

The Silmarillion Study Guide

The Silmarillion by J. R. R. Tolkien

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Contents

The Silmarillion Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	4
Ainulindale: The Music of the Ainur and Valaquenta.....	5
Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 1: Of the Beginning of Days and Chapter 2: Of Aule and Yavanna.....	7
Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 3: Of the Coming of the Elves and the Captivity of Melkor and Chapter 4: Of Thingol and Melian.....	9
Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 5: Of Eldamar and the Princes of the Eldalie and Chapter 6: Of Fëanor and the Unchaining of Melkor.....	11
Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 7: Of the Silmarils and the Unrest of the Noldor and Chapter 8: Of the Darkening of Valinor.....	13
Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 9: Of the Flight of the Noldor and Chapter 10: Of the Sindar.....	15
Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 11: Of the Sun and Moon & the Hiding of Valinor and Chapter 12: Of Men.....	17
Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 13: Of the Return of the Noldor and Chapter 14: Of Beleriand & Its Realms.....	18
Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 15: Of the Noldor in Beleriand and Chapter 16: Of Maeglin.....	20
Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 17: Of the Coming of Men into the West and Chapter 18: Of the Ruin of Beleriand and the Fall of Fingolfin.....	22
Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 19: Of Beren & Luthien and Chapter 20: Of the Fifth Battle: Nirnaeth Arnoediad.....	24
Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 21: Of Turin Turambar and Chapter 22: Of the Ruin of Doriath.....	27
Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 23: Of Tuor and the Fall of Gondolin and Chapter 24: Of the Voyage of Earendil and the War of Wrath.....	30
Akallabeth: The Downfall of Numenor.....	32
Of the Rings of Power and the Third Age.....	34



<u>Characters.....</u>	<u>36</u>
<u>Objects/Places.....</u>	<u>42</u>
<u>Themes.....</u>	<u>47</u>
<u>Style.....</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>Quotes.....</u>	<u>51</u>
<u>Topics for Discussion.....</u>	<u>54</u>

Plot Summary

The Silmarillion by J. R. R. Tolkien is a story of creation. Ea, the World that Is, is created, and the Valar prepare the way for the Children of Iluvatar. Along the way, the Valar and the Children of Iluvatar battle evil in the form of Melkor in order to survive and maintain good in Ea. The Silmarillion parallels the Christian story of creation in many ways but still manages to introduce its own mythology of the creation of the world and humanity.

Iluvatar creates the Ainur and reveals his plan of Ea. Some of the Ainur descend to Ea as Valar in order to prepare for the coming of Elves and Men. Melkor tries to rule but is thwarted in his design by Manwe. Melkor destroys Arda, and the Valar relocate to Valinor. Aule creates Dwarves, but Iluvatar sentences them to sleep until the Elves awake. The Elves awake, and Orome leads the Eldar to Valinor. Melkor is imprisoned. Melian and Thingol fall in love and rule Doriath. Feanor is born and creates the Silmarils shortly after Melkor is released from prison. Melkor causes discord between the Valar and the Eldar before destroying the Two Trees of Valinor and stealing the Silmarils. Feanor and his sons swear an oath that no one can possess the Silmarils. The Noldor depart from Valinor, killing some of the Teleri, and return to Middle-earth. The Valar create the Sun and the Moon.

There are many battles between the Eldar and Melkor, and Melkor kills Feanor. Turgon builds Gondolin, Aredhel grows bored and leaves, falls in love with Eol and bears Maeglin. Aredhel and Maeglin return to Gondolin. Men awake and are befriended by the Elves. Beren falls in love with Luthien and marries her after completing the quest of the Silmaril. When Beren dies, Luthien forsakes her immortality in order to be with him. The Sons of Feanor assault Thingol for possessing a Silmaril. Thingol raises Turin, who is captured by Orcs, rescued and marries Nienor, his sister. Turin kills Glarung who reveals Turin's identity to Nienor who kills herself. Turin also commits suicide when learning the identity of his wife. Morgoth learns the approximate location of Gondolin when he releases Hurin. Thingol has Dwarves place the Silmaril in the Nauglamir, but the Dwarves kill Thingol and steal the Nauglamir. Beren retrieves the Nauglamir. Tuor takes Ulmo's message to Turgon, but Turgon ignores it due to Maeglin, who betrays Gondolin to Morgoth. Tuor and Idril escape, and their son, Earendil, sails to Valinor to ask the Valar for help against Morgoth. The Valar defeat Morgoth and imprison him in the Timeless Void.

The Dunedain dwell in Numenor but begin to turn from the Valar and the Elves. Sauron gains control over the Numenoreans. The Valar destroy Numenor when Ar-Pharanzar wages war against the Valar. Elendil escapes from the ruin of Numenor and returns to Middle-earth. Sauron attempts to control the Elves through the Rings of Power, causing war between Sauron and the Elves. Elendil and Gil-galad form the Last Alliance, but Sauron kills them and is banished from his body for a time. When Sauron regains power, the Istari Wizards, messengers from the Valar, appear to help Elves and Men. The Istari find the Ring, and Sauron wages war, ending the Third Age in battle. Eventually, Men usurp Middle-earth, and the Elves return to Valinor.



Ainulindale: The Music of the Ainur and Valaquenta

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The great amongst the spirits on Ea are the Valar, the Powers of Arda. Melkor is not mentioned by the Valar. There are seven lords and seven queens or Valier, of which Manwe is the first of all kings. Manwe marries Varda. Ulmo is the Lord of the Waters and second only to Manwe. Ulmo loves Elves and Men. Aule is the lord of the substances of which Arda is made; he marries Yavanna, the Giver of Fruits. Namo is the Doomsman of the Valar and is married to Vaire, the weaver. Irmo, the master of visions and dreams, marries Este the Gentle, the healer of hurts and weariness. Nienna mourns and grieves. Tulkas, or Astaldo the Valiant, is the greatest of the Valar in strength and deeds, and he marries Nessa, the dancer. Orome is a great hunter but has uncontrollable anger; he is married to Vana, the Ever-Young. These are the eight High Ones of Arda. Other spirits of lesser degree also reside on Ea and are called Maiar. Of these, the most renowned are Osse, Uinen, Melian and Olorin. Osse is a vassal of Ulmo and is married to Uinen, the Lady of the Sea. Melian tends the trees, while Olorin is the wisest of the Maiar. Melkor is the enemy, and the Noldor name him Morgoth, the Dark

Enemy of the World. He falls because of his ambition to rule, but many are drawn to his splendor and evil ways, such as the Valarankar and Balrogs. Sauron, or Gorthaur the Cruel, is Melkor's second-in-command.

Ainulindale: The Music of the Ainur and Valaquenta Analysis

The first chapter, Ainulindale, serve as a creation story in which Iluvatar is the omnipotent being that creates the world, Ea. The Ainur or Valar are his servants, comparable to angels in Christianity. As the Ainur sing the theme that Iluvatar teaches them, Melkor's constant inputs do not harmonize with the other Ainur; this foreshadows his separation from the Valar. His continuation of causing chaos in the song demonstrates his persistence and self-will. Iluvatar reveals the world that he plans to the Ainur, foreshadowing the creation of Ea. His plans to create Elves and Men foreshadows the births of Elves and Men. Melkor's ambition foreshadows his attempts to usurp the power and the ruling of Ea. When Iluvatar reveals the Darkness which frightens the Ainur, it foreshadows the evil that will be introduced into the world, which appalls the Valar. The Valar's dedication to forming Ea in Iluvatar's image demonstrates their loyalty to Iluvatar. Melkor's attempt to rule and his subsequent waging of war foreshadows his position as the antagonist of the Valar. The Valar's hard work in preparing Ea for the Elves and Men prove and foreshadow their love for the Children of Iluvatar. Valaquenta reveals the Valar's power, specifically that of Manwe who rules the other Valar. The Valar are individualized in this chapter and their individual powers and dominions are explained. Melkor not being mentioned amongst the Valar demonstrates his separation from the others of his kind. The Maiar are introduced and described in this chapter as well. Melkor is renamed Morgoth, the Dark Enemy of the World, by the Noldor, foreshadowing the hatred the Noldor will bare Melkor. Sauron is also introduced in this chapter. The fact that the Valarankar and Balrogs are drawn to Melkor foreshadows their evil and sets up a dichotomy of Good versus Evil in Ea. The two sides are set up as armies with Manwe leading with Ulmo as his second-in-command on the side of Good, while Melkor leads with Sauron as his second-in-command on the side of Evil.

Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 1: Of the Beginning of Days and Chapter 2: Of Aule and Yavanna

Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 1: Of the Beginning of Days and Chapter 2: Of Aule and Yavanna Summary

The first war begins before Arda is fully shaped. Melkor has the upperhand until Tulkas comes to the aid of the Valar. The Valar brings order to Ea. Yavanna plants seeds, and Manwe places lamps at Illuin and Ormal. The Valar rest and have a great feast. Aule and Tulkas are weary. Melkor covets Arda and builds a fortress, Utumno. While Tulkas sleeps, Melkor attacks the Valar and mars the perfection of Arda, then flees. Since Melkor destroys the Valar's dwelling, they go to the Land of Aman and establish Valinor and build a city, Valmar. Yavanna sings to two saplings which grow into flowering trees, the Two Trees of Valinor. As the days of the Firstborn, the Elves, approach, Melkor still lurks about Ea. Manwe watches over all of Ea except what Melkor manages to hide in the shadows. Ulmo dwells alone in the Outer Ocean except when there is need of great council. Yavanna often goes to the Outer Lands to heal the ruin caused by Melkor. She urges the others to wage war against Melkor before the Firstborn arrive. Through the Valar's dedication, Ea becomes as the Children of Iluvatar, Elves and Men, know it. The Valar are destined to be the chieftains of Elves and Men, but they are closer to Elves than Men. Iluvatar knows that Men, the Secondborn, will stray because they resemble Melkor more than they do any of the Valar. Because of this, Men live on Ea a short time while Elves are immortal. When Aule makes the Seven Fathers of the Dwarves, Iluvatar chides him for creating life. Aule apologizes and offers to destroy his creation, but Iluvatar shows mercy, allowing them to remain but condemning them to sleep until the coming of the Firstborn. While waiting for the Firstborn to arrive, Aule makes the Dwarves stronger and causes them to live longer than most men though not forever like the Elves. Aule tells Yavanna, and she grieves that his children will not care for her animals and plants. Yavanna mentions her anxiety to Manwe who dwells on it in his sleep and learns from Iluvatar that Yavanna's favorites, the trees, will not be destroyed during the Firstborn's power or in the Secondborn's youth. Manwe tells Yavanna who warns Aule that his children must beware the avenging power in the woods.

Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 1: Of the Beginning of Days and Chapter 2: Of Aule and Yavanna Analysis

The distinction that the war which begins before Arda is fully shaped is the first war foreshadows the fact that there are more wars to follow. The fact that Melkor attacks the Valar while Tulkas is asleep shows that he fears Tulkas, which foreshadows Melkor's defeat at the hands of Tulkas. The destruction of the Valar's dwelling foreshadows the building of Valinor and Valmar in the Land of Aman. Melkor lurking about Ea shows that he intends mischief to the Children of Iluvatar. His ability to hide things in the shadows from the eyes of Manwe demonstrates Melkor's power and alludes to possible evil that he is preparing. Yavanna's urgings to wage war against Melkor before the Firstborn arrive shows her love for the Children of Iluvatar and foreshadows the war against Melkor. The fact that the Valar are more similar to Elves than Men and the fact that Men resemble Melkor more than any of the other Valar foreshadows Men's evil ways. Men's evil is designated as the reason that they are mortal, and this foreshadows Men's later abhorrence of death.

Aule's creation introduces the Dwarves to Ea. Iluvatar's reaction shows his mercy but also his desire to have his Children be the first to walk Ea. Yavanna's concern for her children demonstrates her maternal instinct and foreshadows the use of trees as gifts to the Children of Iluvatar, especially in light of her earlier creation of the Two Trees of Valinor. Iluvatar's promise that Yavanna's trees will not be destroyed during the Firstborn's power shows his benevolence and tolerance in humoring his Valar. Aule's disregard for Yavanna's warning shows his lack of concern for her trees and foreshadows the Dwarves' similar lack of concern.



Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 3: Of the Coming of the Elves and the Captivity of Melkor and Chapter 4: Of Thingol and Melian

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The Valar dwell in bliss, and Yavanna causes many things in the Spring of Arda to sleep while awaiting the coming of the Firstborn. Meanwhile, Melkor consolidates his strength and builds a fortress, Angband, which is commanded by Sauron. The Valar call a council because they are concerned about Melkor's power in the Outer Lands since the Firstborn will arrive soon. Varda sets stars in the skies to provide light to the Outer Lands, and as she finishes, the Firstborn awake. The Elder Children of Iluvatar are greater and stronger than the Younger Children. Orome finds the Elves by chance, but first Melkor learns of them and kidnaps some of them to breed as a new race which serves him out of fear, the Orcs. He blames these disappearances on Orome. Therefore, many of the Elves run when Orome appears. Manwe calls council to determine how to protect the Elves from Melkor's shadows, and the Valar wage war against Melkor, during which Tulkas defeats and binds Melkor. There is peace for a long age, but the Valar did not find Sauron or all of Melkor's evil creatures. Melkor sues for a pardon, which is denied, and Manwe sentences him to imprisonment in Mandos for three ages. The Valar debate whether to let the Elves roam free on Middle-earth because some fear for the Firstborn's safety amidst the shadows. The Valar summon the Elves, who are afraid of all of the Valar except Orome. Orome brings as many of the Elves as possible to Cuiviene, but they are sundered. Those which follow Orome are called the Eldar, while the others are the Avari. The Eldar follow Orome and are afraid when he leaves them to tend to other things. Orome leaves the Elves at the shores of the Great Sea and asks Manwe's council. The host of the Teleri dwells beyond the River Gelion for a great while. Melian, the Maia, is very wise and has a beautiful voice. Elwe, an Elf, hears her song, and an enchantment ensnares him, causing him to forget his people for a while. His people cannot find him and crown Olwe as King of the Teleri. Melian and Elwe rule a realm together and have the fairest of all of Iluvatar's children that ever were or ever shall be. Elwe is known as King Greymantle or Elu Thingol, and his Elves are known as the Grey Elves or Sindar.



Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 3: Of the Coming of the Elves and the Captivity of Melkor and Chapter 4: Of Thingol and Melian Analysis

Yavanna causing many things to sleep while awaiting the coming of the Firstborn demonstrates that she means for her creations to be enjoyed by the Children of Iluvatar. Melkor's consolidation of his strength and his building a fortress foreshadows his attacks on the Firstborn. The fact that Sauron commands Angband demonstrates his closeness to Melkor and foreshadows his later involvement in the evil that plagues Ea. Varda's stars demonstrate her love for the Children of Iluvatar and foreshadow the creation of the sun and the moon. Melkor's cunning is demonstrated by his plot of causing the Elves to fear Orome, but while some of the Elves run, others show their bravery by facing their fear of the hunter. Melkor kidnaps some of the Elves and breeds the Orcs, foreshadowing the Orcs' many attacks upon the other Elves. Council is called to determine how to protect the Elves, which foreshadows the war against Melkor while demonstrating the Valar's love for the Firstborn. Tulkas defeats Melkor, fulfilling the foreshadowing that occurred during Melkor's reign of terror. The fact that Melkor is only sentenced for three ages foreshadows his return. The Valar's debate about whether to allow the Elves to roam free on Middle-earth foreshadows their later decision to call all of the Elves back to Valinor. The separation of the Elves into the Eldar and the Avari foreshadows the many subsequent Sunderings.

Elwe's enchantment by Melian foreshadows his life with her. This causes Olwe to be crowned in Elwe's place since his people cannot find him. The description of Melian and Elwe ruling the fairest children of Iluvatar suggests Melian and Elwe's immense beauty. Elwe's additional names become better known than his own, and he is most frequently referred to as King Thingol henceforth. Melian and Elwe's realm is separated from the other Elves' realm, providing evidence of a further Sundering of the Elves.



Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 5: Of Eldamar and the Princes of the Eldalie and Chapter 6: Of Feanor and the Unchaining of Melkor

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Ulmo takes the Eldarto Valinor on an island, half of which breaks off, becoming the Isle of Balar. The Teleri remain in Middle-earth ruled by Olwe. The Teleri become enamored of the seas. Elwe and Melian return to his people. The Teleri beg Ulmo to stay their voyage, so he fastens the island to the foundations of the sea, creating Tol Eressea, the Lonely Island. A gap is made in the great walls of Pelori for the Vanyar and Noldor to see the stars. The Elves erect a high hill, Tuna, and build a city, Tirion, on the top of it. Yavanna makes the Elves a tree called Galathilion. The Elves find earth-gems, which enriches all of Valinor. The Noldor return to Middle-earth with their king, Finwe. After a long age, the Teleri comes at last to the land of Aman with Osse's help in creating ships. The Vanyar love the land of the Valar and abandon Tirion to dwell on Manwe's mountain. Finwe rules Tirion, Olwe rules Alqualonde, but Ingwe, the High King of the Elves, abides at the feet of Manwe on Taniquetil. Except Melkor's evil creatures, all living things abide in the land of Aman. Feanor, the Spirit of Fire, is born. Miriel, his mother, has a difficult labor and says she will be unable to have any more children. Finwe grieves, and Manwe delivers Miriel to Irmo's care. Miriel sleeps, and her spirit leaves her body in her sleep. Finwe gives all his love to Feanor who grows swiftly in mind and body but has a secret fire within him. Feanor marries Nerdanel who tries to restrain him, but eventually the couple becomes estranged. Nerdanel bears seven sons to Feanor. Finwe marries a second wife, Indis, but this displeases Feanor. Three ages pass and Melkor is released. Melkor begs pardon while secretly postponing his vengeance. At first, Melkor is not permitted to wander beyond the Valar's watch, but his words persuade Manwe of his reformation. Later, Melkor claims that he taught Feanor evil, but Feanor is driven only by the fire of his own heart.



Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 5: Of Eldamar and the Princes of the Eldalie and Chapter 6: Of Feanor and the Unchaining of Melkor Analysis

The Valar desiring the Eldar to travel to Valinor shows their love for the Eldar and foreshadows the eventual settlement of the Eldar in Valinor. The Teleri remaining in Middle-earth demonstrates another sundering of the Elves. The Teleri's love for the sea foreshadows their being taught how to build ships. The gap made in the walls of Pelori for the Noldor and Vanyar to view the stars demonstrates the Valar's consideration for the Firstborn. The creation of Galathilion is the first fulfillment of the foreshadowing of Yavanna's gifts of trees to the Elves. The Elves' discovery of earth-gems foreshadows the creation of the Silmarils. It is ironic that the Teleri are the Elves that stay in Middle-earth, and though they are the last Elves to arrive in the Land of Aman, they remain there the longest. The foreshadowing of the Teleri learning to build ships is fulfilled when Osse teaches them to build ships in order for them to sail to the Land of Aman. The fact that Ingwe, the High King of the Elves, abides at the feet of Manwe shows his subservience while demonstrating the love and harmony between the Valar and the Elves. The mention of Melkor's evil creatures being the only living things in Middle-earth foreshadows the corruption of Middle-earth.

Feanor's birth, especially including the pain of Miriel's labor, foreshadows his evil deeds and the grief he causes the other Elves. Finwe's love for Feanor contributes to Feanor's displeasure when his father remarries. The estrangement of the fiery Feanor and the peaceful Nerdanel emphasizes Feanor's temper, but the birth of their seven sons foreshadows the deeds of the Sons of Feanor. Melkor's release foreshadows the additional mischief he causes. Melkor's claim that he taught Feanor evil shows Melkor's pride. Feanor's naming him Morgoth, the Enemy of the World demonstrates his hate for Melkor and foreshadows the events that lead up to Feanor naming him such.



Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 7: Of the Silmarils and the Unrest of the Noldor and Chapter 8: Of the Darkening of Valinor

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Feanor adds light from the Trees of Valinor to three earth-gems, creating the highly-prized Silmarils. Melkor covets the Silmarils and plots to ruin the relationship between the Elves and the Valar. Elves, especially Feanor, desire freedom. When Feanor openly rebels against the Valar, Finwe calls a council where Fingolfin appeals to his father to restrain Feanor. Feanor arrives and draws his sword, threatening Fingolfin. The Valar summon Feanor to court where they learn of Melkor's malice. The Valar sentence Feanor to seven years of banishment from Valinor, and Finwe returns to Middle-earth with his son where they build Formenos. Simultaneously, Tulkas searches for Melkor to punish him for instigating discord between the Valar and the Elves, but Melkor hides from Tulkas. Melkor goes to Feanor, offering help in hiding the Silmarils from the Valar. Feanor considers, but his hate for Melkor overcomes his fear of losing the Silmarils. Melkor hides where no one can find him. Manwe and Tulkas search to the north for Melkor in vain, but Melkor travels south to Ungoliant's abode, where he gains her assistance in his revenge against the Valar. Melkor and Ungoliant sneak into the Land of Aman during a feast. Finwe is not present at the feast, but Feanor, in response to Manwe's summons, is present at the feast and is reconciled to Fingolfin. Melkor and Ungoliant kill the Two Trees of Valinor, creating Darkness in Valinor. The Valar are unable to find him Melkor.

Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 7: Of the Silmarils and the Unrest of the Noldor and Chapter 8: Of the Darkening of Valinor Analysis

The creation of the Silmarils foreshadows the events that occur as a result of the Silmarils while the use of light from the Trees of Valinor foreshadows the destruction of the trees. Feanor's infatuation with the Silmarils foreshadows his demise as a result of his lust and greed. Melkor's rumors demonstrate his return to evil and foreshadow the

Elves' departure from Valinor. When Melkor turns Feanor and Fingolfin against one another, it foreshadows the division among the Noldor. Feanor's drawing her sword against Fingolfin foreshadows the kinslaying of the Teleri. Melkor's approach to Feanor shows his cunning and daring while his anger shows his pride. Manwe and Tulkas' search to the north is ironic since Melkor went to the south. Melkor's alliance with Ungoliant foreshadows the destruction of the Two Trees of Valinor. The destruction occurring during a feast of celebration is repetitive of the last time that Melkor attacked the Valar. Finwe's absence from the feast foreshadows his death.



Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 9: Of the Flight of the Noldor and Chapter 10: Of the Sindar

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The Valar mourn because of the death of the Two Trees of Valinor. The only light left from the trees lives in Feanor's Silmarils, which Feanor refuses to relinquish. The Valar receive news from Formenos that Melkor has ransacked the fortress, killed Finwe and stolen all the jewels, including the Silmarils. Feanor curses Melkor and the summons from Manwe that prevented him being at Formenos when Melkor attacked. The Doom of the Noldor draws near. Elsewhere, Ungoliant tries to take the Silmarils from Melkor, but she flees when his great cry summons all his evil creatures that have been waiting his return. Henceforth, Melkor wears the Silmarils in his crown, inspiring fear in all. Feanor speaks to the Noldor in order to entice them to leave the Valar and return to Cuivinien. Feanor and his sons take an oath to pursue any who take the Silmarils from them. Fingolfin and Finarfin speak out against the idea, causing dissent among their sons and the Eldar, most of whom follow Fingolfin while only some follow Feanor, and very few stay in Valinor. The Valar are sad that the Eldar are leaving. Manwe sends a message that though the Valar will not prevent the Eldar from leaving, they disapprove of their intentions. Manwe also banishes Feanor from Valinor yet again. As the Eldar leave, Finarfin and Finrod look back at Valinor, mourning their decision. Feanor asks the Teleri to join them in their return to Middle-earth, but the Teleri refuse to even help them build ships, attempting to dissuade them from their departure. Feanor tries to steal the Teleri's ships and a battle ensues. The Teleri lose and many are slain, grieving Uinen who causes the sea to plague the Noldor as a punishment. Mandos appears and speaks the Prophecy of the North, a sentence of doom upon the Noldor for the kinslaying. Finarfin returns to the Blessed Realm with some of the Eldar and obtains pardon as the others continue. Feanor and his faction cross the sea in the Teleri's ships, but instead of sending the ships back to Fingolfin and his followers, Feanor burns the ship, forsaking his half-brother and the other Noldor. Fingolfin angrily determines to get to Middle-earth, which he does after much suffering and hardship.

The power of King Thingol and Melian increases in Middle-earth, and their people, the Sindar, are deemed the most fair, wise, and skilled Elves of Middle-earth. During the first age of Melkor's imprisonment, Thingol and Melian have one child, Luthien. During the second age, the Dwarves arrive and befriend the Sindar, and when Melian counsels Thingol that the peace will not last, he has the Dwarves build a stronghold for the Sindar. In the third age, the Dwarves create arms for the Sindar after warning that evil creatures wander about the woods. Denethor, the son of Lenwe, fears the evil creatures



and leads his people to Thingol's land for safety. Thingol welcomes them as long lost kin. The peace of Middle-earth ends; Melkor gathers a force of Orcs and attacks the Sindar. The Sindar win on the east, but Denethor is killed when they lose on the west. Melian erects a girdle to keep intruders out of her and Thingol's lands. This occurs at the same time that Feanor crosses the sea and burns the ships.

Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 9: Of the Flight of the Noldor and Chapter 10: Of the Sindar Analysis

The foreshadowing of the death of the Two Trees of Valinor is fulfilled when Melkor kills the two trees. Through the death of the Two Trees of Valinor, the importance of Feanor's Silmarils is revealed since it is now the only light left from the trees. The report that Formenos has been sacked and Finwe killed fulfills the foreshadowing of Finwe's death and Melkor's possession of the Silmarils. Feanor cursing Manwe's summons foreshadows his separation from the Valar. When Ungoliant attempts to take the Silmarils from Melkor, Melkor's cry summons his evil creatures, which foreshadows Melkor's rising. Fingolfin speaking out against Feanor's plans to leave the Valar is repetitive of their earlier disputes. The Elves leave Valinor, foreshadowing hardship for them in Middle-earth. The Teleri's refusal to help the Eldar leave Valinor foreshadows the kinslaying, which further foreshadows the hardships the Eldar face in Middle-earth. Mandos' appearance and recital of the Prophecy of the North foreshadows the doom of the Noldor. Feanor's burning of the ships further heightens the discord among the Noldor. Fingolfin's determination foreshadows his eventual arrival in Middle-earth.

The power of the Sindar foreshadows their importance in the events that occur in Middle-earth. Luthien, King Thingol and Melian's only daughter is introduced. The friendship between the Sindar and the Dwarves provides an example of the many alliances that occur throughout the novel. The Dwarves create a stronghold and weapons for the Sindar, foreshadowing the many wars that the Sindar face. Thingol's welcome of Denethor as long lost king demonstrates the importance of kinship to Thingol and foreshadows his anger at the Eldar for the kinslaying of the Teleri. The Orcs' attacks on the Sindar foreshadows the wars that occur between the Elves and Melkor. The erection of Melian's girdle foreshadows the isolation of Thingol and Melian's realm.



Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 11: Of the Sun and Moon & the Hiding of Valinor and Chapter 12: Of Men

Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 11: Of the Sun and Moon & the Hiding of Valinor and Chapter 12: Of Men Summary

The Valar mourn the loss of the Two Trees of Valinor and the departure of Fëanor and the Eldar. They consider redress for Melkor's evils, but do not determine anything yet. The Valar take a bough from Telperion and fruit from Laurelin and set them in the sky, creating the sun and the moon in order to give light to Middle-earth. They worry about the Men who will arrive soon. Melkor is angry about the light because he is unable to bear the sun. He tries to attack the moon but fails, causing him to lose some of his power and become more closely bound to Ea. The Valar, remembering Melkor's destruction of Almaren, refortify Valinor, leaving only one pass open for the Eldar to use. Men awake, but they fear the Valar. The Elves befriend Men, and they live in harmony. The Elves and Men ally themselves in battle against Melkor, but many die. Men die much easier than Elves, mainly due to their mortality. Men become estranged from Elves and eventually usurp the sunlight.

Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 11: Of the Sun and Moon & the Hiding of Valinor and Chapter 12: Of Men Analysis

The Valar's mourning over the departure of the Eldar demonstrates the Valar's love for the Eldar. The sun and the moon are created in this chapter, and Melkor's aversion to the light is revealed, symbolizing his penchant for evil or darkness. Men wake, paralleling the awakening of the Elves. Men also fear the Valar as the Elves did at first. Elves and Men become friends and ally themselves against Melkor, but the mortality of Men is ordained by Ilúvatar, and this creates an estrangement between the Elves and Men, foreshadowing the Last Alliance and the return of the Noldor to Valinor.

Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 13: Of the Return of the Noldor and Chapter 14: Of Belleriand & Its Realms

Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 13: Of the Return of the Noldor and Chapter 14: Of Belleriand & Its Realms Summary

When Feanor burns the ships, Morgoth sees the flames. The Orcs attack the Noldor, but the Noldor are victorious. Feanor follows the Orcs' retreat, hoping to be taken to Morgoth. The Balrogs attack Feanor, and his sons save him, but the injuries Feanor sustains lead to his death. He dies, cursing Morgoth three times and holding his sons to their oath and revenge against Morgoth. The Grey Elves befriend the Noldor. Morgoth offers to give Maedhros a Silmaril, but instead captures him and hangs him by his wrist from a rock. Fingolfin's people arrive to the settlement of the Noldor. Fingon searches for Maedhros. Manwe's eagle carries Fingon up to the rock where Maedhros hangs, and Fingon cuts Maedhros' hand off in order to free him. Fingolfin rules as the king of the Noldor. King Thingol refuses to permit the Noldor to live in his lands. The people of Caranthir ally themselves with the Dwarves. Twenty years later, there is a great feast during which the Elves swear friendship. Thirty years later, Turgon and Finrod journey south, and Ulmo sends them foreboding dreams, causing Finrod to build Nargothrond and Turgon to build Gondolin. Morgoth's Orcs attack the Noldor, but Fingolfin and Maedhros defeat the Orcs. The Elves band closer as Morgoth captures as many Eldar as possible and Morgoth learns of the dissension amongst the Elves. The Orcs attack Fingolfin but are defeated, and Morgoth realizes that the unaided Orcs are no match for the Noldor. One of Morgoth's young dragons, Glaurung, challenges and is beaten by Fingon, angering Morgoth because Glaurung showed himself too soon. The Elves build settlements and form alliances but hear little news from the east of Belleriand.

Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 13: Of the Return of the Noldor and Chapter 14: Of Belleriand & Its Realms Analysis

Morgoth seeing the flames from the burning ships foreshadows the Orcs' attack against the Noldor. The Noldor's victory foreshadows the eventual triumph of good over evil. Feanor follows the Orcs' retreat in hopes of being taken to Morgoth, revealing his pride and foreshadowing his death, which is fulfilled when Morgoth kills him. Feanor curses Morgoth three times and holds his sons to their oath, foreshadowing their continual

search for the Silmarils and their resulting demise. Morgoth's offer to give Maedhros a Silmaril foreshadows Morgoth's evil intent. Fingolfin's arrival further illustrates the division among the Noldor, but Fingon's hope of healing the feud by finding Maedhros foreshadows Maedhros' rescue and assists in reconciling the Noldor. King Thingol's refusal to allow the Noldor to dwell in his lands demonstrates his wariness and his concern for himself and his people. The sons of Feanor are offended and depart, showing pride that resembles that of their father. The alliances with Dwarves begin when the people of Caranthir ally themselves with the Dwarves. Alliances continue when the Elves swear friendship to one another. Ulmo sends dreams to Turgon and Finrod on their journey south, foreshadowing the building of Nargothrond and Gondolin. Morgoth's Orcs are again defeated when they attack the Noldor, a repetitious event that occurs throughout the novel, but one which leads Morgoth to realize that the unaided Orcs are no match for the Noldor, foreshadowing the addition of leaders in his army. Young Glaurung's challenge to Fingon foreshadows his later use to Morgoth as an adult. The Elves continue to build cities and settle in Middle-earth.



Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 15: Of the Noldor in Beleriand and Chapter 16: Of Maeglin

Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 15: Of the Noldor in Beleriand and Chapter 16: Of Maeglin Summary

Turgon secretly builds Gondolin in the hidden vale, but Ulmo warns him of the Doom of Mandos. Galadriel tells Melian about the Silmarils and Feanor's vengeance and warns Thingol against trusting the sons of Feanor too much. Due to Morgoth's rumors, King Thingol chides Finrod for the kinslaying of the Teleri, and Thingol banishes them temporarily. Turgon's sister, Aredhel, grows bored of Gondolin and wants to leave. Turgon agrees that she may go to Fingon in Hithlum, but when she departs, she decides to seek the sons of Feanor. Thingol will not allow her to pass through the girdle, and Aredhel gets separated from her escorts who return to Gondolin. Aredhel gets lost and encounters Eol who falls in love. Eol and Aredhel marry and have a son, Maeglin. Aredhel tells Maeglin stories about Turgon and Gondolin. Eol forbids Maeglin to go to Gondolin or to meet the sons of Feanor since Eol hates the Noldor. When Eol attends a feast hosted by the Dwarves, Maeglin and Aredhel depart from their home and head toward Gondolin. Eol returns early and angrily pursues them. Aredhel and Maeglin reach Gondolin, and Turgon is very pleased with his sister's son. Eol arrives and is brought before Turgon for judgment. Turgon treats Eol with much honor, but Eol hates the Noldor more than ever and demands that Maeglin return home with him. Turgon gives Eol and Maeglin the choice of living or dying at Gondolin. Eol throws a javelin at Maeglin, but Aredhel blocks it and eventually dies from the blow. Turgon has Eol cast from a precipice. Maeglin prospers in Gondolin, but although he loves Turgon's daughter, Idril, he is not permitted to marry such a near relation.

Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 15: Of the Noldor in Beleriand and Chapter 16: Of Maeglin Analysis

The building of Gondolin fulfills the foreshadowing in the previous chapter, while Ulmo's warning of the Doom of Mandos foreshadows the fall of Gondolin. The secrecy concerning Gondolin foreshadows Melkor's search and discovery of the hidden city. King Thingol's anger with the Noldor for the kinslaying of the Teleri demonstrates his loyalty to his own kin. Aredhel's boredom in Gondolin foreshadows her departure and the events that occur once she departs. Her decision to seek the sons of Feanor, despite Turgon's mandate that she is not permitted to do so, shows her strong will and

independence. When Aredhel is separated from her escorts, it appears foreboding and foreshadows Turgon's concern for his sister. She grows bored waiting for Celegorms, repeating her earlier boredom in Gondolin. Aredhel's encounter with Eol foreshadows their marriage and the birth of Maeglin. Aredhel tells Maeglin stories of Turgon and Gondolin, creating a yearning for his mother's people, which Eol tries to undermine because of his hate for the Noldor. Maeglin's suggestion to leave home while his father is away shows the deceitfulness in his character and foreshadows his later deception and betrayal of Gondolin to Melkor. Turgon shows his character in giving Eol honor as his brother-in-law while Eol shows his evil in his rejection of Turgon's civilities. When Turgon gives Eol and Maeglin the choice of living or dying at Gondlin, Eol attempts to kill his son, showing his disdain for the Noldor, but Aredhel blocks the javelin from striking Maeglin and is killed by her demonstration of love for her son. In retribution, Turgon kills Eol, but Maeglin's prosperity in Gondolin foreshadows his conceit and arrogance. Maeglin's unrequited love for Idril foreshadows his betrayal of Gondolin to Melkor when Melkor uses Idril as a prize for the betrayal.



Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 17: Of the Coming of Men into the West and Chapter 18: Of the Ruin of Beleriand and the Fall of Fingolfin

Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 17: Of the Coming of Men into the West and Chapter 18: Of the Ruin of Beleriand and the Fall of Fingolfin Summary

At Men's first appearance, Melkor corrupts them with darkness, and Men move west to avoid the dark. Felagund accidentally encounters Men and abides with them, playing music and teaching them wisdom, in return for which they are loyal to him. Eventually, Felagund returns home to his people, and Beor joins him. King Thingol refuses to allow Men to enter Doriath. Some Men have dissensions with the Elves and return east. Morgoth plots against Men, ordering the Orcs to attack Halad and his men. Halad and his son die, but his daughter, Haleth, takes the remainder of the people to Brethil where she lives until her death. Eventually, Beor dies, causing the Eldar to wonder at Men's short life spans. Fingolfin is the only Elf who wants to attack Morgoth during the time of peace so the idea is forgotten until Morgoth attacks. Glaurung commands Morgoth's troops. The Elves and their allies are sundered. Fingolfin challenges Morgoth, and Morgoth kills Fingolfin. Morgoth attacks Barahir, killing the men and causing the women to flee. Meanwhile, Sauron captures the western pass. Morgoth tries to turn Men against the Noldor, but the Swarthy Men ally themselves with Maedhros. The Sindar help Maedhros defeat the Orcs. Two Men, Hurin and Huor travel to Gondolin where Turgon receives them kindly due to Ulmo's advice. Hurin and Huor want to leave, and Turgon allows them to depart once they swear never to reveal the secret of Gondolin. Hurin and Huor keep the secret of Gondolin, but Galdor guesses at the truth, and the news reaches Morgoth. Turgon sends messengers to Valinor to ask the Valar for help in vain. Morgoth sends spies to learn about Turgon and Gondolin. Fingon and the Eldar defeat the Orcs, and Hurin serves Fingon.



Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 17: Of the Coming of Men into the West and Chapter 18: Of the Ruin of Beleriand and the Fall of Fingolfin Analysis

Felagund's encounter with Men and his mentoring to them foreshadows the alliances that occur between Elves and Men. Melkor corrupts Men at their first appearance, foreshadowing the evil of Men. Also, Men move west to avoid the dark which demonstrates that they have a natural aversion to evil. The dissensions between Elves and Men foreshadow the estrangement that occurs when Men envy the Elves' immortality. Halad's death demonstrates the hatred that Morgoth has toward Men. When the Eldar ponder at Men's short life spans, it foreshadows Men's jealousy of the Elves' immortality, which leads to the estrangement between the Firstborn and Secondborn Children of Iluvatar.

Fingolfin's desire to attack Morgoth during the time of peace proves Fingolfin's wisdom and foreshadows Morgoth's attack as well as Fingolfin's death. The war between the Elves and Morgoth is repetitive and parallels the other wars. Glaurung is introduced as an adult as the commander of Morgoth's troops. The Elves and Men are separated in the war. Fingolfin demonstrates his bravery by challenging Morgoth to single combat. Fingolfin's death fulfills the foreshadowing that occurred earlier in the chapter. Turgon building a cairn over his father's body demonstrates his respect and piety. Morgoth's attack on Barahir shows his intent to corrupt Men. It foreshadows the Great Battle when Sauron captures the western pass. The cooperation between Maedhros, the Sindar and the Swarthy Men show the alliances that have been made and the mutual hatred for Morgoth. Turgon permits Herin and Huor to leave Gondolin, which shows his love and respect for the two Men. The fact that the news of their journey reaches Morgoth foreshadows Morgoth's discovery of Gondolin. Turgon sends messengers to ask the Valar for help, but the messengers are lost. This symbolizes the Valar's malcontent with the Eldar and their lack of intent to help them while simultaneously demonstrating the Eldar's realization of their errors and desire for forgiveness. The spies that Morgoth sends to learn about Turgon and Gondolin foreshadow the discovery and defeat of Gondolin.



Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 19: Of Beren & Luthien and Chapter 20: Of the Fifth Battle: Nirnaeth Arnoediad

Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 19: Of Beren & Luthien and Chapter 20: Of the Fifth Battle: Nirnaeth Arnoediad Summary

Morgoth commands Sauron to find and destroy Barahir and his outlaws. Gorlim, one of Barahir's companions, searches for Eilinel, his lost wife, and this becomes known to Morgoth who tricks Gorlim into believing Eilinel is still alive. Gorlim reveals Barahir's hiding place before killing the traitor. The Orcs attack and slay Barahir and all his men except one, Barahir's son, Beren, who is on an errand at the time. Beren has a foreboding dream and attempts to warn his father too late. He returns home, buries his father's bones and swears vengeance. Beren kills the captain of the Orcs who boasts of killing Barahir. For four years, Beren wanders about Dorthoinian alone until an army of Orcs chase him and he decides to search for the Hidden Kingdom. He is enchanted by Luthien, the daughter of Thingol and Melian. She also falls in love with him, but Thingol becomes very angry when he discovers their love. Thingol says Beren can marry Luthien if he retrieves a Silmaril. Beren tells King Felagund about his quest. King Felagund joins Beren, and they search for Morgoth in disguise. Sauron captures them and strips them of their disguises, but he cannot discover their names or purposes. Sauron casts them into a pit where Felagund does his best to protect Beren. Meanwhile, Luthien escapes from her father in order to help Beren, and Huan and Curufin, who are on a hunt, find Luthien. Curufin decides to capture her and force Thingol to give her to Celegorm in marriage, but Huan helps her escape to search for Beren. When Luthien sings, Beren hears her and responds. Sauron also hears and, planning to capture Luthien, sends wolves after her, but Huan slays the wolves. Sauron goes to capture Luthien himself, but she enchants him and threatens to strip him of his flesh unless he yields mastery of the tower to Luthien. Luthien frees Beren. On their journey, Luthien and Beren are assaulted by Curufin and Celegorm, but Huan helps Luthien and Beren escape. Beren commits Luthien to Huan's care and leaves to fulfill his oath to retrieve a Silmaril. Beren grieves when Luthien follows him because he does not want her in Morgoth's shadows. Luthien sings and puts the guard of Morgoth's fortress, Carcharoth, to sleep. Luthien and Beren enter the fortress, and Morgoth lusts after Luthien. She sings, putting him to sleep also. Beren retrieves a Silmaril, but when he tries to take the others, Morgoth moves in his sleep, and Beren and Luthien flee. Unfortunately, Carcharoth is awake and bites off Beren's hand with the Silmaril still in it. Luthien sucks the venom from Beren's wound, but the hosts of Morgoth awake as Carcharoth screams in agony due to the light of the Silmaril. Three birds appear and



take Luthien and Beren to a dell where Beren is healed before returning Luthien to King Thingol who has been searching for her. Thingol allows Beren to marry his daughter. When Carcharoth wanders about the lands, causing problems, Beren, Thingol and Huan search for Carcharoth. Huan kills Carcharoth and the Silmaril is retrieved, but Huan and Beren are slain in the battle. Luthien's spirit leaves her body, and she begs Mandos to be with Beren. Mandos gives her the choice of going to Valinor or forsaking immortality and returning to Middle-earth as a mortal with Beren. Mortal Luthien and Beren return to Middle-earth.

Luthien and Beren depart to Tol Galen where they have a child, Dior Aranel the beautiful. Because of Beren's assault against Morgoth, Maedhros knows that Morgoth is not unassailable, so he gathers armies. Celegorm and Curufin vow to slay Thingol and his people if they do not relinquish the Silmaril, but Thingol refuses. Maedhros and his troops free Dorthonion from the Orcs for a while, and Maedhros challenges Morgoth, who accepts the challenge. Turgon sends an army of ten thousand from Gondolin. The captain of the Orcs in the west tries to draw Fingon out, but his challenge goes unanswered. The Orcs slay Gelmir in sight of his brother, Gwindor who rides out in a rage with the rest of the army joining him, including Fingon. They slay the guards at the doors of Angband, but they are trapped there and all are slain except Gwindor who is taken alive. The Eldar are winning until Morgoth looses all the remaining host of Angband, who separate the armies of Maedhros and Fingon. Ulfang leads a host of Men to turn on the sons of Feanor, killing none but injuring all. Naugrim and his brood withstand fire best. Azaghal drives a knife into Glaurung's belly, causing the brood of Angband to flee, before Glaurung kills Azaghal. The Dwarves bear Azaghal away and cease battling. Fingon is killed, and Hurin and Huor convince Turgon to flee while he is alive since he is the last remaining hope of the Elves. Huor is killed, but Hurin is taken alive at Morgoth's command. Morgoth's triumph is great: the Elves are estranged from Men, the realm of Fingon no longer exists, the sons of Feanor wander about, and the Orcs and wolves roam freely. Turgon has seven ships made by Cirdan and sends messengers to the Valar, but only one messenger survives, Voronwe. Morgoth tortures Hurin in vain to betray Turgon.

Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 19: Of Beren & Luthien and Chapter 20: Of the Fifth Battle: Nirnaeth Arnoediad Analysis

Gorlim shows himself to be a traitor when he betrays Barahir's hiding place to Morgoth. His treachery is in vain since Eilinel is already dead. Beren's absence from home saves his life and can be viewed as fate. His foreboding dream that causes him to rush home can be seen as a sign from the Valar and a symbol that the Valar have not completely forsaken Middle-earth. Beren kills the captain of the Orcs in vengeance, a common theme of the novel. Beren is enchanted by Luthien when he sees her, a circumstance that parallels Thingol's earlier enchantment when he first saw Melian. Thingol's anger can be seen as a form of racism since he disapproves of Beren marrying Luthien because Beren is a Man. Beren's quest is a sort of death wish since, up to this point, it



has been completely impossible to retrieve a Silmaril. Felagund shows his loyalty by assisting Beren in his quest and attempting to protect the Man from Morgoth's creatures. Luthien's beauty can be seen in the many people who fall in love with her and mean to capture her. Her power is seen in her ability to enchant Sauron and Morgoth. Huan shows loyalty to Luthien and Beren by helping them escape but disloyalty to Curufin and Celegorm in the same act. Beren's love for Luthien is demonstrated in his desire to protect her from Morgoth's shadow, which is ironic since, without her, his mission would be unsuccessful. Thingol grants Beren permission to marry Luthien because he fulfilled his quest: the Silmaril is in his hand; unfortunately, his hand is in Carcharoth's stomach. The retrieval of the Silmaril ironically causes Beren's death since he was able to avoid death when retrieving it from Morgoth. Luthien begs Mandos to allow her to be with Beren, showing her love and loyalty, especially when she chooses to return to Middle-earth as a mortal.

Beren's assault against Morgoth foreshadows other attacks against the fortress, which is fulfilled when Maedhros attempts to challenge Morgoth. Thingol shows pride in refusing to relinquish the Silmaril to Celegorm and Curufin. Turgon's participation in the battle is unexpected because of his absence from Elven life for such a long time and signals his return to their society. Gwindor's capture by the Orcs foreshadows his later return to other parts of Middle-earth. Fingon's death demonstrates the dissipation of the Firstborn. Hurin and Huor urge Turgon to flee, showing their concern for the Eldar. Hurin is taken alive by Morgoth, which foreshadows his accidental betrayal of the location of Gondolin. Ulfang and his Men turn on the Elves, foreshadowing the estrangement of the Elves and Men. Turgon sends messengers to the Valar, repeating the action that occurred earlier, but this time, one of the messengers survives. Morgoth's disappointment in his victory because of Turgon's escape foreshadows his assault on Gondolin and shows Turgon's importance.



Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 21: Of Turin Turambar and Chapter 22: Of the Ruin of Doriath

Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 21: Of Turin Turambar and Chapter 22: Of the Ruin of Doriath Summary

Morwen, Hurin's wife, sends their son, Turin, to Thingol, who raises him as a foster son. Morwen refuses to leave the house in which she dwelt with Hurin so Thingol sends messengers to check on her and her daughter, Nienor. One day the messengers do not return so Turin departs to search for his mother and battles in the wilderness for three years. When he returns to Thingol's lands, Saeros, who is jealous of Thingol's love for Turin, mocks Turin, and Turin kills him and flees. Thingol pardons Turin and sends Beleg to find him. Turin becomes the captain of a band of outlaws and foreswears war against all except Angband but refuses Thingol's pardon. Turin and his outlaws seize the Dwarf, Mim, who ransoms his life by offering to guide them through the hills. Morgoth's Orcs capture Mim and his son, and Mim ransoms their lives by promising to lead the Orcs through the hills under the condition that Turin must not be slain. The Orcs capture Turin, and Beleg swears vengeance on Mim. Beleg encounters Gwindor who has just escaped from Angband. They rescue Turin, but Turin thinks Beleg is an Orc and kills him. Turin learns from Gwindor that Hurin still defies Morgoth. Gwindor and Turin go to Gwindor's land, Nargothrond, where Turin is called Turambar. Morwen and Nienor finally flee to Thingol. Turin goes to war against the Orcs where Gwindor is killed in battle. Turin returns to Nargothrond to save the the king's daughter, Finduilas, but Glaurung mocks Turin as the Orcs kidnap Finduilas. Turin learns that Morwen went to Thingol and learns of Finduilas' death. Meanwhile, evil tidings of Turin's death reaches Morwen who leaves Thingol's lands to search for Turin, followed by Nienor. Glaurung kills their escorts and bespells Nienor with forgetfulness. Mablung searches for Nienor and Morwen. As Nienor sleeps, Turambar finds her. Brethil and Turambar both love Nienor, but she loves Turambar. Brethil tries to restrain her, knowing Turambar's true identity, but they marry and she conceives. When Glaurung attacks, Turambar goes to war, and Nienor follows him against Brandir's advice. Brandir follows for love of Nienor. Turambar kills Glaurung, but Glaurung's gaze knocks him unconscious. When she hears Glaurung's screams, Nienor retreats into forgetfulness, but Brandir finds her and leads her away. Nienor regains her mind and insists on seeking Turin. Glaurung opens her eyes, revealing Turin's identity as her brother. Nienor throws herself off the cliff. Brandir returns to their people with news of Turin and Nienor's deaths. Turin wakes after Glaurung dies and returns to the people. When Brandir tells him about Nienor's identity and death, Turin kills Brandir. When Mablung confirms Brandir's story, Turin kills himself. Distraught, Morwen wanders in the wild.



Morgoth releases Hurin from bondage, pretending pity but attempting to further hatred between Elves and Men. Hurin walks into Hithlum but is shunned as one who is in league with Morgoth. Morgoth's servants watch Hurin as do Manwe's eagles. Turgon hears news of Hurin and sends eagles to search for Hurin whose cries for Turgon allow Morgoth to learn the area in which Gondolin is located. Hurin searches for Morwen after dreaming of her and finds her at a stone, but she dies that night. Hurin wanders on until he stands before the broken doors of Felagund where Mim approaches him, and Hurin kills Mim. Hurin travels to Thingol and chides him for failing his family. Melian tells Hurin that Morgoth has bewitched him because they never intended ill to befall his family, and Hurin's eyes are opened, and undeceived, he apologizes and casts himself into the sea. Thingol has the Dwarves put the Silmaril in Nauglamir, a Dwarf-made necklace, but the Dwarves withhold it from Thingol, saying he has no right to the craft of their forefathers. When Thingol banishes the Dwarves, they kill him and flee. Melian mourns Thingol, speaks to no one and disappears to Valinor. The Dwarves defeat the Elves and take the Nauglamir with the Silmaril in it. Beren and Dior ambush the Dwarves after hearing of their treachery. Beren kills the king of the Dwarves and gives the Nauglamir to Luthien who wears it. Dior Thingol dwells with the Sindar and learns of his parents' death when a messenger brings the Nauglamir to him. The sons of Feanor learn that Dior wears a Silmaril and send claim to it, which Dior ignores. The sons of Feanor attack and kill Dior in the second kin-slaying, but Dior's daughter, Elwing, escapes with a small remnant of people and the Silmaril.

Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 21: Of Turin Turambar and Chapter 22: Of the Ruin of Doriath Analysis

Morwen's refusal to leave her house foreshadows the rumor of something happening to her. Turin's seeking his mother and sister foreshadows his finding Nienor much later. Thingol shows his love for Turin by pardoning the death of Saeros which is especially revealing due to Thingol's earlier disapprobation of kinslaying. Beleg searches for Turin, demonstrating his love for Turin. It is contradictory that Turin forswears war against all but Angband while simultaneously refusing Thingol's pardon. Mim's means of ransoming his life from the Orcs parallels his earlier means of ransoming his life from Turin and the outlaws. Mim's decree that Turin must not be slain foreshadows his capture. Beleg shows his love for Turin by seeking to free him from the Orcs, while Turin shows his love for Beleg by his grief when he unwittingly kills his friend. Gwindor's reappearance fulfills the earlier foreshadowing. Turin's desire that his true name not be spoken foreshadows his assumption of a new identity and the lack of recognition that accompanies it. Glaurung's power is introduced, and Turin's honor is revealed as he searches for Finduilas. Morwen's love for her son is demonstrated by her searching for Turin, and Nienor shows her courage by following her mother. The fact that no news of Morwen reaches Doriath again seems to insinuate her death. Glaurung bespells Nienor with forgetfulness, foreshadowing her lack of identity and her marriage to Turambar. Brethil shows his love for Nienor in his attempt to restrain her from marrying her brother. Turin kills Glaurung but the injuries that he sustains foreshadows his death. Nienor's

reaction to Glaurung's screams foreshadows the discovery of her husband being her brother. Nienor shows her honor by killing herself when she learns that she married her brother. Turin likewise shows his honor through suicide upon discovering the truth of their relationship.

Morwen's wandering in the wild foreshadows her reunion with her husband as does Hurin's release from Morgoth's dungeon. The fact that Manwe's eagles watch Hurin demonstrate the Valar's concern for Elves and Men. Hurin's cries to Turgon in the mountains near Gondolin foreshadows the fall of Gondolin since Morgoth has learned the approximate location of the hidden city. Morwen's death fulfills the earlier foreshadowing of the event, and Hurin kills Mim in a desire for vengeance for the capture of Turin. Hurin's accusations against Thingol show Morgoth's misleading, which Melian reveals to him, causing him to regain honor by committing suicide. The arrangement of the Silmaril being placed in the Nauglamir foreshadows the dissension between the Elves and Dwarves, which is fulfilled when the Dwarves kill Thingol, returning later for the Nauglamir. Melian's disappearance demonstrates her love for Thingol. Beren and Dior show their loyalty to the Elves by seeking vengeance against the Dwarves. Luthien wears the Nauglamir, foreshadowing the necklace's importance in the remainder of the story. The sons of Feanor's claim on the Silmaril and Dior's ignoring their claim foreshadows the battle that occurs shortly after. During the battle, the kin-slaying that occurs foreshadows the sons of Feanor losing their claim to the Silmarils. Elwing's escape with the Silmaril foreshadows her adventures.



Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 23: Of Tuor and the Fall of Gondolin and Chapter 24: Of the Voyage of Earendil and the War of Wrath

Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 23: Of Tuor and the Fall of Gondolin and Chapter 24: Of the Voyage of Earendil and the War of Wrath Summary

Tuor, Huor's son, is raised by Annael of the Grey-elves, and Ulmo places the desire to depart from the land of his fathers in Tuor's heart. Tuor goes to Nevrast where he arrays himself in Turgon's arms and swords which were left in the deserted Vinyamar. Ulmo appears to Tuor and bids him seek Gondolin. On his way, Tuor meets Voronwe who guides him to Turgon. Tuor warns Turgon to depart to the sea, but Maeglin speaks against Tuor, causing Turgon to ignore Tuor's counsel. Tuor wins Idril's heart and marries her, infuriating Maeglin. Tuor and Idril child is Earendil Halfelven. Idril builds a secret passage out of the city. Maeglin is captured by the Orcs and reveals the exact location of Gondolin to Morgoth in exchange for rule of Gondolin and possession of Idril. Morgoth sends Maeglin back to Gondolin to avoid suspicion and to help from within. Morgoth attacks Gondolin, and Gondolin falls. Tuor kills Maeglin, and with Idril, he leads the people along the secret passage to dwell beside the Sirion. Morgoth believes his triumph is fulfilled and no longer fears the sons of Feanor. Ulmo begs the Valar to help the Eldar, but Manwe refuses. When Tuor grows old, he sails away with Idril, the only man to join the Eldar in Valinor.

Earendil, the lord of the people at Sirion, marries Elwing, and they have two sons, Elrond and Elros. Earendil has two purposes: to seek Tuor and Idril and to bring the message of the Elves and Men to the Valar. Cirdan helps Earendil build a ship, Vingilot. Meanwhile, the sons of Feanor hear of the dwelling at Sirion and attack and kill the people at Sirion. Elwing jumps into the sea, wearing the Silmaril, but Ulmo bears her up and makes her a bird, which flies to Earendil's boat. Maglor and Maedhros are the only sons of Feanor to survive the battle, and Maglor raises Elros and Elrond. Earendil and Elwing seek the Valar and finally find distant shores. Earendil arrives in Valinor and asks pardon, pity and mercy for Elves and Men, and the Valar grant his prayer. Meanwhile, Elwing is befriended by the Teleri. Manwe decrees that Earendil, Elwing, Elrond and Elros will be allowed to choose to which kindred to be joined. Earendil and Elwing choose to be joined to the Elves for Luthien's sake. The Valar turn Vingilot into a beautiful vessel, with the Silmaril shining in the helm, which Earendil sails beyond the world while Elwing is taught flight and the language of the birds. The people of Middle-



earth see Vingilot and believe it is a new star, but Maedhros recognizes the Silmaril. The Valar prepare for battle and sail to the east where they, with the Eldar, destroy Morgoth and his minions, ending Angband's power. Eonwe takes and guards the two remaining Silmarils. The Elves are bid to return to Valinor. Maglor and Maedhros demand the Silmarils because of their oath, but Eonwe refuses them because their crimes make them incapable of possessing the gems. The sons of Fëanor steal the Silmaril, each possessing one, but they are unable to bear the pain of the light. Maedhros jumps into a pit and is buried in the earth while Maglor jumps into the sea. Most of the Elves return to Valinor. Morgoth is thrust into the Timeless Void and guarded by Earendil.

Quenta Silmarillion: The History of the Silmarils, Chapter 23: Of Tuor and the Fall of Gondolin and Chapter 24: Of the Voyage of Earendil and the War of Wrath Analysis

Ulmo placing the desire to part from the land of his fathers in Tuor's heart foreshadows Ulmo using Tuor as a messenger to Turgon. Maeglin's interference with Tuor's message foreshadows his conversion to Morgoth allies. Earendil's birth foreshadows his adventures. The peace in Gondolin is contrasted by the battle that interrupts it. Idril's forebodings demonstrate the Valar's concern with Elves and Men. Maeglin is captured by the Orcs and deals with Morgoth, fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing while foreshadowing the fall of Gondolin. Maeglin's death at Tuor's hands shows revenge for betraying the city. Ulmo shows his love for the Eldar by begging Manwe to help them. The Valar's love for Tuor is demonstrated by the rumor that he joins the Eldar in Valinor. Earendil's two purposes foreshadows his travels to Valinor to seek the Valar's assistance, which is fulfilled when he does so. Elwing's escape by jumping into the sea with the Silmaril seems to foreshadow her death, but Ulmo turns her into a bird, foreshadowing the Valar's gift of flight. Vingilot's ability to travel beyond the world foreshadows Earendil's duty as Morgoth's guard. The Valar grant Earendil's request, foreshadowing the Great Battle. Eonwe's refusal to relinquish the two remaining Silmarils to the two remaining sons of Fëanor foreshadows the theft and the sons of Fëanor's inability to possess the Silmarils.

Akallabeth: The Downfall of Numenor

Akallabeth: The Downfall of Numenor Summary

Most Men are subject to Morgoth; the Men who fight for the Valar in the Great Battle are referred to as the Edain or Dunedain. After the Great Battle, Men return to the east and are plagued by Morgoth's creatures. Manwe locks Morgoth beyond Ea in the Timeless Void, but Morgoth's will guides his servants. The Valar decide to summon the Eldar to Valinor and the Edain to a land between Valinor and Middle-earth: Numenor. Elrond follows his Elven-kin while Elros chooses to be a king of Men and is given an abnormally long life. The Dunedain dwell on Numenor, protected by the Valar and befriended by the Eldar. Men are forbidden to sail westward out of sight of Numenor to avoid becoming envious of immortals. The Dunedain sail east to teach the other Men many things. The Dunedain begin to complain about their mortality, and Manwe sends messengers to explain to Men that Iluvatar ordained death for Men. Atanamir is displeased and dies late, holding onto life until he is witless. The kingdom splits: half is estranged from the Valar and Eldar while the other half are Elf-friends. The Dunedain still fear the Valar, but they do not love them nor sacrifice to Iluvatar. They begin settling in Middle-earth and dealing with the other Men. Sauron hates and fears the Numenoreans. Adunakhor, the twentieth king, forbids elven tongues. Then Ar-Gimilzor, the twenty-third king, punishes Men who welcome the Elves to Numenor. The Valar withdraw their protection from Numenor. Ar-Gimilzor marries Inzilbeth, an Elf-friend, and they have Inziladun and Gimilkhad. Inziladun is faithful to the Valar and Eldar, and he tries to restore some of their customs. His brother opposes him with a faction of men, and Gimilkhad's son, Ar-Pharazon, takes over the opposition once his father dies. Inziladun dies with only one daughter, Miriel who Ar-Pharazon marries against her will in order to rule Numenor. Ar-Pharazon sails east and summons Sauron who agrees to go to Numenor where he spreads corruption. Sauron convinces Ar-Pharazon to dismiss the council of Amandil, an Elf-friend, and to cut down the White Tree. Before the White Tree is destroyed, Amandil plants the fruit of the White Tree in a hidden place to preserve it. The King's men worship Melkor, while the faithful are deemed traitors. Under Sauron's counsel, Ar-Pharazon decides to wage war against the Valar. Amandil sails west to beg aid of the Valar, but he disappears from knowledge. Under Amandil's counsel, Elendil, his son, prepares his ships to flee from Numenor. The Valar attack by sending lightning which kills many Men. Ar-Pharazon mans his fleet and sails west to wage war against the Valar. When he lands on Aman, the waters engulf the fleets while the warriors who set foot on Aman are buried under the falling hills. Aman is lost from Men forever, and Numenor is ruined. Elendil, his sons and the other faithful flee to Middle-earth. Sauron also returns to Middle-earth, but he is stripped of the disguise which makes him appear fair to Men. Many believe Akallabeth is lost forever, but some search for it, and rumors arise of Men who have seen the island.

Akallabeth: The Downfall of Numenor Analysis

The fact that most Men are subject to Morgoth illustrates the evil nature of Men. Morgoth being locked in the Timeless Void foreshadows the rising of a new villain. The Valar summon the Eldar and the Edain to a land nearer Valinor than Middle-earth, showing the Valar's desire to protect the Eldar and Edain. Elros' decision to align himself with his relations that are Men shows his rejection of Elvin culture. The Valar forbid Men to sail westward to avoid jealousy of immortality, which foreshadows Men's estrangement from the Valar and Elves due to their mortality. The Dunedain's frequent trips to Middle-earth to teach the other Men foreshadow their rejection of their immortal friends and their reunion with other Men. Atanamir holds onto life as long as possible, demonstrating his extreme jealousy of immortality. The separation of the Dunedain foreshadows the war against the Valar. The Dunedain's lack of fear of the Valar, along with their ceasing sacrifices to Iluvatar, foreshadows the Valar's withdrawal of protection.

Sauron rises, foreshadowing evil and war. His hatred and fear of the Numenoreans foreshadows the ruin of Numenor. The mention of the three great lords of Numenor that are ensnared by Sauron's rings alludes to the next chapter, Of the Rings of Power and the Third Age. Ar-Gimilzor, Gimilkhad and Ar-Pharazon's reigns foreshadow the separation from the Valar and the Elves. Inziladun's attempts to restore tradition and respect for the Valar parallels earlier attempts by the Elves to reconcile with the Valar. Ar-Pharazon's lust after Miriel and desire to marry her in order to rule parallels Maeglin's desire for Idril. The destruction of the White Tree parallels the destruction of the Two Trees of Valinor. Amandil's journey to beg aid of the Valar parallels Earendil's earlier voyage, but the result contrasts since Amandil does not succeed in his purpose. Elendil's preparations foreshadow the Numenoreans settling in Middle-earth. The war between the Valar and the Numenoreans parallels the earlier battles but also contrasts it since the force of evil, Sauron in this case, is not leading the troops against the Valar. Sauron's return to Middle-earth foreshadows more mischief from him.

Of the Rings of Power and the Third Age

Of the Rings of Power and the Third Age Summary

Sauron repents of his evil deeds to Eonwe but is too proud to serve the Valar. He returns to Middle-earth and his evil ways. Middle-earth is destroyed and reformed during the Great Battle, and some of the Elves stay in Middle-earth and befriend the Dwarves. The Elves make many rings, and Sauron creates one ring to rule all of the others, giving it much of his strength and will. The Elves feel Sauron's control over them when he puts his ring on, so they take theirs off. He demands the rings, but the Elves manage to hide three of them, the ones which Sauron wants the most. There is constant war between the Elves and Sauron. Sauron gives nine rings to Men and seven to Dwarves, using the rings to control them and work evil. Sauron gathers Morgoth's minions, and Elves begin to call him the Dark Lord. All Men except the Numenoreans are under Sauron's dominion. After Akallabeth, Sauron returns to Middle-earth to find that the power of Gil-galad has grown great, and Sauron prepares for war against the Eldar and the Men of Westemnet. Meanwhile, the Numenorean survivors settle in Middle-earth and are befriended by Gil-galad. The survivors bring heirlooms from Numenor: the Palanteri and the White Tree. Elendil and Gil-galad form the Last Alliance which lays siege to Sauron's fortress for seven years, ending when Sauron fights and kills Elendil and Gil-galad. Sauron is banished from his body for a long time, and Narsil Isildur cuts the ring from Sauron's hand and takes it for his own.

There is still hope as the third age begins; the White Tree flowers, and Sauron's minions disperse. Many Men turn from evil, but more remember Sauron and hate the Numenoreans. After Elendil's death, Men and Elves become estranged. Isildur refuses to destroy Sauron's ring, but when he goes to the south, Orcs overwhelm and kill his men. The ring makes Isildur invisible but slips from his finger in the river, and the Orcs kill him. Chaos is foretold until the ring is rediscovered and Sauron returns to Middle-earth. The Nine Ringwraiths return to prepare the way for Sauron whose power is growing again. Elrond preserves the memory of all that was fair, but no one speaks of the the three hidden rings. Darkness creeps into the forest, Greenwood the Great, and it becomes known as Mirkwood; this signals Sauron's returns. The Istari Wizards arrive. Saruman, the chief of the Istari, studies the Rings of Power. Mithrandir learns that the Sorcerer Don Guldur is Sauron in disguise. The Istari decide that the Ring is lost and will not be found so they do nothing, not suspecting that Saruman has turned to dark thoughts and covets the ring. Darkness gathers, and the malice is directed toward the Elves and the survivors of Numenor. The Istari drive Sauron from his hold too late; Sauron returns. Saruman withdraws from the Istari as Mithrandir learns of the Ring and sends guards to find and protect it. Sauron goes to war with the Istari, Elves and Men, ending the third age. Eventually, Frodo takes the Ring to Mount Doom and destroys it, causing the power of the Three Rings to fade. The Noldor leave Middle-earth forever to Men.



Of the Rings of Power and the Third Age Analysis

Sauron has too much pride to serve the Valar, foreshadowing his return to evil. His return to Middle-earth and evil foreshadows the action that occurs in the rest of the chapter as well as the previous chapter. The fact that Men are easier to sway than Elves foreshadows Sauron's war against the Elves. The manufacturing of the rings foreshadows the problems that arise because of them. Sauron's desire for control allows him to be placed in parallel to Melkor, though before he has seemed a relatively minor evil. The fact that the Elves call Sauron the Dark Lord also parallels Melkor since that was previously his title. Sauron's lack of control over the Numenoreans foreshadows his desire to bring them under his dominion and alludes to Akallabeth. The fact that Sauron meditates war with Gil-galad serves to show Gil-galad as an advocate for the Valar and good; Gil-galad's alliance with Elendil also serves to demonstrate the virtue of his character. The fact that this alliance is named the Last Alliance foreshadows the estrangement between Elves and Men. Sauron kills Gil-galad and Elendil, foreshadowing evil's control for a time. Sauron is banished from his body but not killed, and this foreshadows his return. Narsil Isildur cutting the ring from Sauron's hand foreshadows more misfortunes for the Elves.

The White Tree serves as a symbol for hope when it blooms. Though Sauron is absent, many Men do not turn from his influence, demonstrating the evil nature of Men. Sauron's ring is lost; this, along with the chaos that is foretold until the ring is rediscovered and Sauron returns, foreshadows Sauron's return. The return of the Nine Ringwraiths foreshadows Sauron's return to Middle-earth. Darkness begins to develop, foreshadowing Sauron's return. The Istari Wizards are messengers from the Valar and a sign that the Valar has not forgotten or completely stopped caring about the Elves and Men of Middle-earth. Sarumen's corruption proves that all are capable of turning to evil. The discovery of Sauron in the guise of the Sorcerer Don Guldur foreshadows Sauron's return, especially in light of the fact that the Istari do nothing to prevent his arrival until he has gained too much power and it is too late. Sarumen's intent to guard the Ring and Sauron's initiation of war over the Ring demonstrates that the end is the same as the beginning and closes the book with the impression of a motif of the Circle of Life. Everything repeats itself; wars occur, then there is peace, then war again. The absence of Elves is explained by Men's usurpation of Middle-earth.

Characters

Elves

The Elves are the Firstborn or the First Children of Iluvatar. Once they awake, Melkor bombards them with darkness, causing them to be afraid of the Valar. Once Orome discovers and befriends some of them, the Elves are separated into two groups: the Avari and the Eldar. The Avari are the Unwilling or the Refusers, who refuse to march west from Cuivienen. They are also referred to as Moriquendi or Dark Elves and includes any Elf who did not cross the Great Sea to Valinor. During the Noldor's exile, Avari is often used to describe any of the Elves of Middle-earth that are not Noldor or Sindar. Eldar, or Eldalie, means People of the Stars, while Calaquendi means Elves of the Light, but both refer to the Elves who live or had lived in Aman. They are also known as High Elves or Tareldar. The Eldar refer to the Noldor, Teleri and Vanyar who marched westward to Valinor from Cuivienen.

The Elves originally name themselves Quendi, meaning "those that speak with voices." The Vanyar are the first host of Eldar to journey westward to Valinor, while the Noldor, the Wise, are the Deep Elves and the second host of the Eldar to join the westward journey to Valinor. The third host to travel to Valinor is the Teleri, who are the greatest of the three hosts. They call themselves Lindar the Singers. Many of the Teleri do not leave Middle-earth. The Amanyar are the Elves who journey west but never reach Aman. The Laiquendi, or Green-elves, are the Nandorin Elves of Ossiriand. The Silvan or Woodland Elves remain in the Vale of Anduin and never pass west of the Misty Mountains. The Sindar, or Grey-elves, are the Elves of Telerin that the exiled Noldor find in Beleriand, except for Ossiriand's Laiquendi. The Sindar are not of the light of Valinor nor of the Dark like the Avari; they are the Elves of the Twilight. Another reason the Sindar are known as Grey-elves is King Thingol, their ruler, is named Grey-cloak. The Sindar call themselves Edhel.

Sons of Feanor

There are seven Sons of Feanor: Maedhros, Maglor, Celegorm, Caranthir, Curufin, Amrod and Amras. The Sons of Feanor join their father in swearing an oath that no one but themselves will possess a Silmaril. The pursuit of this oath causes them much sorrow and hardship. Maedhros is the eldest son of Feanor and is referred to as the Tall. He forms the Union of Maedhros in the Nirnaeth Arnoediad and bears one of the Silmarils with him to his death in a pit of Ea at the end of the First Age. Maglor is Feanor's second son and is a great singer who casts his Silmaril into the Sea at the end of the First Age. The third son is Celegorm the Fair and is lord of Himlad with Curufin. He imprisons Luthien and dies in Menegroth by Dior's sword. The fourth son is Caranthir the Dark who is the quickest to anger. He rules in Thargelion and is killed in the assault on Doriath. Curufin the Crafty is the fifth son of Feanor and he rules Himlad

with Celegorm. The sixth and seventh brothers are twins, Amrod and Amras. They are slain in the attack on Earendil's people at the Sirion.

Men

Men are the Younger Children of Iluvatar or the Secondborn. They are also referred to as Atani, Easterlings, the Second People, Engwar, Firimar, the Followers, or the Aftercomers. The Swarthy Men enter Beleriand from the east after the Dagor Bragollach and fight on both sides of the battle in the Nirnaeth Arnoediad. Morgoth allows them to dwell in Hithlum where they oppress the remainder of Hador's people. The term Atani specifically refers to the Men who were known to the Sindar and Noldor as friends. Sauron and Melkor both prey on Men more than Elves. Men are more easily inclined to evil than Elves, and as a result, Iluvatar makes them mortal. Men and Elves ally themselves for a long time until the death of Elendil, after which Men are estranged from Elves and usurp the light of Middle-earth.

Feanor

Feanor is the eldest son of Finwe and the only child of Miriel, who dies shortly after giving birth. He is named Curufinwe by his father, but his mother calls him Feanor or Spirit of Fire. He has two half-brothers, Fingolfin and Finarfin. Feanor is the leader of the Noldor's rebellion and the creator of the Silmarils. Feanor is banished from Valinor for drawing his sword against Fingolfin, and when he returns, Morgoth seizes the opportunity to steal the Silmarils. Feanor and his sons vow that no one but themselves will possess a Silmaril. This oath leads Feanor to Angband where he is killed, cursing Morgoth and reminding his sons of their oath.

Morgoth

Morgoth begins life as Melkor, or He who Arises in Might, the rebellious Vala who creates evil and originally the mightiest of the Ainur. He is also referred to as the Dark Lord, Bauglir, the Enemy, and Belegur. He is imprisoned shortly after Elves awake, but after serving three ages, he convinces Manwe of his reformation and is released. He destroys the Two Trees of Valinor before returning to Middle-earth, summoning his evil creatures, and attempting to corrupt Elves. Once Men awake, he turns his attention to them as well. Feanor curses him and names him Morgoth after the Silmarils are stolen. After the Great Battle, he is imprisoned beyond the world in the Timeless Void and guarded by Earendil.

Maeglin

Maeglin is the son of Eol and Aredhel, making him Turgon's nephew. He is born in Nan Elmoth and yearns as a child to see Gondolin and the sons of Feanor. Aredhel and Maeglin go to Gondolin while Eol is at the feast of the Dwarves. In Gondolin, both of his



parents die, and Turgon honors Maeglin. Maeglin loves Idril but cannot marry her because she is his first cousin. He betrays Gondolin to Morgoth after Tuor marries Idril. Maeglin means Sharp Glance, and his mother also gives him the name Lemion or Son of Twilight, a Quenya name.

Thingol

King Thingol is originally called Elwe and leads the host of Teleri from Cuivienne with his brother, Olwe. As he wanders about, he is enchanted by the Maia, Melian, and they are married. They have a daughter, Luthien. King Thingol rules Doriath and is called the Hidden King, Grey-cloak and Grey-mantle. He sends Beren on a quest to retrieve a Silmaril in order to earn Luthien's hand in marriage. After the Silmaril is retrieved, he has it set in the Nauglamir and is killed by the Dwarves for refusing to relinquish the Nauglamir.

Turin

Turin is the son of Hurin and Morwen. He is raised by Thingol but leaves Doriath when he fears his mother's death. He later unwittingly marries his sister, Nienor. He kills Glaurung and then himself after learning that his wife is also his sister. He is called Elf-Man in Nargothrond as well as Agarwaen or Blood-stained. He is also referred to as Glaurung's Bane, Neithan, Gorthol, Mormegil, Wildman of the Woods and finally Turambar, the name under which he marries Nienor.

Earendil

Earendil, referred to as Halfelven, the Blessed, the Bright and the Mariner, is the son of Tuor and Idril. He escapes from Gondolin when it falls and weds Elwing, Dior's daughter. He sails with her to Aman and pleads with the Valar for help against Morgoth. The Valar cause his ship, Vingilot, to be able to sail the skies, set with the Silmaril that Beren and Luthien brought out of Angband. He guards Morgoth's imprisonment in the Timeless Void.

Sauron

Sauron, also known as the Abhorred and the Dark Lord, is the greatest of Morgoth's servants. He is originally a Maia who serves Aule, but he chooses to follow Melkor in evil. The Sindar call him Gorthaur. He corrupts the Numenoreans and attempts to corrupt Elves and Men through the use of the One Ring. When regaining power, he disguises himself as Don Guldur, a sorcerer.



Dwarves

Aule creates the Dwarves in order to have someone to teach before the Elves and Men awake. Iluvatar chides Aule for this but, in his great mercy, does not force Aule to destroy his creation. Aule makes the Seven Fathers of the Dwarves. The Dwarves are also referred to as the Naugrim or "Stunted People" by the Sindar. The Dwarves call themselves Khazid.

Felagund

King Felagund is born Finrod, the eldest son of Finarfin. He is often called the Faithful and the Friend of Men. After he founds Nargothrond, he becomes known as King Felagund. Barahir rescues Felagund in the Dagor Bragollach, and Felagund pays his debt by accompanying Beren on his quest to retrieve a Silmaril, during which Felagund is slain in Morgoth's dungeons.

Istari

The Istari, or wizards, appear in the final chapter as a gift from the Valar to combat Sauron. They are Curunir, Olurin, Radagast and Saruman. Men refer to Curunir as Saruman, meaning Man of Skill, and Olurin as Gandalf, though the Elves refer to Olurin as Mithrandir or the Grey Pilgrim. Olurin is a Maia as well as being an Istari. Curunir means one cunning devices.

Elendil

Elindil, the Tall, is the son of Amandil and the last lord of Andenie in Numenor. He is a descendent of Earendil and Elwing. He escapes with his sons, Isildur and Anurion, from the destruction of Numenor and founds the Numenoreans realms in Middle-earth. Elendil, along with Gil-galad is slain when they overthrow Sauron at the end of the Second Age. Elindil means Elf-friend or Star-lover.

The Valar

The Valar means Those with Power or The Powers. The Valar are the Ainur who descend to Ea at the beginning of time in order to guard and rule in Arda. They are also referred to as the Great Ones, the Rulers of Arda, the Lords of the West, and the Lords of Valinor. The Aratar, or the Exalted, are the eight most powerful Valar.

Turgon

Turgon is the second son of Fingolfin. He dwells at Vinyamar, or New Dwelling, in Nevrast until Ulmo directs him to build Gondolin in a hidden vale in the mountains.



Turgon rules Gondolin until he is killed when Maeglin betrays the city to Morgoth. His daughter is Idril and his grandson is Earendil. Turgon raises his sister's son, Maeglin, after Aredhel's death.

Fingolfin

Fingolfin is the second son of Finwe and the eldest of Feanor's half-brothers. Feanor is banished when he draws his sword on Fingolfin. Most of the Noldor follow Fingolfin when he is persuaded by Feanor to leave Valinor. He is the High King of Beleriand and dwells in Hithlum. Morgoth kills Fingolfin in single combat.

Iluvatar

Iluvatar or Eru is the creator of Ea, the Valar, Elves, and Men. After he creates the Ainur, he reveals a theme to them, and they sing in harmony. He shows them his plans for Ea and sends the Valar to Ea to prepare it for his children. His role is that of an omniscient, omnipotent god.

Melian

Melian is a Maia who leaves Valinor and comes to Middle-earth. She falls in love with Elwe and marries him. They rule Doriath, around which she sets a girdle of enchantment to protect it from Morgoth and his Orcs. She has one daughter, Luthien.

Glaurung

Glaurung is the first of Morgoth's dragons and is called the Father of Dragons, the Great Worm or the Worm of Morgoth. He reveals himself when he is too young, angering Morgoth. He casts spells upon Turin and Nienor, but Turin eventually slays him.

Fingon

Fingon is the eldest son of Fingolfin and is referred to as the Valiant. He rescues Maedhros from Thangorodrim and is the High King of the Noldor after his father's death. Gothmog kills him in the Nirnaeth Arnoediad.

Luthien

Luthien is the daughter of King Thingol and Melian. She falls in love with Beren, rescues him on his quest and after his death, chooses to become mortal so they can be given more time together.

Tulkas

Tulkas is a Vala and is the greatest of the Valar in strength and deeds of prowess. He is also called Astaldo. Tulkas defeats Melkor the first time he is imprisoned.

Orcs

Orcs are Morgoth's minions. They are originally Elves that Morgoth kidnaps and corrupts shortly after the Elves awake.

Ulmo

Ulmo is the Vala who is called the Lord of Waters and the King of the Sea. He is second-in-command after Manwe.

Manwe

Manwe is the king of the Valar and also known as the Elder King or the Ruler of Arda.

Osse

Osse is a Maia and a vassal of Ulmo. He loves the Teleri and instructs them in building ships.

The Maiar

The Maiar are Ainur that travel to Ea but are of lesser degree than the Valar.

Objects/Places

Ainulindale

Ainulindale, which means "the Music of the Ainur" is also called The Great Music and The Great Song. It is also the name of the account of Creation that Remil of Tirion composed in the Elder Days.

Almaren

Almaren is the first abode of the Valar in Arda; Melkor destroys it. It is an island in a great lake in the midst of Middle-earth.

Aman

Aman is the name of the land in the west, beyond the Great Sea, where the Valar dwell after they leave the Isle of Almaren. It means "blessed" or "free from evil". It is also referred to as the Blessed Realm, the Undying lands, and the Deathless Lands.

Angband

Angband is Melkor's dungeon-fortress in northwestern Middle-earth. The name means "Iron Prison" or "Hell of Iron."

Balar

Balar is the great bay located south of Beleriand. The river Sirion flows into Balar. Balar is also the name of the isle in the bay which is said to be the eastern horn of Eressea, which broke away and where Cirdan and Gilgalad dwell after the Nirnaeth Arnoediad.

Balrogs

The Balrogs are the demons of fire which serve Morgoth. Balrog means "demon of might," and the Sindars also called them Quenya Valarauko.

Battles of Beleriand

The Battles of Beleriand are six battles that the Elves fight against Melkor. The first battle occurs shortly after the Elves awake. The second battle is referred to as the Battle-under-Stars and is fought in Mithrim after Feanor arrives in Middle-earth. The third battle is the Glorious Battle, the fourth is the Battle of Sudden Flame and the fifth is



the Battle of Unnumbered Tears. The final battle is referred to as the Great Battle, after which Melkor was banished to the Timeless Void.

Belegaer

Belegaer is the name of the great sea of the west which separates Middle-earth and Aman. It is usually referred to as the Great Sea, the Western Sea or the Great Water.

Beleriand

Beleriand is, at first, the name of the lands about the mouths of Sirion that face the Isle of Balar, supposed to be the country of Balar. Later, Beleriand grows to encompass much more land. It is broken into turmoil and invaded by sea at the end of the First Age.

Cuivienen

Cuivienen is the lake in Middle-earth where the Elves awake and are found by Orome. It means "water of awakening."

Mandos

Mandos is the dwelling of the Valar Namo, who is the judge of the Valar. He is also frequently referred to as Mandos. It is where the Elves' spirits pass when they leave their bodies, and it is where Melkor was imprisoned the first time he was captured. The Halls of Mandos are often referred to as the Halls of Awaiting.

Menegroth

Menegroth is the hidden halls of King Thingol and Melian on the river Esgalduin in Doriath. Menegroth means "the thousand caves."

Utumno

Utumno is Melkor's first great stronghold located in the north of Middle-earth, but it is destroyed by the Valar when Melkor is captured the first time.

Dorthonion

Dorthonion is the forested highlands on the northern borders of Beleriand. Dorthonion means "land of pines."

Ea

Ea is the name of the world in which the novel takes place. It means "it is" or "let it be," signifying the words of Iluvatar when he first created Ea.

Gondolin

Gondolin is the secret city that King Turgon builds in the hidden vale, surrounded by the Encircling Mountains. It is originally named Ondolindi. Gondolin means "the hidden rock," and its original Quenya name is "stone song." Gondolin is often referred to as the Hidden Kingdom.

Nauglamir

Nauglamir is the "necklace of the Dwarves." The Dwarves create it for Finrod Felagund, and it is later brought to Thingol out of Nargothrond by Hurin, causing his death.

Numenor

Numenor is the island that the Valar create for the Men that fight on their side against Melkor during the Great Battle, the Edain. It is also referred to as Westernesse, Westland, Andor, Elenna and the Land of the Star. After Numenor's downfall at the hands of Sauron, Numenor is referred to as Akallabeth or "the land under the waves."

Silmarils

The Silmarils are three jewels that Feanor creates, using light from the Two Trees of Valinor before their destruction. When Melkor steals these from Formenos, Feanor and his sons vow vengeance, which ultimately leads to their demise.

The Two Trees of Valinor

The Two Trees of Valinor are two saplings that Yavanna sings to full-bloom. They provide light in Valinor. They are destroyed by Morgoth and Ungoliant. They sit on Ezellohar, the Green Mound of the Two Trees of Valinor. The trees are named Laurelin and Telperion. Laurelin, the younger tree, is also referred to as Malindalda and Tree of Gold, while the elder, Telperion, is also referred to as Silpion. Yavanna creates Galathilion, the White Tree of Tirion, in the image of Telperion as a gift for the Vanyar and the Noldor. The Valar use fruit from the destroyed trees to create the sun and the moon.



Valinor

Valinor is the land of the Valar in Aman. It lies beyond the mountains of the Pelori and is also called the Guarded Realm. The city that the Valar build in Valinor is named Valmar or Valimar.

Dor Daedeloith

Dor Daedeloith is Morgoth's land in the north, and it is also known as the "Land of the Shadow of Horror."

Doriath

Doriath is the kingdom of Thingol and Melian in the forests of Neldoreth and Region. It is ruled from Menegroth. It is originally called Eglador until Melian erects a girdle, after which it is referred to as the Hidden Kingdom. The name means "land of the peace."

Palanteri

The Palanteri are the seven Seeing Stones that Elendil brings to Middle-earth during his escape from Numenor. They are made by Feanor in Aman, and Palanteri means "those that watch from afar."

Middle-earth

Middle-earth is the lands to the east of the Great Sea. It is also referred to as the Hither Lands, the Outer Lands, the Great Lands and Endor. Middle-earth is where Elves and Men first awake, and Men eventually usurp Middle-earth while Elves return to dwell with the Valar in Valinor.

Mordor

Mordor is Sauron's realm to the east of the mountains of the Ephel Diath. It is also called the Black Land or the Land of Shadow.

Nimloth

Nimloth is the White Tree of Numenor from which Isildur takes a fruit before its destruction. From that fruit grows the White Tree of Minas Ithil. Nimloth or "White Blossom" is the Sindarin form of Quenya Ninqueliti, which is one of the names of Telperion.

Prophecy of the North

The Prophecy of the North is also known as the Doom of the Noldor, which is bespoken by Mandos on the coast of Aman after Fëanor convinces the Noldor to return to Middle-earth.

Formenos

Formenos is the stronghold of Fëanor, Finwë and the sons of Fëanor in the north of Valinor after Fëanor is banished from Tirion for drawing his sword against his half-brother, Fingolfin. It is also known as the Northern Fortress.

Rings of Power

The Rings of Power are created by the Elves in conjunction with Sauron. Sauron creates the One Ring, also known as the Great Ring or the Ruling Ring, to control the other rings. The Elves realize this when they don the rings so they remove them. This angers Sauron who demands the rings. The Elves manage to hide three of the rings. These three rings are Narya, the Ring of Fire; Nenya, the Ring of Adamant; and Vilya, the Ring of Sapphire. Of the other rings, Sauron gives seven rings to the Dwarves and nine rings to Men.

Themes

Pride

Pride is a common theme that runs throughout The Silmarillion and creates much of the conflict and action. It is easy to discover Melkor and Feanor as the most prideful beings in the tale, but there are many instances of lesser pride present as well. Melkor's original ambition when Iluvatar first reveals the theme along with his attempts to rule on Ea result in the dichotomy of good versus evil and leads to the many wars that occur between Melkor and the Valar, Elves and Men. Melkor covets Arda and attacks the Valar, revealing his pride in his belief that he is powerful enough to attack the Valar which are more numerous. Melkor shows his pride by humbling himself before the Valar while secretly plotting revenge for his imprisonment. He also demonstrates pride in his boast that he taught Feanor evil though Feanor's evil deeds result from the fire of his own heart. He recruits Ungoliant in his attempts at vengeance. Morgoth shows pride by his confidence in his triumph after the fall of Gondolin.

Feanor's pride is revealed in his name which means "Spirit of Fire". The fact that Feanor creates the Silmarils by adding light from the Two Trees of Valinor to earth-gems demonstrates his pride, especially when he refuses Melkor's help in hiding them from the Valar, refuses to give them to the Valar after Melkor destroys the Two Trees of Valinor and then, later, blames the Valar for calling him to Valinor, enabling Melkor to steal the Silmarils from Formenos. His oath to pursue any who attempt to take them, followed by his departure from Valinor and attempt to track Melkor to his fortress and kill him, demonstrate his extreme pride and ultimately lead to his death. Curufin's decision to force Thingol to allow Celegorm to marry Luthien results from pride, a fault that is inherent in him as a Son of Feanor. After Beren retrieves a Silmaril, Maedhros demonstrates pride by attacking and challenging Morgoth since he now knows he is not unassailable. Celegorm and Curufin show pride by their threats to slay Thingol and his people if they do not relinquish the Silmaril. Maedhros and Maglor show pride in stealing the two remaining Silmarils from Eonwe.

A lesser example of pride in The Silmarillion is Glaurung challenging Fingon while he is very young. Additionally, Eol has the pride to throw a javelin at Maeglin in Gondolin before Turgon's eyes. Beren's oath of vengeance against his father's murderer is an example of pride. Beren decides to leave Luthien under Huan's protection in order to fulfill his oath to retrieve a Silmaril, demonstrating his pride in even undertaking such a dangerous task. Turgon shows pride in ignoring Tuor's counsel. Turin is proud when he refuses Thingol's pardon, and Hurin demonstrates pride by chiding Thingol for failing his family. Men show pride in their envy of the Valar and Elves' immortality. Ar-Pharazon shows pride by marrying Miriel against her will and usurping the throne of Numenor, as well as in his decision to force Sauron to be his vassal and his attempt to wage war against the Valar. Sauron shows his pride in his refusal to serve the Valar after repenting of his evil deeds. Isildur shows pride in refusing to destroy the One Ring after taking it

from Sauron's finger, but the Istari shows pride in deciding that the One Ring is lost and doing nothing to find it until after Sauron rises again.

Betrayal

Betrayal recurs throughout this novel on both sides of the moral dichotomy; however, ironically, it seems to occur more frequently on the side designated as good. To begin with, Melkor betrays the other Ainur by his refusal to sing of Iluvatar's theme in harmony with the others. Then, he attempts to rule over the Valar on Ea. Iluvatar is aware of the fact that Men will betray the Valar and Elves, and their affinity with Melkor is given as the reason for their morality. After Melkor is released from his imprisonment of three ages, he betrays the Valar by pretending cooperation while secretly plotting retaliation. He furthers his scheme by creating confusion between the Valar and Elves by instilling fear and distaste between the groups. Morgoth later offers to give a Silmaril to Maedhros but betrays him and chains him to a rock instead. He also spreads rumors about the Noldor to the Sindar, instigating discord.

Feanor draws his sword on his half-brother, Fingolfin, which not only demonstrates an act of betrayal but also foreshadows the greater betrayals that occur via the kin slayings. Feanor's attempts to steal the Teleri's ships is an act of betrayal since the Teleri offer friendship to the Noldor, and this betrayal is heightened when Feanor proceeds to battle the Teleri, resulting in the first kinslaying. Feanor betrays Fingolfin by burning the Teleri's ships once he and his men cross the Great Sea, stranding his brother and the rest of the Noldor on the shores of Valinor. The Sons of Feanor kill Dior in the second kin slaying when they learn that Dior wears the Silmaril in the Nauglamir around his neck. For the same reason, the Sons of Feanor attack the settlement on the banks of the Sirion.

Aredhel and Maeglin betray Eol when they depart from their home in his absence, well aware that he does not wish them to do so. Sauron betrays Gorlim into betraying Barahir, a double act of betrayal. Sauron then betrays Gorlim by killing the traitor. Huan betrays his master, Curufin, by helping Luthien escape to search for Beren. Ulfang leads a host of Men to betray the Sons of Feanor during battle with Morgoth. Mim betrays Turin by leading Orcs to his camp, and then Turin accidentally betrays Beleg by killing him when Turin mistakes his friend for an Orc. Hurin accidentally betrays Turgon's confidence and the location of Gondolin to Morgoth when he cries in the mountains near Gondolin for Turgon's help. The Dwarves betray Thingol when they refuse to relinquish the Nauglaumir after putting the Silmaril in it, instead killing him and stealing the necklace. Maeglin betrays Gondlin and Turgon by revealing the exact location of Gondolin to Morgoth and assisting Morgoth's attack from within the city.

Ar-Gimilzor betrays the Numenoreans' friendship with the Elves by punishing Men who welcome Elves to Numenor. Sauron betrays Ar-Pharazon into dismissing the counsel of Amandil, cutting down the White Tree and waging war against the Valar. Sauron also betrays the Elves in helping them creating many Rings of Power, while he creates One

Ring to control the others. Saruman betrays the Istari when he covets the One Ring and turns to evil thoughts.

Sacrificial Love

There are many instances of Sacrificial Love in The Silmarillion. Some occur for the sake of family while others occur because of romantic love. The Valar begin this sacrifice by their descent from the realm of Iluvatar to prepare Ea because of their love for Iluvatar's vision and the Children of Iluvatar. Their tireless efforts further demonstrate the extent of their love. Yavanna causes many things in Arda to sleep until the coming of the Firstborn, proving that her efforts are for the enjoyment of the Children of Iluvatar. Elwe is enchanted by Melian and forgets his people for a while, sacrificing his throne to his love for Melian. Melian sacrifices her right to privileges as a Maia because of her love for Elwe or Thingol. The Valar show their love for the Children of Iluvatar yet again when, after Melkor destroys the Two Trees of Valinor, the Valar take a bough from Telperion and a fruit from Laurelin to create the Sun and the Moon in order to provide light on Middle-earth for the Elves and the coming of Men.

Fingon's search for Maedhros after Maedhros is betrayed by Morgoth shows Fingon's love for his kin and his readiness to risk his life to rescue his family, as well as his ability to set aside his pride since this occurred after the burning of the ships. Fingon's primary purpose is to restore peace amongst the Noldor, also proving his love for his people. Aredhel demonstrates sacrificial love when she blocks the javelin that Eol throws at Maeglin, resulting in her death. Hurin and Huor show their love for the Elves by urging Turgon to flee from war since he is the Elves' only hope. Nienor commits suicide when she believes Turin is dead, revealing her love for her brotherly husband. Elwing jumps into the sea to prevent the Sons of Fëanor from possessing the Silmaril. Earendil devotes his life to searching for Valinor in order to beg aid from the Valar for Elves and Men. Amandil sails to Valinor for the same purpose, but his voyage results in his death. The Elves forego much power by hiding the Three Rings in order to prevent the greater evil of Sauron possessing and using the rings for evil.

Luthien is the prime example in this story of sacrificial love. She loves Beren, a human, despite her father's approval, and when Beren is sent on his quest to retrieve a Silmaril, she escapes her father's tyranny in order to assist the man that she loves. When Beren is ill from the poison of Carcharoth's bite, she sucks the venom from the wound. After Beren is killed, she allows her spirit to leave her body and travel to Mandos who she begs to allow her to be with Beren. Mandos gives her the choice of going to Valinor or returning to Middle-earth with Beren as a mortal. Luthien forsakes her immortality in order to be with Beren because of her immense love for him.

Style

Point of View

Description

Setting

Description

Language and Meaning

Description

Structure

Description

Quotes

"Then Iluvatar spoke, and he said: 'Mighty are the Ainur, and mightiest among them is Melkor; but that he may know, and all the Ainur, that I am Iluvatar, those things that ye have sung, I will show them forth, that ye may see what ye have done. And thou, Melkor, shalt see that no theme may be played that hath not its uttermost source in me, nor can any alter the music in my despite. For he that attemptest this shall prove but mine instrument in the devising of things more wonderful, which he himself hath not imagined.'" Ainulindale, p. 17

"Then Aule answered: 'I did not desire such lordship. I desired thing other than I am, to love and to teach them, so that they too might perceive the beauty of Ea, which thou hast caused to be. For it seemed to me that there is great room in Arda for many things that might rejoice in it, yet it is for the most part empty still, and dumb. And in my impatience I have fallen into folly. Yet the making of things is in my heart from my own making by thee; and the child of little understanding that makes a play of the deeds of his father may do so without thought of mockery, but because he is the son of his father. But what shall I do now, so that thou be not angry with me for ever? As a child to his father, I offer to thee these things, the work of the hands which thou hast made. Do with them what thou wilt. But should I not rather destroy the work of my presumption?'" Of Aule and Yavanna, p. 43

"At the last therefore, the Valar summoned the Quendi to Valinor, there to be gathered at the knees of the Powers in the light of the Trees for ever; and Mandos broke his silence, saying: 'So it is doomed.'" Of the Coming of the Elves, p. 52

"But in the bearing of her son Miriel was consumed in spirit and body; and after his birth she yearned for release from the labor of living. And when she had named him, she said to Finwe: 'Never again shall I bear child; for strength that would have nourished the life of many has gone forth into Feanor.'" Of Feanor and the Unchaining of Melkor, p. 63

"Melkor indeed declared afterwards that Feanor had learned much art from him in secret, and had been instructed by him in the greatest of all his works; but he lied in his lust and his envy, for none of the Eldalie ever hated Melkor more than Feanor son of Finwe, who first named him Morgoth; and snared though he was in the webs of Melkor's malice against the Valar he held no converse with him and took no counsel from him. For Feanor was drive by the fire of his own heart only, working every swiftly and alone; and he asked the aid and sought the counsel of none that dwelt in Aman, great or small, save only and for a little while of Nerdanel the wise, his wife." Of Feanor, p. 66

"The Silmarils had passed away, and all one it may seem whether Feanor had said yea or nay to Yavanna; yet had he said yea at the first, before the tidings came from Formenos, it may be that his after deeds would have been other than they were. But now the doom of the Noldor drew near." Of the Flight of the Noldor, p. 79



"Then Feanor swore a terrible oath. His seven sons leapt straightway to his side and took the selfsame vow together, and red as blood shone their drawn swords in the glare of the torches. They swore an oath which none shall break, and none should take, by the name even of Iluvatar, calling the Everlasting Dark upon them if they kept it not; and Manwe they named in witness, and Varda, and the hallowed mountain of Taniquetil, vowing to pursue with vengeance and hatred to the ends of the World Vala, Demon, Elf or Man as yet unborn, or any creature, great or small, good or evil, that time should bring forth unto the end of days, whoso should hold or take or keep a Silmaril from their possession." Of the Flight of the Noldor, p. 83

"But Olwe answered: 'We renounced no friendship. But it may be the part of a friend to rebuke a friend's folly. And when the Noldor welcomed us and gave us aid, otherwise then you spoke: in the land of Aman we were to dwell for ever, as brothers whose houses stand side by side. But as for our white ships: those you gave us not. We learned not that craft from the Noldor, but from the Lords of the Sea; and the white timbers we wrought with our own hands, and the white sails were woven by our wives and our daughters. Therefore we will neither give them nor sell them for any league or friendship. For I say to you, Feanor son of Finwe, these are to us as are the gems of the Noldor: the work of our hearts, whose like we shall not make again.'" Of the Flight of the Noldor, p. 86

"Ye have spilled the blood of your kindred unrighteously and have stained the land of Aman. For blood ye shall render blood, and beyond Aman ye shall dwell in Death's shadow. For though Eru appointed to you to die not in Ea, and no sickness may assail you, yet slain ye may be, and slain ye shall be: by weapon and by torment and by grief; and your houseless spirits shall come then to Mandos. There long shall ye abide and yearn for your bodies, and find little pity though all whom ye have slain should entreat for you. And those that endure in Middle-earth and come not to Mandos shall grow weary of the world as with a great burden, and shall wane, and become as shadows of regret before the younger race that cometh after. The Valar have spoken." Of the Flight of the Noldor, p. 88

"Isil the Sheen the Vanyar of old named the Moon, flower of Telperion in Valinor; and Anar the Fire-golden, fruit of Laurelin, they named the Sun. But the Noldor named them also Rana, the Wayward, and Vasa, the Heart of Fire, that awakens and consumes; for the Sun was set as a sign for the awakening of Men and the waning of the Elves, but the Moon cherishes their memory." Of the Sun and the Moon and the Hiding of Valinor, p. 99

"A king is he that can hold his own, or else his title is vain. Thingol does but grant us lands where his power does not run. Indeed Doriath alone would be his realm this day, but for the coming of the Noldor. Therefore in Doriath let him reign, and be glad that he has the sons of Finwe for his neighbors, not the Orcs of Morgoth that we found. Elsewhere for it shall go as seems good to us." Of the Return of the Noldor, p. 112



"Now the world runs on swiftly to great tidings. And one of Men, even of Beor's house, shall indeed come, and the Girdle of Melian shall not restrain him, for doom greater than my power shall send him; and the songs that shall spring from that coming shall endure when all Middle-earth is changed." Of the Coming of Men into the West, p. 144

"Death you can give me earned or unearned; but the names I will not take from you of baseborn, nor spy, nor thrall. By the ring of Felagund, that he gave to Barahir my father on the battlefield of the North, my house has not earned such names from any Elf, be he king or no." Of Beren and Luthien, p. 167

"Then Hurin spoke to Turgon, saying: 'Go now, lord, while time is! For in you lives the last hope of the Eldar, and while Gondolin stands Morgoth shall still know fear in his heart.' But Turgon answered: 'Not long now can Gondolin be hidden; and being discovered it must fall.' Then Huor spoke and said: 'Yet if it stands but a little while, then out of your house shall come the hope of Elves and Men. This I say to you, lord, with the eyes of death: though we part here for ever, and I shall not look on your white walls again, from you and from me a new star shall arise. Farewell!'" Of the Fifth Battle, p. 194

"Who knows now the counsels of Morgoth? Who can measure the reach of his thought, who had been Melkor, mighty among the Ainur of the Great Song, and sat now, a dark lord upon a dark throne in the North, weighing in his malice all the tidings that came to him, and perceiving more of the deeds and purposes of his enemies than even the wisest of them feared, save only Melian the Queen? To her often the thought of Morgoth reached out, and there was foiled." Of Turin Turambar, p. 205

"Thus Maedhros and Meglor gained not the jewel; but it was not lost. For Ulmo bore up Elwing out of the waves, and he gave her the likeness of a great white bird, and upon her breast there shone as a star the Silmaril, as she flew over the water to seek Earendil her beloved. On a time of night Earendil at the helm of his ship saw her come towards him, as a white cloud exceeding swift beneath the moon, as a star over the sea moving in strange course, a pale flame on wings of storm. And it is sung that she fell from the air upon the timbers of Vingilot, in a swoon, nigh unto death for the urgency of her speed, and Earendil took her to his bosom; but in the morning with marveling eyes he beheld his wife in her own form beside him with her hair upon his face, and she slept." Of the Voyage of Earendil, p. 247

"But those who saw the things that were done in that time, deeds of valor and wonder, have elsewhere told the tale of the War of the Ring, and how it ended both in victory unlooked for and in sorrow long foreseen." Of the Rings of Power and the Third Age, p. 303

Topics for Discussion

Compare and contrast Morgoth to Satan from the Christian Bible.

List and describe at least three other similarities between the Silmarillion and the Christian Bible.

Describe the ways in which the Silmarillion can be seen as a new creation myth.

Explain the oath of the sons of Feanor.

Describe one example of a way in which Ulmo assists the Elves.

Why do the Silmarils burn Morgoth and, later, Maedhros?

Justify Morgoth's claim that he caused Feanor's evil deeds.