's company. Their mission is to reclaim their home and the treasure from Smaug. Smaug is a dragon and antagonist in the novel. One hundred and seventy one years prior to the current events of the novel, Smaug had invaded Erebor, the Dwarf Kingdom. He resides in a mountain which Thorin's company hope to claim.

The characters encounter new monsters and threats through the course of the novel. Bilbo also find a ring that enables one to have the power to be invisible. Initially, Bilbo lives in an underground home and has no interest in quests or adventures. Towards the end of the novel, Gandalf makes the men, elves and dwarves to form an alliance. The mountain belonging to the dwarves is called the Lonely Mountain. Smaug is shot by an archer named Bard. Bard shoots Smaug with a black arrow that had been in his family for generations. Towards the end of the novel, men dwarves and elves coexist peacefully. Faith, free will, power and friendship are the core themes.

## REFERENCES

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