

# **Unfinished Tales of Numenor and Middle-earth Study Guide**

**Unfinished Tales of Numenor and Middle-earth by J. R. R. Tolkien**

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# Plot Summary

The Unfinished Tales of Numenor and Middle Earth are a collection of unfinished works put together by J.R.R. Tolkien's son, Christopher Tolkien. The tales are all in various stages of completion, and each stands alone as its own story. Christopher Tolkien does very little editing of the tales, but instead presents them to the reader in exactly the form that they exist in his father's notes. The few places where editing does take place is mainly due to their being conflicting versions of the story, and these are clearly marked for the reader so as to avoid confusion.

As the reader makes their way through the tales, they find that the book is divided into four distinct sections. The first three sections are each dedicated to a specific age or time period that Tolkien created. In essence, it is something of a historical timeline that gives the reader supplemental information to what is found in other works. The fourth section is simply titled Part Four and contains specific tales that do not pertain to the other three sections but do offer insight into the world of Middle Earth.

In the First Age, we are introduced to Tuor and Turin, both of the House of Hador. Though these cousins never actually meet, their lives and destinies are intertwined. These tales also give the reader their first taste of just exactly how the format of the book reads. For example, Tuor's tale cuts off just as the reader falls into its rhythm. The Second Age takes us to the land of Numenor and visits the history and people of the isle. In "A Description of the Island of Numenor," the reader is given a detailed accounting of the geography of the land. "Aldarion and Erendis: The Mariner's Wife," tells the tale of Tar Aldarion's longing for the sea and the consequences of following his heart. "The Line of Elros: King of Numenor," is a detailed timeline of the genealogy of Numenor, giving the reader a timeline against which other events can be compared. The final tale in this section takes the reader back to Middle Earth to learn about Galadriel and Celeborn. This tale brings forth just as many questions as it answers with its variations and inconsistencies.

Part Three takes the reader deep into the Third Age. The tales contained in this section give history and insight around the events and times seen within the Lord of The Rings trilogy. First the reader is given a look into what exactly happened to Isildur in "The Disaster of the Gladden Fields." Then we are given a deeper understanding of the events that lead to the alliance between Rohan and Gondor in the tale of "Cirion and Eorl and the Friendship Between Gondor and Rohan." The next two tales deal with the Ring of Power. The reader is given a glimpse into Gandalf's strategy and motivation in "The Quest of Erebor," while "The Hunt for the Ring," shows a rare look into the mind of Saruon himself. These tales open up new information about the search for the Ring of Power that the reader is not privileged to anywhere else. "The Battles of the Fords of Isen," is a look into the death of Theodred, this event is mentioned in the Lord of the Rings, but never truly explained.

Part Four of this anthology is slightly different from the other three sections as it deals with specific races and objects rather than a time period. In Part Four, the reader is first



introduced to a small yet hardy race of beings known as the Druedain. Though their descriptions make them seem similar to Hobbits, the Druedain are much more closely akin to Dwarfs. In "The Istari," the reader is able to see much more about the wizards of Middle Earth and from where they came. They are not merely wise old men, but a separate race entirely sent to Middle Earth by the Valar. Finally, the tale of "The Palantiri," explains the history and significance around the seeing stones found in Minas Tirith and Isengard. In the end, following through this collection of tales will give the reader a great insight into the bulk of Tolkien's work that cannot be found anywhere else.



# Of Tuor and His Coming to Gondolin

## Of Tuor and His Coming to Gondolin Summary

This tale starts with the birth of Tour. His mother, Rian, is the wife of Huor. During the Great War, she chooses to live with her husband's people of the House of Hador. Unable to deal with the wait, Rian flees to face her pain alone. She never would have survived on her own, but by luck she is found wandering in the woods by the Grey-elves. The elves take her into their fold, and she is able to live with them until she gives birth to her son, Tuor. Rian then expresses her desire to search once more for her husband Huor. Annael, the only elf to return from the Nirnaeth Arnoediad, tells her that Huor fell next to his brother Hador in the great battle. His body now lies with those of the other slain upon the field. Rian makes her way alone to Haudh-en-Ndegin and lies down to die.

Tuor, now an orphan, is raised by the elves and learns much at their hands. They school the boy well, and he grows up to be a fine man in all respects. As time passes, it becomes more and more dangerous for elves to remain where they are. Annael decides to lead his people South, away from the trouble of their land in hopes of finding a better life. He hoped that they would find the legendary Gate of Noldor long spoken of by the elves, but such was not meant to be. No sooner have they departed on their journey than they are attacked by a large host of Orcs and Easterlings. Tuor stands to fight against the enemy even as the others scatter. Though he fights long and hard, eventually he is over run and taken prisoner.

Life as a prisoner is not an easy one for Tuor, for his captor, Lorgan the Easterling, holds no love for the House of Hador. Tuor remains a prisoner for three years before seizing his chance to escape. Now free, though hunted, he still desires to find the Gate of Noldor that Annael had spoken of so long ago. One night, just as his hope was starting to wane, Tuor takes up his harp to sing. The sound and the song bring him peace as nothing else can. As he sings, a stream bursts forth from the ground at his feet to flow down the mountain. Tuor follows this messenger with a new sense of hope for now at least he has a direction.

Three days later, the spring leads him to two elves, Gelmir and Arminas. They decide that he is indeed a friend and lead him finally to the gate that he seeks. It turns out that the Gate of Noldor is a great arched waterfall that conceals a path through the caves. Tuor is again alone and forced to travel through the dark of the caves for four days with no food. That night, with a heavy heart, he is again compelled to sit down and sing. He does not realize that he has come to the Echoing Mountains of Lammoth and that his song is filling the land. When he stops singing, he hears a strange cry. As he follows the sound the following morning it leads him to three great birds, a sight that brings joy to his heart and gives him the strength to continue.



He follows the birds for some time, and they lead him finally to the great sea. Here, he finds the first signs of the Noldor of old. Tuor stayed in the area for several days until he saw a group of seven white swans. He is drawn to the beautiful creatures and now feels compelled to follow them. For seven days, Tuor follows the swans until at last they lead him to the ruined remains of a lost road. The road leads him to the old hall of Turgon where he finds elfish armor still mounted upon the wall behind the dais. He claims the armor for his own making as he does a declaration for all to hear. As he leaves the hall, the swans now pay tribute to him by offering him a single feather each, which he places upon his helm.

Tuor is now met by Ulmo, the Lord of the Waters. It is Ulmo that has led Tuor this far for he wants him to act as his messenger to Turgon, whom Tuor has long sought. Ulmo warns that time grows short and that Tuor must act with urgency or risk being overtaken by the Doom. He tells Tuor about the path that he must take and that he should watch for the last mariner of the last ship who will guide him. He also gifts Tuor with a special traveling cloak to aid him on his quest. Tuor humbly agrees to carry Ulmo's message and sets off on this new journey. It just so happens that the very next morning Tuor comes upon a weary looking elf called Voronwe. This is the guide that he seeks, and they set off for the halls of Turgon. Voronwe warns that although he may show Tuor the way, he cannot promise that he will be allowed entrance. Tuor has faith in Ulmo and reassures his new guide that all will be well.

Their journey is not a pleasant one. The weather is biting and cold, leaving them no way to search for and find food. To pass the time, and keep them from dwelling on their current condition, Voronwe shares the tale of how he came to be sitting upon the spot where Tuor found him. It turns out that he has spent a very long period of time out at sea and had only been swept to shore an hour before Tuor found him. As they travel, they hear a voice in the distance. Staying hidden from sight, they see Turin son of Hurin as he follows the path of his own journey. Tuor and Turin are kinsmen, but never again shall their paths cross. It turns out that there is a host of orcs following Turin, and the two travelers are forced to proceed with even greater caution. Tuor desires to confront the orcs, but Voronwe warns that he will not stay to help if he does. Though it is hard for him to do, Tuor agrees to continue in stealth but is not pleased with the decision. Just as it seems as though all is lost, Voronwe sees the Eagles of Crissaegrim. These noble creatures are the guardians of the Brithiach and just the sight of them is enough to force the orcs into hiding.

Finally, the pair reaches the guarded gate. They are not met with a warm reception. Voronwe is welcomed to proceed, but the guards wish to kill Tuor for even seeing this location. Once he convinces them that he is indeed the messenger of Ulmo and son of Huor, they allow him forward to receive judgment. In order to reach their ultimate goal, the pair must first pass through seven gates. The first of these is known as the Gate of Wood. This is followed by the Gate of Stone, the Gate of Bronze, the Gate of Writen Iron, the Gate of Silver, the Gate of Gold, and the Seventh Gate, named the Great. They are escorted through each of these gates until they reach the seventh gate and find themselves at last in front of the Warden of the Great Gate, Ecthelion. Tuor throws off his cloak to reveal the armor he claimed in the ruined hall of Turgon. After showing this



and hearing the words of Ulmo come out of his mouth, Ecthelion decides that he is indeed the messenger of Ulmo. He is allowed to live and to pass.

## Of Tuor and His Coming to Gondolin Analysis

It is important to remember that this is an unfinished tale. Christopher Tolkien published this and all the tales included in this collection as one last brief glimpse into the world that his father created. Being that Tolkien never finished the tale, there are some inconsistencies between the information included here and what is found in other Tolkien works. See them for what they are and then move on.

The original name for this tale was "Of Tuor and the Fall of Gondolin." Tolkien's son renamed the tale due to the fact that it ends so abruptly. There are a few notes as to where Tolkien wanted to go with this tale, but in the end, he chose to leave it abandoned while he worked on other projects. Readers can find a brief accounting of this tale in the "Silmarillion," but that is all.

There is a strong sense of foreshadowing in the moment when Tuor sees Turin briefly in the wild. These two are kinsmen. Both are great men in their own right but destined never to meet. The reader can feel the pain of Turin even though there is not the chance to know him as a character. Turin has his own tale in this collection and, just by reading these few lines, the reader knows it is destined not to be a happy one.

In the short confines of this tale, Tuor manages to show the reader the hero he will become. His willingness to put others before himself and to fight against insurmountable odds marks him as one for greatness. He shares these characteristics with the great heroes found throughout Tolkien's works. While we do know what many of his accomplishments will be, we do not have the chance to see them first hand.





# **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: The Childhood of Turin**

## **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: The Childhood of Turin Summary**

This is the tale of Turin, son of Hurin and Morwen. The story begins when Turin is but 5-years-old and his sister Urwen is three. Where Turin has the clam, quiet, realistic nature of his mother, his sister is a joyful spirit known at Laiaith or laughter. He may be his father's heir, but she holds their father's heart. It soon comes to pass that an ill wind blows across the land causing many to become very sick. Turin takes ill but manages to pull through in the end. His sister, however, does not live.

While his parents face their grief in their own way, Turin is left with no one to turn to other than the old lame woodsman Sador. Sador has an open ear and a kind heart. He takes the time to talk with Turin when no one else is willing, even when he does not feel that it is his place. It is Sador who teaches Turin the valuable lessons about giving and kindness that stick with the boy throughout the rest of his life. They become so close that soon it is Turin's ambition to be a soldier just as Sador once was.

When Turin turns eight-years-old, things are changing in the land. The enemy is working their way closer, and war is becoming inevitable. Hurin is somewhat excited at the prospect, because he cannot see any way that the elves could lose. Morwen is more realistic about their prospects. Turin's parents spend much time talking about what to do should their cause fail. It is decided that Morwen should take Turin, as the Heir to the House of Hurin, far from here. When the call comes, Turin watches his father lead the soldiers away from the village to meet their fate at the Nirnaeth Arnoediad.

## **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: The Childhood of Turin Analysis**

Seeing Turin during this time gives the reader the chance to witness the events that later shape the man. The differences between his parents become apparent, and Turin takes on specific traits from each one. It is a testament to Tolkien's skill as a writer that these traits carry on throughout the whole of his life. The reader watches first hand as Turin stumbles through the trials of childhood and learns the lessons that will make him a great man. His sadness over his sister's death is one event that marks the boy for life. In Turin's mind, it is his job to watch over and to protect his younger sister, and this is the first time in the young boy's life that he truly feels that he has failed.



One important lesson shown here is about giving. Turin wants to help his friend Sador in any way that he can. He tries to bring the man old tools or forgotten pieces of wood that he finds laying about. Sador teaches him to give freely, but only what is his to give. As a result of this lesson, Turin gives Sador the elfish knife that Hurin presents to him for his eighth birthday. Hurin notices the gift and, after hearing the explanation of it, is very proud of the way his son is growing into his own. The giving of the knife shows that Turin sees Sador as more of a father figure than he does his own father. It is the most valuable piece that the boys owns, his greatest treasure, and he presents it to his friend with a pure heart. The result of this gift is that everyone now treats Sador better; his life becomes somewhat easier because of the kindness of a young boy.



# **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: The Words of Hurin and Morgoth**

## **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: The Words of Hurin and Morgoth Summary**

Though Hurin fights valiantly at Nirnaeth Arnoediad, he is taken prisoner and brought to stand judgment before Morgoth. It is no secret that Morgoth holds a great hatred for Hurin, due to both his friendship with Turgon and his lineage. Now, in order to gain an advantage in the war, Morgoth seeks to break Hurin's spirit and learn the secret location of Gondolin. He has Hurin tortured repeatedly in an attempt to loosen his tongue, but Hurin refuses to break. It seems that no matter what Morgoth tries, Hurin's resolve is just too great. He holds true to his belief in the elves and their cause. There is nothing that Morgoth can do or say to change his stance.

In sheer frustration, Morgoth now changes tactics and threatens Hurin's family. This ploy is doomed to fail, as well. Hurin holds strong and reminds Morgoth that his family is not here. He also tells Morgoth that he does not believe his threats. Hurin feels that his family is out of Morgoth's reach, and this belief allows him to maintain courage in the face of Morgoth's anger. When this angle does not work either, Morgoth fixes Hurin to the very top of the Haudh-en-Nirnaeth. He tells Hruin that he may watch from here as he eliminates the resistance and wins the war. He wants Hurin to have to watch everything that is to come. Hurin is forced to endure this life now, for once locked in place by Morgoth's magic, he cannot move and cannot die.

## **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: The Words of Hurin and Morgoth Analysis**

This tale shows the classic struggle of good versus evil. The reader wants Hurin to prevail, and in his way, he does. He manages to stand strong in his beliefs even when faced with the ultimate evil. Hurin turns a deaf ear to the taunts and threats of Morgoth, which only serve to anger him further. In the end Morgoth's only retaliation is to withhold life or death, keeping our hero locked to him forever. In this, Hurin may lose his freedom, but he is able to keep his honor.

This tale also gives us insight into Hurin's character. He is shown to be a strong leader, steadfast in his beliefs and morals. Hurin's determination to do the right thing, his determination period, is reflected in the character of his son Turin. Through watching and trying to understand the father, we are allowed greater insight into what exactly drives the son. These traits are carried on generation to generation and, though they

may change slightly in each different person, they make up a large part of their distinct character traits



# NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: The Departure of Turin

## NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: The Departure of Turin Summary

When tidings finally make their way back from the Nirnaeth Arnoediad, they are not good. Morgoth was victorious in battle, and only three of the men from the village manage to make it home. Hurin is not one of these men. Easterlings take over the area, forcing many of the villagers out of their homes and into slavery. Morwen sees that times will be hard and starts to plan for her son Turin and her unborn child. She convinces the Easterlings that she is a witch and with this deception keeps her family and a few others somewhat safe.

As time passes, Morwen becomes more and more convinced that Hurin is not returning and that home is no longer a safe place for Turin. She decides to send Turin away to the house of King Thingol in Doriath in hopes that he will shelter the boy. Morwen knows that Turin will have to make this trip without her as she is expecting another child very soon. She knows that were she to attempt the crossing both she and her unborn child would likely perish. So, the decision is made for Turin to go alone with only two grown men to serve as his escorts and guides.

Not wanting to leave his mother nor make this journey, Turin seeks the council of Sador. Rather than being upset by the news, it seems that Sador is relieved by it. Sador knows that the village is no longer safe for Turin and that his mother cannot hide him forever. If the boy is to have a chance to survive then he has no choice but to leave. Plus, it was his father's will that Morwen send Turin away should he not return from the battle. Sador tries to return the knife to Turin, but the boy refuses saying that it is still a gift. In hopes of lifting the boy's spirits, Sador reminds Turin of a long ago pledge. When Turin was younger, he claimed that, "I shall go as a soldier with an Elf-king, as soon as I am able." With this in mind, Turin is able to calm down and face what is coming. He also says that he should not be so quick to make promises such as this.

Not long after Turin departs, his mother gives birth to a baby girl that she calls, Nienor. Turin never has the chance to meet his sister, because he is already well on his journey. His guides lead him well until at last they come to the mazes of the Queen. They wander through this bleak landscape until Beleg the Strongbow comes upon them. Recognizing the name of Hurin, Beleg agrees to escort the trio to Thingol. Thingol not only accepts Turin into his hall, but also takes him upon his knee, marking the boy as his foster son for all to see.

Thingol feels that Morwen and her young daughter should seek shelter in his kingdom along with Turin. He sends out messengers in hopes that she will return with them. Due to her pride, she refuses, claiming that she is not ready to live on the charity of another.



Instead of leaving with the messengers, she instead sends a token in her place, the Helm of Hador. To Morwen, sending the helm is a way of masking the poverty that she faces. Turin is saddened when the messengers return without her, because he was sure that she would want to come and live with him. Thingol knows what a treasure this helm is and decides that it should be given to Turin as "the heirloom of his fathers."

## **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: The Departure of Turin Analysis**

Rejection quickly becomes a strong theme in Turin's life, and it is in this section that we see the first real seeds of that. Though Turin's father is the one who left him, it is his mother that he feels rejected by. He admires his father, but Hurin first preferred the company of his sister, and then was gone from his life. Turin looks to his mother for strength and protection. When Turin calls out to his mother as he leaves for Thingol's court, she does not answer. Even though in reality it is because she does not hear him, Turin perceives that she has rejected him, and it cuts very deeply. The feeling hits again when Morwen does not return with Thingol's messengers. Again, she does have her reasons, but to Turin, this is a direct rejection of him and the second real sorrow of his life.

Another interesting detail touched on here is that Morwen somehow knows that Hurin is still alive. The story does not go into details as to how she knows this or what her hunch is based on, but it plays into the fact that she is able to convince the Easterlings that she is a witch. While there are no other clues to this puzzle, it is interesting.

In "The Words of Hurin and Morgoth," the reader is given a better understanding of the character of Hurin and the traits that Turin carries from him. In this tale, we now are able to see the other side. Morwen's pride in not moving to Thingol's court is what ultimately leads to her death, and the death of both of her children. Had she come when asked, many of the tragedies in Turin's life could have been avoided. Turin learns this same pride from his mother. Instead of facing his demons, he prefers to ignore them, and his pride will not allow him to ask any for forgiveness. This leaves him very prone to act before he thinks, a trait that brings Turin much trouble throughout the course of his life.



# NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: Turin in Doriath

## NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: Turin in Doriath Summary

Turin dwells with the elves for a period of nine years. His time is spent learning all that he can about their customs and teachings. As Thingol's foster son, Turin is well-liked in the court by everyone save only one elf, Saeros. Saeros feels that there is no place for a man in Doriath. He is quite the bully and takes every opportunity to mock Turin whenever he catches him alone. Over the years, Thingol continues to send messengers to Morwen, trying still to implore her to make her way to them with her young daughter. This is a dangerous journey for the messengers, but it is the only way that Turin receives news of his family. Unfortunately, when Turin is 17, a group of the messengers fails to return to court. Thingol's decides that it has become too dangerous to risk sending any others, and all news of Morwen and Nienor stops.

Even though he is still very young, Turin decides that it is now time for him to take his place in the war. Thingol understands the boy's desire to serve and offers him a position among his own knights far from the front lines. Yet, Turin is much like his father and longs for the battlefields. He breaks out his armor, including the Helm of Hador, and makes his way alone into the war. Turin proves to be a strong fighter, worthy of the House of Hador. Before long, his dragon helm is well-known, and the mere sight of it strikes fear into the hearts of his enemies. For a period of three years, Turin fights in the war and rarely returns to Thingol's court. When eventually he is forced to make a trip back in order for his arms to be repaired, he has the misfortune to run into Saeros. Saeros starts in on Turin much like he always has, but Turin is no longer a mere boy to take the abuse in silence.

The two fight over a perceived slight. Saeros is counting on his superior strength and speed but misjudges his opponent. Turin may not be an elf, but he is a trained and battle-hardened warrior. Saeros is no match for his skill. Rather than kill the elf, Turin forces him to strip and run naked through the woods, preferring to shame him. He hunts Saeros but does not intend to kill him or even cause him any harm. Saeros chooses not to face Turin, but instead jumps to his death. Though Turin does not cause this death, he fears that he will be held accountable. As such, he leaves Doriath, never to return. When Thingol returns, it is to find his hall in an uproar.

Based on the evidence he is given, Thingol feels that he has no choice but to banish Turin from the land. At the last possible moment, Beleg appears with an eyewitness as to the true events of the day. She states that it not only was it Saeros who attacked first, but he attacked Turin's back. She also points out that Turin could have dealt the deathblow, but instead chose not to. Turin easily overpowered Saeros, and would have



spared his life. It was Saeros' decision to jump. Upon hearing this, Thingol sends Beleg out to find Turin and return him home with a full pardon.

## **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: Turin in Doriath Analysis**

Here again, we are back to the same two themes, pride and rejection. Turin feels another rejection that is not real. In his mind, his mother has already rejected him, so why should Thingol be any different? As an outside observer, we know that this is not a realistic view of the situation, but, real or not, it is his perception that guides his actions. If he would have stayed to explain himself to Thingol, much of his later trials need not happen at all. Instead his pride will not allow him to explain himself. He prefers to leave the safety of the land he has called home and the people who love him never to return again. This decision not only hurts Turin, but also Thingol and the other elves who care about him. There are many times in Turin's life where one small decision could have spared him so much hurt and hardship, but he always takes the rocky path.





# **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: Turin among the Outlaws**

## **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: Turin among the Outlaws Summary**

Turin now believes that he is an outlaw and that Thingol will pursue him to face judgment. In an effort to avoid this fate, he makes his way alone through the land, staying constantly on the move. One day, he manages to stumble upon a band of outlaws. Though they would like to slay him, he quickly downs one of their numbers and claims his place for his own. Thus, he is allowed to join with the group as long as he does not hinder their sport. Turin complies until he finds the leader of the group chasing a young girl through the forest. Sensing that the man's intentions are not good, he kills the leader and frees the girl.

The girl begs Turin to come home with her, convinced that her father will wed them in his appreciation. Turin refuses, bidding her to return home quickly before anything else can happen. Since he has killed the leader of the band, he now assumes the mantle of power and takes over the group. Turin decides to take the outlaws away from their current area in search of a new territory. During this time, Thingol's messengers are trying to catch up with Turin and inform him of his pardon. None are able to complete their mission and eventually all return home except for Beleg.

It takes several seasons, but Beleg finally finds the band of outlaws in a cave that serves as their current hideout. The outlaws are scared of Beleg and take him prisoner in Turin's absence. Turin is away from camp fighting a band of orcs, and it is several days until he finally returns. He frees Beleg as soon as he returns to camp and is very pleased to see his friend after such a long time. Beleg tells him of Thingol's judgment and implores him to come back to Doriath. Turin considers the offer but cannot make himself return and face the others in Thingol's court. In the end, Turin continues to refuse, and Beleg is left disappointed and hurt by this rejection. He claims that this is the reason that men and elves should not mix.

## **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: Turin among the Outlaws Analysis**

Turin now knows that Thingol's rejection only exists in his own mind, and he still cannot let it go. His pride will not allow him to admit that he acted rashly and was wrong. Again, was he able to let go and return with Beleg, he would be reunited with his mother and sister. He would have the things his heart has longed for, but it is his pride that blocks



him. He hurts so many people with this decision, not only him and his family, but also Thingol. In the end, it is his own short sight that makes Turin his own worst enemy.

In this tale, Turin shows concern for the plight of others, but only when it serves his own purposes. There are many times when the outlaws engage in "sport" that Turin knows is wrong, yet does nothing to stop them in order to keep himself hidden from Thingol. It is only when he sees a chance at improving his own standing that he does anything. He knows that this is wrong and vows to change, but his actions remain the same. There are many times in Turin's life when he truly wants to do the right thing, but his own agenda's get in the way. It is a demon that he battles until his death.



# **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: Of Mim the Dwarf**

## **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: Of Mim the Dwarf Summary**

One day, as Turin and his men are scouting about, they see three small figures in the distance. Even though each figure carries a large burden for its size, they still move rather quickly. Androg, one of the outlaws, shoots at the figures with arrows trying to stop them from escaping. By the time the men reach the small figures, two have disappeared leaving only one to face the men. The men want to kill the creature, thinking it orc kin, but Turin pronounces it to be a dwarf.

The dwarf's name is Mim, and Turin says that if he allows them to share his dwelling he might live. Mim agrees but begs to be let go and return for them in the morning. Turin will not allow this unless the dwarf is willing to leave his sack with them. Since he will not, he must pass the night as a prisoner of the outlaws. The dwarf complains loudly until they tie his hands and feet. Then he resorts to a stony silence not sleeping or blinking until morning.

The next day, Mim keeps his promise and leads the outlaws to his home. The trip is long and very difficult so it takes most of the day to complete. Mim's home turns out to be built inside of a mountain in the way of the dwarf people. When they reach their destination, they are met with the news that one of the arrows shot by Androg has killed one of Mim's sons. The dwarf is very angry because of this and blames the outlaws since they would not let him leave the night before. He feels that he could have healed his son.

Angry or not, he is good for his word and allows the group to stay with him and his other son. His only demand is that Androg break his bow and all his arrows and lay them at the feet of his dead son. Androg grudgingly complies, and the group falls into a tense kind of peace. Mim not only provides them with shelter, but helps to feed the men, as well. The situation might not be ideal for all involved, but the men quickly settle into a peaceful routine and have no desire to leave.

## **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: Of Mim the Dwarf Analysis**

Again, Turin has brought sorrow to those he encounters. He is a great hero but at what cost and to whom? A chance encounter with Mim leaves the dwarf without his son; one of the only two beings Mim has left in the world. Turin furthers this insult by not allowing Mim to leave in order to heal his son. Turin knows much of the ways of the dwarves



from spending time with the elves, and as such, he knows that a dwarf is bound by his word. It is odd that Mim blames Androg for his son's death, but not Turin, seeing as how either one could have prevented it. Turin is supposed to be a hero, but up to this point, he is still only acting to his own ends. He does not stop to realize how his actions are affecting those around him.

This trait can still be traced back to his parents. Both Hurin and Morwen act without thinking of how it will affect their children. Hurin leaves for the war without forming a concrete plan of action for his family should he not return. Morwen knows that he wants her to leave, but there is no decision as to where to go. As to Morwen, she is too concerned with her own pride and the perceptions of others to realize what her actions are doing to her own children.



# **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: The Return of Turin to Dorlomin**

## **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: The Return of Turin to Dorlomin Summary**

Turin decides that the time has come for him to seek out his mother and sister. By the time he makes it back home to Dorlomin, winter has fallen, and the house stands empty. The land is taken over by the Easterlings, with most of the people reduced to nothing more than slaves. When he asks around for tidings of the pair, no one will speak to him save an old vagabond with a crutch. He learns that his mother and sister left the land over a year ago, fleeing in the night. He also learns that the man he is speaking to is his old friend Sador.

Sador is excited to learn that Turin has come home, but bids him not to reveal himself. He tells Turin when the women left, but cannot tell him where they were going or whether or not they arrived. He tells Turin that everyone assumed that Turin himself had sent for the women, and the hope was that the family was now reunited. Seeing Turin now dashes this hope. Sador tells Turin that if anyone would know the truth it would be Aerin, his mother's kin who had secretly helped her for all those years. Many years ago, Aerin was forced to marry Brooda and as such gained a position where she could at least sneak food to Morwen and Nienor.

Turin now turned to the lady of the house, Aerin, seeking answers. At first, Aerin claims that she knows nothing about the fate of Morwen and her daughter. Her husband stands against Turin, calling him a beggar and saying that his wife will not be spoken to in this manner. It is then that Turin reveals his true identity and asks Aerin to speak the truth to him, as he is her kin. She then admits that Morwen and Neinor went seeking the court of Thingol.

Turin, now possessed of a great rage, seizes Brooda and breaks his neck. This causes great fighting to break out in the hall. Many of the elder people of Dorlomin are slain, as well as most of the Easterlings. Sador takes a mortal blow and begs Turin to run with his dying breath. Turin complies, taking those who are able away with him. As they make their escape, they can see that Aerin has set fire to the hall in defiance of the remaining Easterlings.



## **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: The Return of Turin to Dorlomin Analysis**

Again, when Turin should have been the hope of his people, all he brings them is more pain. Now those that are left behind will be killed for this uprising. Also, Turin has caused the death of Sador who has stood by him since he was but a child. The people tell Turin not to come back unless he brings a force with him. He never returns to Dorlomin. Turin could have dealt with the situation in many ways that would not have proved as devastating to his people. Yet he chose to act hastily without thinking through the consequences of his actions. Now, Sador is dead, and his people are left without hope. They had all looked to Turin as the Heir to the House of Hador to return and save them. Though he does return, he does not bring salvation.



# **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: The Coming of Turin into Brethil**

## **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: The Coming of Turin into Brethil Summary**

Turin is torn. He is sure that his family has made it safely to Doriath. He thinks to go to them, but chooses instead that they are better off in the keeping of Melian than they would ever be with him. He decides that the time has come to search for Finduilas. As he makes his way through the woods, he comes across a small group of men surrounded by orcs. The orcs far outnumber the men, and Turin knows that he must act fast if he is to save any of their lives. Turin uses his voice and his courage to convince the orcs that he is not alone and chases them away from the fighters.

These are the men of Brethil and, after they see just how Turin handles the orcs, they try to convince him to stay on as one of their numbers. Turin declines, saying that he has an urgent errand with Finduilas, the daughter of Orodreth. Now Turin is met with some very bad news as the men inform him that Finduilas was killed a month earlier by orcs. Turin demands to be taken to her grave and once there, he falls into a death-like trance that they cannot wake him from. The men decide to carry him to their village rather than leave him lying by the side of the road.

When he finally awakens, he claims that he has been evil up to this point in his life. He now desires to stay among the woodsmen as one of them. Turin also casts aside his old name to be called Turambar, or Master of Doom. Even though he let go of his past, he still would not allow any orc near the grave of Finduilas. One of the woodsmen tells Turin of a rumor that he is truly Blacksword and the heir of the House of Hador. Turin replies that that may be true but asks him to be quiet in the name of friendship.

## **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: The Coming of Turin into Brethil Analysis**

Again, Turin is faced with arriving too late to help someone that he loves. It is at this point that he finally sees what exactly he has become. Though instead of choosing to face his past and return to Doriath and the only family that he knows, he sheds his identity to take on a new name, Turambar. It is as though Turin feels that by changing his name, he can change who he really is. Whatever name he calls himself, he gives away his true character by not allowing orcs to be near the grave of Finduilas. The woodsmen figure out whom he really is without ever having been told.



This section is the turning point in the tale. Turin has now finished his travels and wants to lead a peaceful life among the woodsmen. Fate has a different plan, and if Turin will not go out to seek his destiny, then his destiny will come to him. The story up to this point revolves around the times and events that lead Turin to Brethil. Now the focus shifts from Turin to Nienor. Even though Turin's journey is at an end, hers is only just beginning.





# **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: The Journey of Morwen and Nienor to Nargothrond**

## **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: The Journey of Morwen and Nienor to Nargothrond Summary**

In the winter months, tidings arrived at Doriath that Turin fell at the battle of Nargothrond. Morwen becomes distressed at this news and is sure that it is the trickery of Morgoth. She wishes for Thingol to allow her to venture out in search of her son. He does not want her to leave but insists that she is no prisoner and is free to go wherever she wishes. He also warns her that if she goes, she must make the journey on her own. He will not send any to aid her.

Morwen decides that no matter the risk, she must go out in search of Turin. She tells her daughter of her decision and forbids her to join in the search. Morwen sets out alone on her quest. Even though he said that she must go alone, Thingol sends out a company of troops to watch over her. They are to remain hidden from her as long as possible and to try to convince her to return with them. If she will not, then they have no choice but to escort her on her journey and bring back tidings from Nargothrond.

The soldiers, led by Mablung, follow for some time before showing themselves to Morwen. She will not agree to turn back with them, so they agree to travel with her. As they set out, it is discovered that Nienor is among them. No matter what her mother says, she will not leave, and the group is forced to escort both of them. When they reach Nargothrond, Mablung insists that the women remain a safe distance away while he goes to check things out. He does not want them to come under the notice of Glaurung, the great dragon servant of Morgoth that now lives in Nargothrond.

It is to no avail as Glaurung is well aware of their presence long before they even arrive. The dragon sets himself upon the riders on the distant hill. The elves command Morwen and Nienor to mount and flee but it is no use. In the confusion, Morwen is lost, and Nienor is thrown from her horse. She finds herself face-to-face with the great dragon that tries to convince her that Turin was a coward that fled the battle. She speaks against this thought knowing that it cannot be true, and Glaurung casts some sort of spell on her. She loses herself in a fog and can remember nothing of her life before that moment.

Mablung tries to stay hidden from the beast, but Glaurung taunts him. "There you lie like a vole under the bank, Mablung the mighty. I'll do you run the errands of Thingol. Haste you now to the hill and see what has become of your charge!" Mablung runs to the hill to



find Nienor standing as if in a fog. She will not speak or move on her own, but will follow like a child if you take her hand. With a heavy heart, Mablung turns what is left of his group back home.

Before they can reach Doriath, they are set upon by a band of orcs. In the midst of the battle, Nienor jumps to her feet and runs swiftly away from the fighting, tearing off her clothes as she goes until she is naked in the night. Though all give chase, she has suddenly become as swift as a deer and cannot be caught. Mablung returns to Thingol and asks to be relieved of his post. Thingol refuses and comforts the master of his hunters. He assures Mablung that no one could have done any better, and most would not have done as well. Thingol is pleased to at least have the tidings he sought.

## **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: The Journey of Morwen and Nienor to Nargothrond Analysis**

In this tale, Morwen shows several character traits similar to those of her son. Even though she is warned by all not to attempt this journey, she does not listen. Her refusal to bend her will costs her and ultimately her daughter their lives. Much like Turin cannot admit when he makes any kind of mistake, Morwen cannot accept that her path may not be the right one. It is selfish pride that leads her to refuse Thingol's offers for sanctuary all those years, and selfish pride that sends her out in search of Turin now. She may claim that it is a mother's love for her son, but it has now been over ten years since she has last seen Turin. If it were motherly love, she would have moved to Thingol's court as soon as she and the baby were well enough to travel.

Nienor now feels the rejection of her mother that Turin felt when he was first sent to live with the elves. It is painful to her that her mother would essentially abandon her to go and search for Turin. Though Nienor has heard about her father and her brother all of her life, her mother is the only family she has ever actually known. To her, when Morwen wants to leave her behind, she feels rejected for a stranger. Morwen is so focused on achieving her own goals that she does not realize the harm she is inflicting on her daughter. This is the same sorrow that Turin felt when Morwen would not join him in Thingol's court.

Glaurung is the final piece of the puzzle in Turin's life. All the events have led up to this meeting between Glaurung and Nienor. Again, here is an instance where if only one decision had been different, several lives would have been drastically changed. Had Morwen not insisted on searching for Turin and Nienor not insisted on going along, both would still be safe in the keeping of Melain. Now instead of this kinder ending to the tale, fate has led them all to the point where tragedy cannot be avoided. Where each of the players claim to be acting in the interest of someone else, in reality they are all striving to reach their own goals. Had they actually acted with the best interest of the others in mind, the story would be very different indeed.



# **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: Nienor in Brethil**

## **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: Nienor in Brethil Summary**

Nienor is forced now to fend for herself in the woods. She manages to find water but no food to ease her hunger. She makes her way for as long as she can until she finds a soft green mound standing in the middle of the woods. Deciding that it would make a fine place to rest, she lays down to sleep. It just so happens that this is the very mound under which Finduilas is buried. It is here that Turambar comes upon her. He and his men see what they believe to be a wraith maiden laying naked on the grave. It is not until they get much closer that they realize she is alive.

The men try to figure out what has happened to her, but she still cannot speak. Since her only response to their questions is to weep, Turambar gives her the name Niniel. They take her with them back to Ephel Brandir hoping she will remember who she is. When they reach the village Brandir, the village leader works with all his skill to heal the girl. Niniel grows strong, and learns quickly from those around her. Though Brandir comes to love her, it is only Turambar that brings her peace. The two become very close and quickly build a strong relationship.

Before long, Turambar asks Niniel to marry him. She is very excited by the prospect but Brandir counsels her to wait. He wishes to wed her himself and cannot stand that she views him only as a brother. He convinces Niniel to wait by talking about Turambar's past and his desire for war. She does hold off for a short while, but the next spring when Turambar asks again, she agrees. She is very pleased that he pledges not to go off to war unless it is to defend her. The two are wed and live happily in a fine house built for them by the woodmen.

## **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: Nienor in Brethil Analysis**

When Glaurung cast the fog over Neinor, he set the events in motion that led to Nienor and Turin finding one another. The situation is further complicated with the presence of Brandir and his own love for Niniel. As the village leader, he does wield power over the people, but not over Turambar. It is hard for Brandir to know that his own people seek the council of an outsider over his own, and it just adds insult to injury that the woman he loves prefers Turambar. This creates a tension between the two men that comes to a head later in the tale.



In this portion of the tale, we see the climax of one segment of the storyline with the marriage of Niniel and Turambar. Obviously, now brother and sister have married each with no knowledge of who the other actually is. We know that this knowledge has to come to light sooner or later, and it is bound to have serious repercussions when it does. At any point up until now, a change in path could have led to a different outcome, but now there is no chance for that to happen. Morwen and Hurin are both gone, and now their children are left to deal with the repercussions of their actions.



# NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: The Coming of Glaurung

## NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: The Coming of Glaurung Summary

Turambar has now lived with the woodsmen for three years. Other than the occasional band of orcs, this time is passed in peace. He is settling into his new marriage with Niniel, and they are expecting their first child together. Just as Turambar thinks all is well, news comes to the village that Glaurung is on the move. While some think that he is on his way back to his master, Turambar believes that he is heading for the village. Glaurung is in fact heading towards Ephel Brandir. He has long been aware of a pocket of free men in this area, and he or Morgoth would not tolerate that. Morgoth did not want any living in his realm that was not in thrall to him. Glaurung also guessed that it was in this area where Turin was hiding.

He first sent orcs to the area in great numbers. Whereas before the orcs had visited this place merely to pass through, now it was their destination. The woodsmen fought bravely but it was not until they convinced Turambar to join the fight did the odds shift back to their favor. News traveled quickly that the Blacksword had returned, and the people were able to pass the winter in peace. Now Glaurung decides to make the journey himself. He moves through the forest setting everything in his path on fire as he goes. The great beast is making his way directly towards them, straying not even a little from his course. Turambar decides that if they are ever to have peace then he must kill the dragon. He knows that the only way to do this is to strike at its soft underside. When they hear at last that Glaurung is very close to them, Turambar takes two men and sets out to meet the beast.

Niniel does not want him to go into this battle, but he convinces her that there is no other way to find peace. The plan is for Turambar and his two companions to cross the river and wait for the dragon to descend a steep cliff. This way they hope to get their shot at his vulnerable stomach. Back in the village, Niniel is not handling the waiting very well at all. Brandir reminds her again that he did not wish for her to marry. She tells him that it would not matter now, because she is two months pregnant with his child. Deciding that the waiting is just more than she can handle, Niniel decides to go out and meet the dragon herself. If Turambar fails, she says that she will not run and hide, but instead will meet her fate head on. The people of the village are behind her, and they set off into the night.

Feeling that no one listens to his council, Brandir denounces his claim of lord. He says that he is passing the title to Turambar. He feels that everyone turns to Turambar, and



all that he lacks is the title. Then, he sets off to follow Niniel for that is where his heart lies.

## **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: The Coming of Glaurung Analysis**

There are a few key points to this section of the tale. First, the reader finds out that Turin has now fathered a child with his sister. It is bad enough that he and his sister unknowingly married one another, but to bring a child into the picture is more unforgivable. It adds a new element to their relationship that changes how the reader looks at the whole situation. Now we are not just talking about two adults capable of their own decisions, but also a child. In this tale, the sins of the parents are visited upon the children. With this new child, the cycle continues.

The rising action takes off in this section, leading us to the ultimate climax. We know that Glaurung is the one responsible for the marriage of Turin and Nienor, and now he is coming to the village where they have made their home. Knowing that it all started with him, means knowing that it will all end with him. The stage is set for a scene with the three key players, Glaurung, Turin and Nienor, all in the same place for the very first time.



# **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: The Death of Glaurung**

## **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: The Death of Glaurung Summary**

By the time Turambar makes it to the Dragon, he is the only one left. Dorlas did not make it across the river, and Hunthor fell when a large boulder hit him on the head. Turambar faces Glaurung on his own, as he somehow knew it had to be. He waited patiently until the dragon was right on top of him. Then he drove the Black Sword of Beleg up into the belly of the beast to its hilt.

Glaurung screamed out in pain and anger causing the woods to shake with his rage. He lashes out with his body forcing Turambar to cling to the tree roots to keep from falling. When at last he made his way down to where the Dragon fell, he felt no remorse. When he pulled his sword from the body, his hand was sprayed with burning dragon blood. Glaurung opened his eyes to glare at Turambar with hatred. Such was the gaze that it caused Turambar to faint and fall as if dead with his sword beneath him.

When Glaurung screamed, the people believed that it was in victory. Niniel bids Brandir to take her to see her husband who she fears has fallen. Niniel finds him lying beside the dragon. Though she cannot find a mortal wound, she still fears that he has been killed. Holding him close to her, she feels his breath on her cheek but writes it off as a trick. She tears a strip of cloth from her clothes and uses it to bind Turambar's burned hand. As she is tending to Turambar's wounds, Glaurung opens his eyes for the last time. He speaks to Niniel, and calls her by her real name. With the speaking of her name, the veil is lifted from her mind. She now remembers everything and knows that she has married her own brother. Unable to stand the thought of it, she throws herself into the river to meet her death. Brandir is there to witness the whole exchange and knows that he must take this news to his people.

On his way back to them, he comes across Dorlas sitting in the dark. He questions why Dorlas was not with the others and finds that the man could not go through with it in the end. The two of them argue, and Brandir kills Dorlas. He then moves on to find his people and tell them what has happened this night. Brandir announces that both the Dragon and Turambar are dead, and that this is very good news. He then goes on to tell the whole story of whom Turambar really was and that Niniel was really his sister. The people are saddened by all of this but decide that they must bury him. "Our deliverer shall not be left to lie under the sky."



## **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: The Death of Glaurung Analysis**

By jumping to her death, Nienor shows that rash thinking and action runs in the family. However, she is acting out of shame rather than out of selfishness. She feels ashamed to have married her brother and that she now carries his child. It is interesting that she chooses to jump to her death in the same way that Saeros did so many years ago. It brings the story full circle, from the event that led to Turin's self-imposed exile to the event that in essence ends it. Nienor is the only member of her family that is innocent of any wrong doing; yet it is she that must bear the heaviest burden.

By slaying the dragon, Turin is in a sense slaying the demons of his past. He feels that if he can just over come this one last foe that he can finally live his life in peace and happiness with his wife and child. Unfortunately, he does not know that his peace is an illusion created by the dragon. His choices have led him to this moment, and now he has no choice but to finally face them. It is as though Turin has to answer for all of his sins all at once rather than answering each as it happens. He might be able to prolong judgment, but it finds him in the end. Even though Turin is able to kill the dragon, it is Glaurung who deals the last blow.





# **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: The Death of Turin**

## **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: The Death of Turin Summary**

When the people reach the place where Turin is supposed to be lying, they find him alive and waiting for them. He wants to know who has fixed his hand and asks for his wife. Brandir tells him that she is dead, and Turin does not believe him at first. It is only when he is told the real story of who Niniel really was that he starts to believe. Madness takes him over.

He runs through the woods in a completely frantic state of mind, unable to control himself. While he is in this state, he comes across Mablung and a company of 12 huntsmen. Thingol's master of the hunt is pleased to see Turin and admits that they were on their way to help with the Dragon. Turin tells them that he has killed Glaurung and asks for tidings of his mother and sister. Mablung tells him that they were in Doriath but left over a year ago in search of him.

Turin is even more distraught at this news. He now flees from Mablung and his party to make his way back to the river. Unable to deal with all that has happened, he pulls out his sword and takes his own life. When he falls on the sword, the blade breaks, and so ends the life of Turin. When the elves found him, they buried him in a high mound right where he fell. The spot was marked with a tombstone for both Turin and Nienor even though her body was never been recovered.

## **NARN I HIN HURIN The Tale of the Children of Hurin: The Death of Turin Analysis**

This section of the tale shows the falling action of the entire story. After the death of Nienor, the reader knows that Turin is finally doomed, there is no way that he will be able to survive this blow. Much like when shown the grave of Findulas, Turin goes a bit crazy at the news. Up to this point, Turin has spent his entire life running from his problems, a habit started by his mother. Instead of facing the situation, she sent Turin away, teaching him that it is better to just run. This is a problem that he cannot run from. His actions catch up with him and cost him the one person that he has ever truly cared about. Now when he has no choice but to face the situation, he finds that he does not have the strength. He takes his life upon his own sword, which breaks in the same way that his heart did.

# A Description of the Island of Numenor

## A Description of the Island of Numenor Summary

In this section, the reader finds a detailed description of the Island of Numenor. It claims that the island is laid out much like a five point star. The five points of the star are known as Forostar in the northlands, Andustar in the westlands, Hyarnustar in the southwestlands, Hyarrostar in the southeastlands, and Orrostar in the eastlands. The center portion of the island is known as Mittalmar.

Mittalmar is located at a somewhat higher elevation than that of the rest of the island. Even though it is a beautiful area that could hold many people easily, no one ever built there. This was a place of worship, where only the king is allowed to speak, and even then only three times a year. These times are Erukyerme, held in the first days of spring, Erulaitale, in the mid summer, and Eruhantale, at autumn's end. This is what is known throughout the land as the times of Three Prayers, and it is the king's responsibility to offer these prayers.

The Forostar, located on the northern part of the island, is the least fertile part of Numenor. While there are some moors and a few scant woods, for the most part the land is made up of stony slopes. It is the home of the eagles, and the very spot where Tar-Meneldur Elentirimo erected his tower to study the paths of the stars. The Andustar, while rocky in its northern reaches, is the home to great forests overlooking the sea. Many people make their home along the coast in Andustar, and their houses cling directly on to its steep slopes. As you move to the southern part of the region, the land becomes more open and fertile.

The Hyarnustar, located in the southwestern portion of the island, connects to Andustar by a great bay called Eldanna. This area of the island is covered with a great and beautiful forest. So lovely is it to look at that the Elder have compared its beauty with that of Eressea. This is where Tar-Aldarion planted the great tree Malinorne, which was given to him as a wedding gift by the Eldar. Now the Hyarnustar moves into the Hyarrostar as the land moves to the east. Here is where the great river Siril makes its way to the ocean. The land is fertile and lush, perfect for crops and growing the timber needed to build the great ships.

The last of the points is the Orrostar. The land here is cooler than the rest of the island, but still very fertile. It is in Orrostar that most of the island's grain stores are grown. The area is protected from the harsher elements by the highlands that rim its borders.

To look at the island as a whole, it appears that it was shoved up out of the sea only to tip to one side. The primary means of transportation throughout the island is horseback. The men and women of Numenor treasure their animals and are known to form a tight bond with them. For this reason, the island is not set up for carriages or wagons, but rather the roads remain unpaved and tended for riding. Most heavy cargos are not



transported over land, but are brought to the people by the sea. Since Numenor is an island, the sea calls to many of its people, and soon is a primary livelihood for the men of the country.

## A Description of the Island of Numenor Analysis

This tale gives a large amount of information about the day-to-day life on Numenor. A perfect stranger could read through the passage and feel somewhat familiar with the lay of the land and the ways of the people. As a reader, this type of information is very helpful when trying to make sense of where your characters are going and why. The names of places become familiar very fast, but it is sometimes hard to understand the relationship between them.

These types of detailed accounts are what sets Tolkien's work apart from so many others. He does not merely write a story, he creates a land. Tolkien sets an elaborate stage unlike any other author. The reader not only knows the parameters of the story, but the complete history of the land from where the characters came. It makes the text come alive, because there really is no detail too small for him to cover. Just by reading this one tale, the reader knows the layout of Numenor, where the people live and why, what the primary livelihood is, some important historical facts, religious customs, and how many of the plants came to the island in the first place. The level of attention to detail allows the characters of the story to develop in a more realistic manner. When the reader knows the events that shaped the history of a particular character, they can better understand their actions now.



# Aldarion and Erendis: The Mariner's Wife

## Aldarion and Erendis: The Mariner's Wife Summary

Meneldur, the son and heir of Tar-Elendil, is destined to be the next king of Numenor. Although he accepts his duty, his heart lies in the sky rather than with the day-to-day dealings of the people. He prefers to spend his time studying how the stars move through the sky from his tower in Forostar. As is custom, once Meneldur becomes king, he sets aside his own passions to live for his people. He and his wife move to the house of the kings, and he is known throughout the land as a fair and wise king.

Though the king and queen have three children, they are only gifted with one son, Aldarion. Aldarion is known for a cheerful and outgoing personality, but also for being very stubborn. As his father's heart is called to the heavens, Aldarion is called by the sea. He shares his love of the water with his mother's father, Veantur, and spends much of his time following him around. Veantur decides that for Aldarion's 25th birthday, they should take a great sea voyage together. It is to be Aldarion's first such trip, and Veantur's last. Though it does not please Meneldur, he reluctantly allows his son to go.

Aldarion takes to the sea like he was born to it and makes several journeys over the next few years. His father starts to despair that he will never again be happy on dry land. Aldarion even goes so far as to build a grand ship to serve as his home. He cannot bear to be parted from the sea for even a moment. Aldarion's passion for the water drives a wedge between him and his father. It is not until Meneldur decides to proclaim his son as his heir do the father and son find peace.

Aldarion's mother, Almarian, tries to find ways to keep her son at home. She wants to see him married and settled on the land. With this in mind, she brings Erendis to live in the queen's household. Though both his father and mother now urge him to take a wife, Aldarion refuses and will hear nothing of it. It is not until Erendis brings him a bough for his ship does he first see her as a woman. This is the first voyage where Aldarion finds himself hurrying home.

He brings Erendis a beautiful diamond as a token from his voyage, and now his parents think that he has finally decided to settle down. Their insistence makes Aldarion all the more determined not to wed and causes him to ignore Erendis completely. He leaves again on a voyage, this one so long that people fear he will not return. When he finally does, it is to find that Erendis has moved back to her father's house and is not waiting for him. Though he wished to seek her, he knows that he cannot save to ask for her hand in marriage.

Their paths soon cross again, and Aldarion finds himself in love with the girl. Erendis does not come meekly, but forces him to court her. When she finally agrees to marry



him, it is with the understanding that his days at sea are behind them both. Aldarion stays on land with her for over 18 years. When the time came for the wedding to take place, he found that the sea called to him once again. Against all counsel, Aldarion leaves once more and does not return to Numenor for six years. When he finally does make his way home, he finds that all are cold to him, even his mother who has stood behind him up to this point.

Erendis forgives Aldarion for his absence and a date is set for a grand royal wedding. Guests come from all over the island and beyond to take part in the celebration. Even the Eldar come, and they bring very special gifts to the bride and groom. Two years after they are wed, Erendis gives birth to a baby girl named Ancalime. Erendis is pleased that the child is a girl, thinking that Aldarion will want to stay longer to father a son. He does stay with them until his daughter is four-years-old. At that point, he admits that the sea is calling him once again. Erendis stands against him for the first time not wanting him to leave, but he goes anyway, leaving her and their daughter behind.

After Aldarion departs, Erendis takes their daughter to live in the country away from the royal court. Though Aldarion promises her that he will only be gone for two years, it is almost 5 before he returns. During that time, Erendis is raising their daughter in her own image, far away from men of any kind. The child is so sheltered that she does not even recognize a boy when she sees one. Aldarion returns to find his house boarded up, and his family gone. When he finds out where they are, he goes to them and receives a cold welcome. He leaves quickly saying that he will send for his child.

Aldarion arrives home with a letter for the king. It is from the king of Lindon and asks Meneldur for help with what he believes to be a coming war. Meneldur considers his plea and decides that it is time for his son to rule. He feels that the times have passed him by, and the Aldarion is more equipped to guide their people during the coming days. Aldarion is on the verge of rebelling once again when he hears of his father's decision. Once he finds out he is to be king, he is humbled and begs for his father to forgive him.

It now comes to pass that Aldarion is made king of Numenor during these dark times. Aldarion sends for his daughter to join him in the city. Erendis sends the child as she has no choice, but refuses to come with her. She chooses instead to remain alone at her house in the country, bitterness her only companion. Aldarion is hurt by Erendis's refusal of him, but does not go to her, nor does he reply to her letter.

## **Aldarion and Erendis: The Mariner's Wife Analysis**

Though Aldarion wants to do what is right for his people and for his family, he has not the strength to ignore his own desires. He is given chance after chance by those who love him only to throw it away again and again. Erendis shelves her own pride for as long as she can, waiting for him to love her as much as he does the sea, but it is for naught. Aldarion has two wives, and the love of one is not strong enough for him to withstand the pull of the other. It is like any other kind of addiction. Aldarion cannot walk



away from the sea no matter how many people he has hurt, nor how much damage he has done to his life.

Pride plays a key role in this tale. Aldarion cannot overcome his own pride to reach out to those that he loves. He is so set on having his will in all things that he cannot bend for those that care for him. Erendis waits until she can take no more. When Aldarion leaves both her and her daughter behind and does not return when he promises, she can forgive him no more. Now that he has abandoned her once again, her pride dictates that she cannot take him back. The product of this union is a daughter that later tales describe as cold and unfeeling. She remembers her father leaving her at a young age, and never quite gets over what she perceives as his rejection of her.

The only person in this tale who can set aside his or her own pride for the good of others is Meneldur. In the end, he knows that at this time he is not the best choice for his people. He does not understand this new threat and is strong enough to realize that his son does. Aldarion's travels may have made him a stranger at home, but they gave him an insight to the world as a whole. Meneldur sees that if this great war truly does come to pass, then Numenor needs someone to lead them that understands what they are up against and is capable of facing it.

# **The Lines of Elros: Kings of Numenor**

## **The Lines of Elros: Kings of Numenor Summary**

This section contains the genealogy of the royal line of Numenor. The line begins 58 years before the beginning of the second age with Elros Tar-Minyatur. From there until the Downfall some 3000 years later, the line goes unbroken. It passes down through the family tree, with the ruling seat always passing to a direct descendant. It is worth noting that the first female ruler in the line is Tar-Ancalime, the only child of Tar-Alderion, who sat upon the throne for a period of 205 years. The final ruler in the line is Tar- Miriel. She is the last ruler of Numenor and dies during the Downfall.

## **The Lines of Elros: Kings of Numenor Analysis**

This section gives the reader a strong timeline to base against historical events. Since the people in these tales do not live what we would consider to be a normal human lifespan, it can be hard to keep the years in perspective. By having a reference such as this genealogy to serve as a guide, it becomes easier to keep different dates, times and people straight. Though some of the rulers listed are only mentioned in this particular tale, they still hold their place in time, making all of the other pieces of the puzzle fit together.



# The History of Galadriel and Celeborn and of Amroth King of Lorien

## The History of Galadriel and Celeborn and of Amroth King of Lorien Summary

The history of Galadriel and Celeborn is full of problems and inconsistencies. This is most evident when trying to understand the movements and events that shape the life of Galadriel herself. There are several different accounts of her life and exactly what happened during her time on Middle Earth. There are also questions about how she came to meet Celeborn, and whether or not Amroth is their son.

One version has Galadriel coming to Middle Earth to follow Feanor. There is it said that her anger drove her to stop him at any cost. Another does not even mention her feud with Feanor and has her leaving for Middle Earth with Celeborn at a completely separate time. One thing that all the different accounts have in common is that Galadriel is very bright, beautiful and athletic, even for one of the elf race.

Another account claims that Galadriel, the daughter of Finarfin, is welcomed in Doriath as she is kin to Thingol on her mother's side. Here she meets Celeborn and makes the decision to stay in Middle Earth with him. Together they have a son, Amroth. After some time passes, Galadriel becomes aware that Sauron is going stronger once again. This leads her and Celeborn to move to the east and establish the realm of Eregion. It seems that this region is chosen due to its close proximity to the Dwarves of Moria.

A Noldorion craftsman called Celebrimbor traveled with the elves as a part of their group. He is known for having a dwarfish obsession with crafts, and even works with the dwarfs at times. It is during this time that Sauron establishes his domain in the land of Mordor. He also manages to come to Eregion for a time, disguising himself as an emissary while he is there. It is unknown as to why Galadriel allows this to happen. Sauron puts his time in Eregion to good use and manages to recruit Celebrimbor and the other craftsmen to his cause. He convinces the craftsmen to revolt and drives Galadriel out of Eregion. She takes up rule in Lorinand and starts her own plans against Sauron.

Sauron leaves Eregion after he has the craftsmen there making the Rings of Power. Soon Celebrimbor realizes his mistake and goes to Galadriel asking forgiveness. He says that they should have destroyed the Rings of Power when they had the chance, but did not have the strength. It is at this time that Celebrimbor gives Narya, the White Ring, to Galadriel. The remaining two Elfish rings are given to Gil-Galad for safekeeping, and taken far away.

When Sauron learns what Celebrimbor has done, he becomes enraged and immediately sends out troops against Eregion. Though Celebrimbor himself stands





against the force, Eregoin is soon overtaken, and Sauron claims the Nine Rings. He tortures Celebrimbor until he learns the location of the Seven Rings, but is never able to find out what happened to the Three. He does guess correctly that the Three Rings have been given to the elves. He also knows that in this time that means that they are in the possession of Galadriel and Gil-Galad.

Now Sauron's anger is multiplied. He turns his thoughts back to battle, bearing the body of Celebrimbor as his standard. He might have overpowered all at that point, but soon found himself surrounded on three sides by, Elrond, the dwarfs, and Galadriel's soldiers, led by her son. Now his purpose turns to taking Lindon, where he believes that he has the best chance of seizing the three rings. Gil-Galad receives aid at the last minute from Numenor and is able to stand strong. Sauron's forces are depleted, and he is forced to take refuge in Mordor for a long time in order to re-group.

## **The History of Galadriel and Celeborn and of Amroth King of Lorien Analysis**

This tale is a perfect example of why this work is called, "Unfinished Tales." There are many different accounts of the lives of Galadriel and Celeborn both in this book and throughout all of Tolkien's work. While there are many differing opinions as to which version is the correct one, no one really knows what Tolkien himself intended. In fact, it is stated that the last notes to this tale were laid down in the final month of Tolkien's life, leading us to believe that this was still in the works. It means that even though many people still argue today as what is the right version, there is no answer to the question. If Tolkien himself did not know the details of this relationship, then how should we?

Galadriel is a key character throughout much of Tolkien's work. In the Lord of the Rings, she shelters the Fellowship for a time after they have left the mines of Moria. It is here that Frodo offers her the Ring of Power. It is said that because she had the strength to turn down the ring, she is finally allowed to go home. This is just one more detail for which there are many different views. While some stories have this series of events, others say that Galadriel was always free to return and stayed in Middle Earth out of love for Celeborn. Which version is the correct one is up to the reader to decide.



# Amroth and Nimrodel

## Amroth and Nimrodel Summary

In this account, Amroth is not the son of Galadriel and Celeborn, but is the son of Amdir. Though Amroth is Sindarin by blood, he chooses to live in the manner of the Silvan Elves because of his love for Nimrodel. Nimrodel returns his love, yet refuses to marry Amroth because of his heritage. She feels that the elves that came in from the west brought with them only wars and trouble. Nimrodel sticks to the old ways, even going so far as only speaking the Silvan tongue even when it has fallen out of general use. Amroth is steadfast in his love for her, however, and will not wed another. It is only when Nimrodel is forced to flee the orcs that she finally promises to wed Amroth, but only if he can bring her to a land of peace.

Amroth agrees to this condition but also tells her that there is not such place to be found in Middle Earth. He tells Nimrodel that they must seek passage over the Great Sea to the land of his people. She gives her consent to this voyage, and they make their way to the ships. Somewhere along the way, the two become separated. Amroth continues on to the Elf-haven hoping to find Nimrodel has beaten him there. What he finds instead is that only one ship and a few elves remain. The elves are very happy to see him, needing all the spare hands they can get, but Amroth is not willing to leave without Nimrodel. Though they fear the foul weather they know is coming, the elves delay their departure for many weeks. One night, a terrible storm blows in and breaks the great ship from its moorings. They know that they have no choice but to leave now or lose everything. Amroth, unable to stand the pain of leaving Nimrodel, jumps from the ship to swim back to land. The elves watch him for as long as they can, but he is never seen or heard from again.

## Amroth and Nimrodel Analysis

In this tale, the theme of pride is evident yet again. The difference here is that it is the pride of the woman that brings about the downfall of the man. Nimrodel is so set in her ways that she refuses to bend at all, even for the love of her life. Amroth gives up everything to be with her, even his life. The tale does not say whether or not he survived his swim to the shore, but it does say that he was never seen or heard from again. Nimrodel cannot let go of the old ways, and the assumption is that her obsession costs both her and Amroth their lives.

In this tale, Amroth is not the son of Galadriel, but is instead the son of Amdir. As he is Sundarian by birth, it is hard for Nimrodel to accept him. She views his people as the downfall of Middle Earth. Nimrodel feels that they brought all of the pain and war with them, which is why she clings to the Silven ways. Had Amroth been the son of Galadriel, it would have been much easier for her to accept him. Once she has taken this stance, it is like drawing a line in the sand that her pride will not allow her to cross.



# The Elessar

## The Elessar Summary

This tale is the final mention of Galadriel and Celeborn in Tolkien's unpublished writings. The story of "The Elessar," is still in a first draft form with only a few marginal notes made to it. There are no other versions to be found.

In Gondolin, there lived a well-known jewel smith named Enerdhil. He had a great love for all things green in the world, and loved nothing more than to watch the sun as it sparkled through the trees. This great love of his compelled him to make a stone, a stone that captured both the light of the sun and the lovely green of the trees. When he made the stone, all who saw it marveled at its beauty, for they said to look through it allowed the viewer to see things whole and new. It is also said that it brought a great power of healing to whom ever held it.

Enerdhil gave the stone to the daughter of the king, Idril. She bore it until she left Middle Earth to escape Sauron's army. As she left, she gave the stone to her son, Earendil who bore it always upon his breast. He hoped that his travels would eventually lead him back to Idril. When Earendil left Middle Earth, the Elessar left with him.

Much later, there came to be a second Elessar in Middle Earth. Galadriel confessed to Olorin that her heart yearned for the trees and flowers that never died from her homeland. Olorin asked her if she would like the Elessar. She answers that no one knows what happened to the sacred stone. It turns out that Olorin has the Elessar and offers it to Galadriel. He tells her that she should have it until one comes to claim it that shares its name.

Now there is a second ending to this tale. In this version, Galadriel comes to Celebrimbor to speak of her heavy heart. She tells him of her longing for the flowers and trees that do not die. Celebrimbor is saddened by her grief and makes for her an Elessar. It is not as powerful as the first, being as time has passed, and the light of the sun has weakened. Yet, even in its weakened state, the stone is strong enough to give life to the plants around Galadriel no matter the season. It is said here that she keeps the stone until Celebrimbor brings her one of the three rings of power. At that time, the Elessar passes to her daughter Celebrain, who in turn passes it to Arwen and therefore to Aragon. Aragon is known as the Elessar.

## The Elessar Analysis

This story is in such a rough state that it is hard to see what the finished product might have looked like. The second ending, which shows Celebrimbor making the stone, fits much better with latter texts. We know that the stone eventually has to make its way to Aragon. It is easy to follow the progression from Galadriel to her daughter Celebrian. Celebrian marries Elrond, and their daughter Arwen eventually married Aragon. In this

sense, it is just one more piece of the puzzle falling into place. If you look at the other versions, events still make sense, but they bring with them more questions than answers.



# The Disaster of the Gladden Fields

## The Disaster of the Gladden Fields Summary

After the fall of Sauron, Isildur is finally free to return home. He wants badly to make the trip and be reunited with his wife and youngest child. Isildur knows that the journey home is long, but he is also very familiar with the path having traveled it many times in his youth. Plus, he does not have to make the trip alone. Along with him travel his three sons and a full host of over two hundred mounted knights and soldiers. The trip should take them about 40 days to complete, and all goes well for the first 30 days. Unfortunately, their luck doesn't hold up. It's then that the company is set upon by a great host of orcs.

Isildur, sensing defeat, sends his squire away with the shards and sheath of Narsil, the sword that killed Sauron. Their company is soon surrounded by orcs on all sides, and two of Isildur's sons fall in the battle. Elendur begs his father to take the ring and leave, not wanting it to fall into the hands of the enemy. Isildur agrees, and with a heavy heart slips the ring onto his finger, rendering himself invisible. In great haste, he makes his way to the river and is forced to leave behind all of his weapons and armor in order to attempt the swim across. As he is crossing, the ring slips from his finger and is lost to him. Without its protection, he is visible to the orcs who shoot him with many arrows. Isildur dies, and the ring is lost for many years.

## The Disaster of the Gladden Fields Analysis

This tale is important as the events described here are often referred to during the Lord of the Rings. If the reader wants to understand the history of the ring, and how it came to be in Bilbo's possession, then the story of Isildur plays a key role. It also gives the reader first hand insight into the character of Isildur that is not found anywhere else. This so-called weakness that would have him flee with the ring rather than giving it to another as he did the sword is what later causes Aragon to doubt the strength of his blood. There are many references throughout the Lord of the Rings to the weakness of men. It is this event that fuels those messages.



# Cirion And Eorl and the Friendship of Gondor and Rohan: The Northmen and the Wainriders

## Cirion And Eorl and the Friendship of Gondor and Rohan: The Northmen and the Wainriders Summary

The story of Cirion and Eorl begins long before the birth of either. There is a long chronicle of historical events that lead up to their great battle. The Eotheod are a remnant of the Northmen that moved to the west to join the Valar in the days of Morgoth. Their land served as a block between Gondor and its enemies from the north and east. In 1635, there came a great plague to the land that cost the Northmen greatly in both lives and horses. Luckily, they were not attacked for some time, most likely due to the fact that their enemies were equally devastated. When Gondor's war with the Wainriders began, the Northmen quickly came to their aid. Unfortunately, they were defeated, and the remaining people of the Northmen are forced to scatter as all of their lands are claimed by the Wainriders.

King Calimehtar is given word that the Wainriders are planning a raid at the same time that the enslaved Northmen are planning a revolt. Calimehtar rallies his army and sets out, making sure that the Wainriders see his move. He engages them in a great battle in which Gondor is victorious and over one third of the enemy force is killed. When the Wainriders return to their land, they find that the revolt has indeed broken out in their absence and that their homes and crops are burned. It is not done without great loss to the Northmen. In fact, their losses are so great that they are forced to return to the Northern lands and never regain their old land. The real strength of this alliance is not seen here, and will not become known until the time of Eorl and King Theoden.

The Wainriders now hate Gondor and plot its downfall. They take their time planning the attack and eventually are able to join forces with Gondor's other enemies to execute a unified attack. Though Gondor knew nothing of these plans, the attack did not find them unprepared. Ondoher split Gondor's army into two parts, one to guard their northern border, and a smaller host dispatched to the south. The attack comes suddenly on the main body of the troops, giving them time only to turn and face the onslaught. Ondoher and his son are both killed, and Minohtar takes command of the troops.

Minohtar is very war wise and starts regrouping and issuing orders immediately. He sets up a well thought out defense and sends out messengers to the other companies instructing them on their position. For their part, the Wainriders have become arrogant, believing the battle already won. They now take their time in preparation of the second assault. The text stops here, with only scattered notes to take it any further.



## **Cirion And Eorl and the Friendship of Gondor and Rohan: The Northmen and the Wainriders Analysis**

The relationship between Gondor and Rohan is one that ultimately saves all of Middle Earth. To see the basis of this relationship and know where it all began gives the reader a much better understanding of the whole situation. In this portion of the tale, we are shown how the people of Rohan first come to Gondor's aid. In this situation, it is the kingdom of Gondor that benefits from the alliance, not the Rohirrim. What is important is that it doesn't matter who truly benefits, what matters is that the bonds are formed, and they are very strong. They may not realize it now, but it is this alliance that will save them all.



# **Cirion And Eorl and the Friendship of Gondor and Rohan: The Ride of Eorl**

## **Cirion And Eorl and the Friendship of Gondor and Rohan: The Ride of Eorl Summary**

When the people of Eotheod lived close to Gondor, the two remained strong allies. Gondor knew that they could call on their friends in times of need, so it was very troubling to them when the Eotheodian people were driven from their homes to the far north. Messages still passed between the two, but the great distance made even this difficult. By the time Cirion became Steward of Gondor, many of these scouts never returned from their journeys. Yet when Cirion becomes aware of a great force moving against Gondor, he turns to Eotheod for aid. Knowing that their way would be fraught with peril, Cirion sent out six messengers in pairs, each with a day between them. Still he did not hold much hope for their arrival. It happened that only one of the six made it to the end of his journey and delivered the message to Eorl.

Eorl quickly makes the decision to ride to the aid of Gondor. He knows that if they are to fall, then there is nothing between his people and the enemy. Eorl rides out with a host of 7000 mounted riders as well as several hundred mounted archers. No one blocks their path, and Eorl finds it odd that they do not meet up with any of the enemy or their spies on the journey. When they reach Dol Guldur, their company is encompassed by a white mist that shields them from view, and muffles the sound of their passing. They reach their destination in 15 days, a time swifter than any had dared hope for. The text ends here, but there is a description of the Battle of Celebrant included as part of the Appendix for The Lord of the Rings.

## **Cirion And Eorl and the Friendship of Gondor and Rohan: The Ride of Eorl Analysis**

In this portion of the text, we see the people of what will eventually become Rohan riding to the aid of Gondor yet again. They really have no reason to join this fight other than honoring their alliance. When their friends are challenged, they move swiftly to come to their aid. This is important not only to this tale but to the historical timeline of Middle Earth. If Eorl chooses not to ride to Gondor's aid, then there is no Rohan. If there is no Rohan then there is no one to call in Gondor's darkest hour. Without Rohan, Sauron wins, and all is lost.

In this tale, we see a strong theme of hope. Cirion reaches out in his time of need, knowing that there is very little chance of any kind of answer. Not only is it unlikely that Eorl will answer the call but it is unlikely that the message will ever even reach him. Out of six different messengers sent, only one manages to make it through. The chance is





very slim, but as long as hope remains, then they still have to try. In many of Tolkein's works, we see this same thread weaving throughout. Just when it seems that all hope is lost, help arrives. This happens here with the Battle of Celebrant and again with the battle of Helm's Deep. If hope is lost, then all is lost.



# **Cirion And Eorl and the Friendship of Gondor and Rohan: Cirion and Eorl**

## **Cirion And Eorl and the Friendship of Gondor and Rohan: Cirion and Eorl Summary**

The story begins with a short description of the Halifirien. Located at the northern tip of Ered Nimrais, the Halifirien is the westernmost beacon of Gondor. No one, save for the Beacon keepers, dwell in the area, and it is one that is kept sacred by the people. Long known as Amon Anwar by the people of Gondor, no one knows where the name comes from. The wood itself brings a sense of awe to those who travel within, and it has earned the name of "The Whispering Wood."

During the time of Cirion, Gondor is attacked by a large host of orcs. The great kingdom would surely have been defeated if not for the coming of Eorl and the Rohirrim. After the battle is won, Cirion leaves Calenardhon in Eorl's care and says that he will return in three months time. Cirion returns to Gondor and orders that Amon Anwar be prepared as a meeting place. He has very specific instructions as to exactly how the area should be cleaned and just how far they are to go. When he meets with Eorl, he takes him to the Hill of Awe. A path is cleared for them, but none have used it since the time when Cirion came here with his own father.

At the foot of the stair, Cirion declares that he will make Eorl king of Calenardhon, freely giving the land to his people. Further, he will impose no sanctions upon the gift other than asking that Eorl's people always remain true allies to Gondor. This one request he places on Gondor, as well. Eorl is stunned and humbled by this generous gift and accepts. The pair then move to the top of the hill to take their oaths. It turns out that Amon Anwar holds the grave of Elendil, and it is here that they make their vows. They then lay out the terms of their agreement, including the boundaries of each respective kingdom. Eorl then takes his leave to return to his people in the north. He desires to help them make the journey into their new land.

## **Cirion And Eorl and the Friendship of Gondor and Rohan: Cirion and Eorl Analysis**

Cirion is said to be the greatest of the Stewards of Gondor. He is also known to be a man of great courage, little pride, and generosity. It is the lack of pride that saves him here. His only thought is of his people, and how to best serve them rather than his own needs. He cannot know at this point that his decision in this will end up saving not only Gondor, but all of Middle Earth in the battle with Sauron. This lack of pride is what sets him apart from so many of Tolkien's heroes. Those who are full of pride, such as Turin,

are met with a terrible fate. Those rulers who can let go of their pride and truly act in the best interests of their people, such as Cirion and Aragon, are elevated to greatness.

The foundations of the relationship between Rohan and Gondor were laid long ago. Up until now, it is Gondor that benefits from the agreement. Now Cirion is leveling the scales by giving the people of Rohan a home for the first time in many years. This is a gift freely given which makes it all the more valuable. By asking only for friendship, the people of Rohan can finally rebuild their lives in their own land. It turns out that a gift freely given now eventually leads to help freely offered in a time of need. Again, a lack of pride leads to greatness, while pride will always go before the fall.



# The Tradition of Isildur

## The Tradition of Isildur Summary

When Isildur returns from the Great War, it is he that sets the tomb of Elendil upon Amon Anwar. He proclaims that no man shall visit this place save the king of Gondor and those that he chooses to bring with him. Isildur sets the tradition that when the king's heir reaches manhood, he should be brought to Amon Anwar. Here the king will tell all the secrets of Gondor that the new ruler needs to know. This tradition held firm until the time when Cirion brought Eorl to Amon Anwar. He decides that when he gave Calenardhon to Eorl and his people, that the tradition of Isildur had been broken. He then moves Elendil's grave to a new location in the Minas Trith, yet left the green mound to mark the history of the spot. Even though the grave was gone, the Rohirrim names the spot Halifirien, or Holy Mount.

## The Tradition of Isildur Analysis

This tale shows the history behind the tradition. Again, here is an example of the attention to detail that Tolkien shows in the creation of his world. Now not only do we know why and how the tradition started, but also why it ended. The Amon Anwar is a sacred place to both the people of Gondor and Rohan, but the people do not know why. This is a situation where the reader knows more than the actual characters in the story. It gives a whole new layer of richness to the world that cannot be found anywhere else.



# The Quest of Erebor

## The Quest of Erebor Summary

The tale begins with Frodo recounting Gandalf's recollection of how Bilbo came to join the company of the elves. Gandalf knows that Sauron is stirring once again, and is trying to guess what his plans might include. His mind is greatly troubled by the times, and he knows that he must find some way to deal with the dragon Smaug. Gandalf decides to head to the Shire for a short rest, hoping that the downtime will lead him to answers. It turns out that he finds an answer though not where he might have expected. Just as he enters the village of Bree, he crosses paths with Thorin Oakenshield. Thorin confesses to Gandalf that he is trying to find a way to avenge his family and defeat Smaug himself. Gandalf promises to try and find some way to help.

Now as Gandalf finally makes it to the Shire, his mind is already turned towards Bilbo. He feels that a "soft footed Hobbit," would make a strong addition to Thorin's cause. It turns out that Bilbo is "off again," on one of his adventures, and Gandalf heads back to Thorin without first seeing the Hobbit. He convinces Thorin to change his plans and move against Smaug in secrecy. He also stresses that he must take Bilbo along for the journey. When Gandalf finally met up with Biblo, he found him nothing like what he had hoped for. The dwarfs were furious and felt that they are being made fun of in this whole situation.

Gandalf is not ready to give up yet, and he still has more tricks up his sleeve. He is in possession of a map and a key, given to him by a dying dwarf deep in Dol Guldur. He realizes that the dwarf was in fact Thorin's father, Thrain. Thorin knew nothing of what happened to his father and upon seeing these items; his faith in Gandalf is restored. It is still difficult for Gandalf to convince Thorin to include a mere hobbit in his quest, but he finally does. In the end, the only way that he manages it is to agree that if Bilbo accompanies the group, then Gandalf also will. Gandalf looks back on these events and muses at how a chance meeting so many years ago set in motion the events that ultimately led to the defeat of Sauron.

## The Quest of Erebor Analysis

This is great background information to understand the events that take place in The Hobbit. The story of how Bilbo came to be in possession of the ring is very well known, but how the dwarfs came to his home is more of a grey area. This chance meeting sets in motion a chain of events that leads to the downfall of Sauron. It reminds us that the smallest person or decision can change the course of history, and that hope can be found in the most unlikely of places. Even Gandalf, with all of his wisdom, is intrigued at the series of events and their later significance.

It is also interesting to see how the history all ties together. The events work together in a seamless pattern that finally comes together at the fall of Sauron. If one piece had not fallen into place, then the whole puzzle would fall apart. Many authors can put together the end event of an epic such as this, but nowhere else can you find all of the history and detail that Tolkien provides. Reading many of these tales is very similar to reading a historical reference book.



# The Hunt for the Ring: The Journey of the Black Riders According to the Account that Gandalf Gave to Frodo

## The Hunt for the Ring: The Journey of the Black Riders According to the Account that Gandalf Gave to Frodo Summary

Though Sauron captured Gollum in 3017, he eventually let the creature go. He had learned all that he could from Gollum yet felt that he still had a part to play. Sauron hopes to follow Gollum back to the ring, his primary source of obsession, but Gollum is captured almost immediately by Sauron's enemies. This event leads Sauron to believe that only the Ring-wraiths will serve to search for the One Ring. However, he does not want to send them out too soon for fear that his enemies will ascertain his true purpose. For this reason, Sauron sends out the Nazgul into battle against Gondor. He wants it to appear that the Nazgul have been sent as a part of the coming war rather than in search of the ring.

The Nazgul can now begin the search, but the mission is still cloaked in secrecy. They move through the night uncloaked and on foot so as to escape notice. They might be able to hide their form, but there is no way to cloak the fear that sweeps the land before them, causing dread to all who pass near. They are seeking the land of the Halflings and the location of the Shire, for it was still unknown to both them and to Sauron. Around the time of mid July, the Nazgul learn of Gollum's evasion of both the orcs and the elves that sought him. At this time, they also received both cloths and mounts to continue their search. Not knowing where to go, the Lord of Morgul decides to continue north towards the land of Galadriel hoping to come across Gollum in their travels.

Their search leads them through the summer and into the fall when they receive orders from Sauron to go straight to Isengard. Saruman, now a known traitor to both sides, can at this point still hold off the Nazgul, and he sends them on their way. The Lord of Morgul knows that he cannot win this fight and so leads his force off, now in search of Gandalf. What they find instead are two spies of Saruman who know the way to the Shire. Now that they have a direction, the Nazgul head directly to the land of the Halflings. They first cross the southern border of the Shire close to the end of September.



## **The Hunt for the Ring: The Journey of the Black Riders According to the Account that Gandalf Gave to Frodo Analysis**

This tale is one that is well known by many readers of Tolkien's work, albeit from the other side. It is interesting to see the same series of events from the perspective of the hunter rather than the hunted. When reading in the Lord of the Rings, the Ring Wraiths come across as invincible beings that cannot be controlled or defeated. By reading this version of the story, we see that they are merely servants just like anyone else. The wraiths have their own set of fears and insecurities that their enemies never know about. Most of all, they fear Sauron and the power that he holds over them. It is really just a matter of perspective to weed out who is the victim, and who is the villain.





# The Hunt for the Ring: Other Versions of the Story

## The Hunt for the Ring: Other Versions of the Story Summary

While the first version is the most complete of the narratives on this subject, there are other variations to this tale. It is thought that the most accurate of these is the version where Gollum gives Sauron two words, Shire and Baggins. In this telling of the tale, Gollum vanishes into the Dead Marshes where Sauron's servants will not or cannot follow him. Since he no longer has Gollum at his disposal and none of his other spies can offer him any information, Sauron turns to his Ringwraiths. He knows that these are the most powerful of his servants but has hesitated to use them until this point. His hesitation comes from his knowledge of the Ringwraiths' few weaknesses, mainly their overwhelming fear of water, their propensity to wander during daylight hours, and the fact that they are at their strongest when in a group.

Once he hears of Gollum's capture by Aragon, he knows that he must now move in all swiftness. If Gollum is of interest to the enemy, then it is evident to Sauron that they know of the ring. He immediately plans dual assaults on both Thranduil and Gondor so that his Ringwraiths could cross the bridge of Osgiliath. The humans are able to destroy the bridge only after it has served Sauron's purpose. The only other rough version of the tale has Gollum lost in the mines of Moria for some time. In this telling, it is fortunate for him that the Nine Walkers arrived when they did or else he would have starved to death.

## The Hunt for the Ring: Other Versions of the Story Analysis

If this is the correct version of this tale, then it explains just how Frodo was able to escape the Ringwraiths in the Fellowship of the Ring, both in Bree and with Arwen. When reading the Lord of the Rings, the reader is often left wondering just how the hairs' breath escapes are made. A fear of water explains the situation and knowledge of this fear would have made the journey very different for the Fellowship. Sauron does a good job at masking the weaknesses of his greatest weapons, making them that much more effective against his enemies. If a foe has a weakness, then it can be exploited.

This version of the tale also explains just how Gollum comes to meet up with the Fellowship in Moria. In the Fellowship of the Ring, we see Gollum in the mine, but he just appears there with no real explanation. If this is the real version of the tale, then it does answer several questions. It shows that there is an element of luck in Gollum's finding of the Fellowship rather than him continually being drawn by the power of the



ring. If the ring could draw him then why did he not find Bilbo in the Shire during all the years that the ring was there?



# **The Hunt for the Ring: Concerning Gandalf, Saruman and the Shrine**

## **The Hunt for the Ring: Concerning Gandalf, Saruman and the Shrine Summary**

Though Saruman is the leader of the wizarding order, he knows in his heart that Gandalf, the Grey Wanderer, is the most powerful of their group. Not only that, but Gandalf holds stronger influence over the people of Middle Earth. Saruman fears Gandalf and takes every opportunity to speak against his counsel. Yet he himself ponders the Grey Wanderer's every word. It is in this way that the Shire comes under Saruman's scrutiny. Once he realizes that Gandalf deems the Shire worth noticing, Saruman decides to visit the land of the Halflings himself. Though he finds nothing there of interest during his visits, he keeps a close watch on the borders. It was through this vigilance that Saruman eventually learns of Gollum and that the one ring was indeed found by a Halfling. Saruman feels that Gandalf had to have known about this from the very beginning. Since Saruman views the Rings of Power as his own special territory, he views Gandalf's silence as a direct affront and feels a deep sense of betrayal.

For all of Saruman's secrecy, Gandalf knows of his travels to the Shire from the beginning. Though he finds no malice in Saruman's travels there, he is pleased when the visits stop. Gandalf already has his doubts about Saruman's true intentions, but still cannot see a time where his knowledge of the Shire would prove dangerous. At the council meeting in 2851, the tension between Gandalf and Saruman first becomes evident. Saruman speaks against Gandalf's council about Dol Guldur while Gandalf remains quiet in the corner. The two have a slight confrontation that leaves Saruman suspicious, but to the very end, Saruman believes that all of Gandalf's actions are an effort to undermine him.

## **The Hunt for the Ring: Concerning Gandalf, Saruman and the Shrine Analysis**

This tale shows a more in-depth look at the relationship between Gandalf and Saruman. It also explains Saruman's insecurities that will eventually lead to his downfall. Pride is once again an issue here. Saruman cannot let go of his pride and his feelings of betrayal. Like so many of Tolkien's characters, it is his pride that leads to his destruction. Gandalf, a character who is known for acting out of humility, uses his gifts to help others. He does not seek fame or fortune, only to improve the lives of those around him. It is this humble nature that makes him such a strong force. These two characters have much in common, both wizards and very wise. It is their own level of humility that determines their individual fate.



# The Battles of the Ford of Isen

## The Battles of the Ford of Isen Summary

The only real obstacles blocking Saruman from taking over the land of Rohan are Theodred and Eomer. The cousins are strong leaders and wholly devoted to king and country. The two men realized the negative effect that Grima had on their king's health and do all that they can to negate his council. Grima's hold on the king is strong, and he knows his opponents well. He is working to destroy Eomer in the eyes of the king, and therefore divide the power of the cousins.

At the battle of the Fords, Saruman gives specific orders that Theodred is to be killed at all costs. His finest warriors set themselves to this task and ignore the battle as a whole to achieve this end. Once Theodred is killed, Saruman's forces make a grave mistake by backing off instead of pushing the offensive. If they were swifter in their attack by just a few days, the reinforcements would never have made Helm's Deep, and the battle could have gone very differently. Instead by waiting, they gave Gandalf the chance to arrive and join the battle. Theodred knew that the attack was imminent, but did not realize that it would come so swiftly. His force suffers great losses from the initial attack, and he quickly orders a retreat.

Grimbold can see what is happening from the other bank of the Isen. He hears Theodred's call and fights his way to the prince's side only to be too late to save him. He would have died there himself had not Elfhelm arrived at just that moment. Fearing that things were not as they should be, Elfhelm drove his forces to the ford rather than stopping at Helm's Deep as was the plan. His assault causes the enemy to scatter and turns the battle in the favor of Rohan for the first time. The night is spent in sleepless vigilance by all, but the Uruks do not return. This is the end of the first battle of the Fords.

A message is sent to Theoden bearing the last words of his son, and his commanders beg for reinforcements from Eomer. Grima twists this message so as to delay help from coming, and it is not until he is finally defeated by Gandalf that help is finally sent. Grimbold and Elfheim are left to devise their own defense. Elfheim wants to abandon the fords in favor of setting a trap elsewhere. Grimbold is driven by tradition and feels that they should still fight to hold the fords. In the end, the two companies separate to hold different positions. Though Grimbold makes a strong stand, Saurman's forces prove to be too great. He manages to hold strong to the east bank, but is forced to surrender the west bank to the enemy. Elfheim is aware of Grimbold's need but is unable to come to his aid as he is facing the vanguard of Saurman's army. Realizing too late the error of his ways, Grimbold orders his troops to retreat and manages to save many of them.



## The Battles of the Ford of Isen Analysis

The recurring theme of pride is seen again in this tale. Grimbald wants to hold the Fords even though it is not the sound battle strategy. When he holds on to his pride and tries for this goal, his forces are overwhelmed. When he admits that he is wrong and calls for his troops to retreat, then he is able to save many of them. What matters is the mindset of the commander. Is he acting to fulfill his own needs or out of the best interest of his troops and cause? When pride is taken out of the equation, victory and hope are close at hand.

This tale talks about the details of the death of Theoden. Theoden's death plays a large part in the Lord of the Rings, but it is not an event that the reader has the opportunity to witness firsthand. Understanding that he did not just fall in battle, but that the point of the battle was that he should die, gives a new perspective. Knowing that his death was a strategic move engineered to bring about the fall of Rohan changes the whole dynamic of the situation. Now the reader can see just how strong Grima's hold is on the king and just how key of a part he plays in Sauron's plans.



# The Druedain

## The Druedain Summary

The Folk of Haleth are known to be a strange people, with many customs very different to that of the outside world. Not the least of these is the fact that the Haleth allow a strange small people to dwell among them. Called Drugs by the Haleth, the race is very short and stout, with a thick build and little hair below their eyebrows. The entire race only counted a few hundred to their number, but they are a friendly folk that live in peace with their neighbors. The only creatures for which they can maintain true hatred are orcs. The Folk of Haleth actually hold the Druedain, as the Eldar calls them, in great esteem due to their affinity with nature and tracking abilities.

While the Druedain have no written language of their own, they are known to be remarkable at the carving of both wood and stone. One of their greatest achievements is the carving of their watch stones. These stones are such likenesses of the actual beings that many times it is hard to tell which is real and which is stone, for it is not uncommon for a Druedain to sit unmoving for many days at a time. The stones often show a Druedain squatting upon the body of a dead orc further illustrating their hatred of the species. In one account, a Druedain carved a watch stone in the likeness of his father. Upon finishing his work, he sat beside it for some time in deep recollection. It happened that a traveler came by and saw the two figures. He spoke, but when he received no answer, he just commented on the skill of the carver. Later as he made his way back, he sat down to rest, leaning against one of the stones. It turns out that this stone is a live Druedain who bids him to move to the other so that he might stretch his legs.

In a second tale called, "The Faithful Stone," a Druedain named Aghan spends much of his time with his close friend Barach and his family. Even though there are orcs in the area, Barach does not worry as he knows that Aghan is standing watch each night. One day, Aghan comes to Barach and says that his brother has been wounded by orcs and that he must leave at once to heal him. He leaves a watch stone in his place and promises to return quickly. On the third night, Barach is awakened by a call in the night to find two orcs setting fire to his home. He notches his bow to shoot them when he sees a Drug run up and attack the orcs. The unknown Drug kills one and then sets to stamping the fire out while the other orc flees. When Aghan returns and hears of the nighttime visitors, he and Barach go and visit the watch stone. They find it in a new place, now sitting on the body of a dead orc. Its legs are charred, and one foot has fallen off. Aghan sits and shows Barach his legs. He holds the same burns as the watch stone, and tells Barach that if something you create is injured then you must take on its injuries.



## The Druedain Analysis

Of all of the races that Tolkien created, the Druedain receive the least amount of mention. By their description, the assumption would be that this is a race very similar to that of the Hobbits, but Tolkien is quick to explain that they are in fact much closer to dwarfs. In his notes, Tolkien makes mention that eventually it was his intention to make Sador from Turin's tale a Drudain. It seems that this is a new race of beings that Tolkien experimented with that he did not really have the chance to use. Further revisions of many different tales could show the addition of Drudain among their characters. To create such a small and focused race, there has to be a specific purpose to their existence.

The story of "The Faithful Stone," is a great example of the humble protector that Tolkien creates. Aghan has to leave his friends in order to help his family. Even though he must leave, he leaves a part of himself to stand in protection. The key factor is that he is not leaving to serve his own devices, but to help someone truly in need. By taking on the injuries of his watch stone, he is willing to stand as protector even when he isn't there. His willingness to sacrifice himself for the good of others is what makes him a true hero.



# The Istari

## The Istari Summary

Istari is the true name of the wizards. These beings appeared in Middle Earth during the third age and then departed, never to return again. To most races, they looked to be merely aged human men, but over time people noticed that they did not age. Some thought them to be a part of the Elf race, but they actually came out of the west as emissaries for the Valar. Their total number is not known, but to the northern lands of elves and men there came five. The first to come is a noble man all dressed in white, seen as the head of the order. Then there are two dressed in blue, one clad in brown, and one that humbly cloaked himself in grey. Upon meeting the grey wizard, Cirdan deemed that he was in fact the wisest and greatest of the group. For this reason, he gave into his keeping Narya the Red, the third ring of power.

The Grey Messenger took the ring, but held it ever in secret even from those in his order. After a time, the White Messenger discovered this secret and greatly begrudged it. This is the beginning of the ill will between the Grey and the White that eventually leads to the downfall of the White. By all accounts, the only one of the Messengers to remain faithful to their cause is the Grey Wanderer. It is he that is the greatest force in gathering the resistance against Sauron, though he suffered greatly for it. He did in fact die for a time before being returned and clothed in pure white.

## The Istari Analysis

The assumption is that the wizards are merely a very wise group of men. In this tale, we are shown that they are actually their very own race. It turns out that the Istari are actually members of the Eldar's high council sent to Middle Earth to help the people. Of the five sent, only Gandalf remains true to his cause. This is interesting as only Gandalf is described as being humble. It seems that it is this trait that sets him apart from the rest and eventually propels him to greatness. Gandalf sacrifices himself for others in the mine of Moria. When he returns, his elevated status is shown by the fact that he is now garbed in complete white.

Another detail that is laid out in this tale is exactly how Gandalf came to have the third ring of power. Cirdan was there to witness the arrival of the Istari to Middle Earth. Even though he saw first hand each of the five as they came to shore, it is Gandalf that he perceives as the greatest power. Right from the beginning, Saruman is the leader of the order, but the quiet and humble Grey Wanderer is the true strength of the group. It is because of this that Cirdan chooses Gandalf to be the keeper of Narya, the Red Ring. This is the only ring of the three that is not in the keeping of one of the elves.





# The Palantiri

## The Palantiri Summary

While the use of the Palantiri was never a common occurrence, they were not sinister objects until after the fall of the king. In time, the stones are destroyed one by one until only the Anor-stone in Minas Trith and the Orthanc-stone remained at all. In fact, by the time Beren gave the Orthanc to Saruman, the stone it contained was all but forgotten. Even when Saruman cut all ties with Gondor and claimed Isenguard as his own, the stone is still not in the forefront of anyone's mind. It is not until Peregrin looks into the stone that the link between the remaining stones and Sauron is discovered. It is thought that Gandalf knew of the existence of the Anor-stone, but its existence had become a complete secret at that point.

Much of what was once known about the stones in general has now been forgotten. We do know that they are all solid spheres that appear to be made of either dark glass or marble. The stones are very heavy to lift, but are perfectly smooth to the touch. Also, it is impossible to break one of these stones except maybe by extreme heat. The stone is used by placing it just right upon its table so that the "poles" line up with the earth's center. The viewer must then stand across from the direction that they want to see. It is the will of the viewer that directs what is seen and how clear the picture is. It depends on the skill of viewer using the stone as to how clear of a picture they can see with it. The stones work in a visual format only with no sound being transmitted, the only way to hear through them is a willing mind to mind connection of the viewers.

## The Palantiri Analysis

The Palantiri play a huge part in the Lord of the Rings. This tale and description not only lets the reader know just exactly how Saurmon came to possess one of the final stones, but also how they are used. It is through these stones that Sauron is able to find out key information about his enemies' battle plans. By using only his stone, he can see what is happening, but he cannot hear anything. When Saurmon and Denethor used their stones, it opened their minds to Sauron. They do not have the strength to bar him from their minds, and he can read their intentions.



# Characters

## Tuor

Tuor is the main character in the tale "Of Tuor and His Coming to Gonodolin." The story follows his life from the time of his birth until he reaches Gonodolin. Son of Huor, Tuor is raised by the elves. His mother leaves him in their keeping shortly after his birth to go and search for her husband. As she never returns from her search, this leaves Tuor to grow up among the fair folk. He is adopted by Annael, who sees to it that the boy is well tutored in all facets of life, from history to warfare. At one point, Annael decides that their home is no longer a safe place and that the entire village must move. Soon after they begin their journey, the group is set upon by orcs and though he fights bravely, Tuor is taken prisoner

He is held captive for a period of two years before he finds an opportunity to escape. Now, once again free, Tuor sets off in search of the fabled city of Gonodolin and Turgon its leader. He wishes to join Turgon in the fight against Morgoth. Along the way, he meets Ulmo, the god of the waters, who charges him with a message. Ulmo claims that Tuor is the great messenger that he has waited for and that time is short. Tuor must finish his journey in haste if he hopes to outpace the doom. The reader has the chance to follow Tuor on his journey as far as the gate to the great city. At that point, the tale is cut short.

## Turin

The main character from, "The Tale of the Children of Hurin," Turin is the heir to the House of Hurin. In this tale, the reader has the chance to follow Turin throughout the course of his life. We are able to see the events that shape and ultimately end his life. The story begins when Turin is but a small child, and ends with his death some years later. Through the years, Turin manages to make very few real friends, and he lets them all down in the end. Even though he has the desire to help, he does not have the strength to forgo his own desires.

Turin's downfall is brought about by his own pride and his unwillingness to admit his failures. There are many people who look to Turin as a hero. Unfortunately, he is not able to live up to their expectations. Turin unknowingly marries his sister and, when the information is revealed, neither one of them can live with what they have done. Nienor kills herself and their unborn child, and Turin finds that he cannot live with the reality. The choices that he has made have led to this point, and it is more than he can bare. He takes his own life rather than live in the existence he has created for himself.

## Aghan

Aghan is the Drug hero in the tale of "The Faithful Stone."



## Aldarion

Also known as Tar-Alderion, Aldarion is the son of Tar-Meneldur seen in the tale of "Aldarion and Erendis: The Mariner's Wife." He is a man with the best of intentions that does not have the strength to stand against his love for the sea. Aldarion cannot find the balance for the great loves in his life. While he eventually becomes a great king for his people, he loses his family in the process.

## Annael

In the "Coming of Tuor to Gondolin," Annael is the elf that takes a special interest in Tuor, taking him on as a kind of foster son.

## Aragon

Aragon is Isildur's heir and the true king of Gondor. Aragon eventually marries the granddaughter of Galadriel and daughter of Elrond, Arwen.

## Arwen

The daughter of Elrond, Arwen eventually marries Aragon to become the queen of Gondor.

## Beleg

From the "Tale of the Children of Hurin," Beleg is an elf that befriends Turin. When Thingol pardons Turin, it is Beleg who eventually finds him with the outlaws. He is a good friend to Turin and tries everything to get him to return to Thingol's court.

## Bilbo Baggins

Bilbo is a hobbit from the Shire that finds the One Ring.

## Brandir

Brandir is the leader of the people of Haleth in "The Tale of the Children of Hurin." Brandir falls in love with Nienor and counsils her not to marry Turin. No matter how he feels, Nienor cannot look at him as anything other than a brother. Eventually, Turin kills Brandir.



## Brodda

Brodda is the Easterling who takes over most of Turin's home village of Dor-lomin. He forces Aerin to marry him and makes thralls of the majority of the people. Turin kills Brodda when he returns to Dor-lomin in search of his mother and sister.

## Celeborn

Celeborn is the husband of Galadriel and the king of Lothlorien.

## Celebrain

Celebrain is the daughter of Galadriel and Celeborn who eventually marries Elrond. Their daughter Arwen marries Aragorn.

## Celebrimbor

Celebrimbor is a great craftsman who travels with Galadriel and Celeborn. He is also the maker of the Three Rings of the Elves and, according to some stories, the Elvenking. He eventually makes a stand against Sauron and is killed.

## Elendil

Elendil is the father of Isildur who falls to Sauron during the last battle at the end of the second age.

## Elrond

Elrond is the elf king that is also the keeper of Vilya, the Ring of Air.

## Eomer

Eomer is the nephew of King Theoden of Rohan. He leads Rohan's army after the fall of Theoden. Eomer is dedicated to his king and country even though Grima works to dishonor him in the eyes of the king.

## Erendis

Erendis is the wife of Tar-Aldarion in "Aldarion and Erendis: The Mariner's Wife." She spends her life fighting for her husband's love. He is pulled by his love for her and his love for the sea. Eventually, he leaves one time too many. Her pride will not allow her to



forgive him. He can force her to send her daughter to live with him, but she will not join them. Erendis lives out her life alone, cut off from all who once loved her.

## **Frodo**

The ring bearer in the Lord of the Rings, Frodo is the nephew of Bilbo who originally found the One Ring.

## **Galadriel**

Wife of Celeborn, Galadriel is the queen of Lothlorien and one of the great powers in Middle Earth. She is also the keeper of one of the Three Rings of power given to the elves.

## **Gandalf**

Known as the Grey Wanderer, Gandalf is one of the Istari sent to Middle Earth by the Eldar. He plays a key role in the finding of the One Ring and in the overthrowing of Sauron. During the quest to destroy the Ring of Power, Gandalf sacrifices himself to save the Fellowship. He dies but is brought back as an even greater power, clothed all in white.

## **Gil-galad**

The last high king of Noldor in Middle Earth, Gil-galad was instrumental in the first overthrowing of Sauron. He was also the first keeper of Vilya, the Ring of Air, which eventually made its way into the keeping of Elrond.

## **Glaurung**

Glaurung is the great dragon from "The Tale of the Children of Hurin." Glaurung is a servant of Morgoth sent to destroy Nargothrond. Glaurung casts a spell over Nienor that causes her to forget her entire life up to the present. He lifts the spell just as he dies, and lets Nienor see that she has married her brother and now carries his child.

## **Grima**

Advisor to King Theoden, Grima is a servant of Sauron that is trying to sabotage Rohan from the inside.



## Huor

Huor is the father of Tuor and brother to Hurin. Huor is slain at the Battle of Nirnaeth Arnoediad while fighting beside his brother.

## Hurin

Father of Turin, Hurin is the head of the House of Hurin. He is taken prisoner by Morgoth during the battle of Nirnaeth Arnoedaïd.

## Isildur

Isildur is the man who manages to cut the Ring of Power from Sauron's finger. He is unable to destroy the ring and tries to take it back to Gondor with him. During the journey, his army is attacked and no match for the force that they face. Isildur tries to retreat with the ring, but it slips from his finger. He is killed by orc arrows. Isildur's inability to destroy the ring is looked upon as the weakness of man.

## Mablung

Mablung is Thingol's captain in "The Tale of the Children of Hurin." It is Malbung who Thingol sends to protect Morwen and Nienor during their search for Turin. When he returns without them, he feels that he has failed and asks Thingol to relieve him of his duties. Thingol claims that no one could have or would have done any better and will not allow him to quit. Mablung is also there when Turin leaves Doriath for the last time.

## Mim

Mim is a dwarf that Turin comes across during his travels. Mim and his two sons are scavenging when Turin and his men come across them. Turin and his men stop him from following his sons and, as a result, one of his sons dies during the night. Mim still holds up his end of the bargain, but he refuses to feed the outlaws who were part of the attack on his son.

## Morgoth

Morgoth is the dark lord that Middle Earth has to fight during the First Age. He is victorious at the battle of Nirnaeth Arnoediad where he takes Hurin prisoner.



## Morwen

Morwen is the wife of Hurin and the mother of Turin. When Hurin is taken prisoner, Morwen is forced to do whatever she can to save her family. She decides that the best course of action is to send Turin to live with the elves. She knows that she cannot make the journey with him as she is soon to have another baby. Morwen finally makes her way to Doriath, but by this time Turin has already left.

## Nazgul

The Nazgul are the greatest weapons in Sauron's army. They were once human, but now are the slaves of the nine rings. The Nazgul are also known as the ring wraiths and the Black Riders.

## Nienor

Nienor is the second daughter of Morwen and Hurin. Nienor was not born until Turin was sent to live with the elves. The siblings never meet until after Glaurung cast a spell on Nienor. She and Turin marry and conceive a child without ever knowing of their real relationship to one another. When the veil is lifted from her eyes, she realizes what she has done and is unable to deal with the guilt. Nienor jumps to her death rather than facing the consequences of her actions.

## Sador

In the "Tale of the Children of Hurin," Sador is the woodsman that befriends Turin as a small child. It is Sador who Turin goes to with his problems, and Sador who is there for him. When Turin returns to Dor-lomin, he starts a revolt that costs Sador his life. With his dying breath, Sador begs Turin to leave.

## Saeros

Saeros is the only elf in Thingol's court that does not get along with Turin in "The Tale of the Children of Hurin." Saeros eventually challenges Turin who easily overpowers him. Saeros flees through the woods and jumps to his death rather than facing Turin. It is because of this event that Turin leaves Doriath, never to return.

## Saruman

Known as the White Wizard, Saruman is the head of the wizarding order. In the third age, he turns to the dark side and plots the downfall of man on Middle Earth. Saruman always has difficulty with Gandalf, and these issues come to a head during the Lord of



the Rings Trilogy. He knows that Gandalf is the greater power, and he cannot ever come to grips with that reality.

## Sauron

The dark lord as he is otherwise know, Sauron is the greatest servant of Melkor, and the scourge of Middle Earth. It is Sauron's wish to hold all of Middle Earth in thrall to him, and it is the goal of all free races to destroy him forever. He is the one who has the rings of power created in the first place, and he binds the Ring of Power to his very soul. It is because of this that Sauron cannot be completely destroyed while the ring still exists.

## Tar-Meneldur

Tar-Meneldur is the father of Tar-Aldarion from "Aldarion and Erendis: The Mariners Wife."

## Theoden

Theoden is the seventeenth king of Rohan. Grima holds his mind captive until Gandalf overthrows the advisor. It is Grima's desire to destroy Rohan from within by turning Theoden against his nephew Eomer. Theoden falls at the Battle of the Pelennor.

## Thingol

Thingol is the king of Doriath that takes Turin as his foster son in "The Tale of the Children of Hurin." When Turin leaves Doriath after the death of Saeros, it is Thingol that offers his pardon and sends out messengers to find him.

## AerinThe main character from,

Aerin is the kin to Turin mentioned in the "The Tale of the Children of Hurin." She was forced into a marriage with Broda, and was instrumental in providing food and support to Morwen. Without Aerin, Morwen and Nienor would not have survived.

## Ulmo

From "Of Tuor and his Coming to Gondolin," Ulmo is the Lord of the Waters that send Tuor to Turgon as his messenger.





# Objects/Places

## Amon Anwar

Amon Anwar is the sacred location of the grave of Elendil. The name Amon Anwar translates to mean Hill of Awe. Known also as Halifirien, this is the seventh beacon of Gondor. Amon Anwar plays a key role in the creation of Rohan in "Cirion and Eorl and the Friendship of Gondor and Rohan."

## Andustar

Andustar is the western point of the island of Numenor.

## Anor-Stone

Anor-Stone is the palantir stone of Minas Trith.

## Doriath

Doriath is Thingol's kingdom. It is the place where Turin finds sanctuary after his mother sends him away. Doriath is also where Morwen and Nienor travel to in hopes of being reunited with Turin.

## Dor-lomin

Dor-lomin is the village where Turin is born.

## Elesser

Elesser is a magical stone that brings great healing power to its owner and brings plants to life.

## Forostar

Forostar is the northern province of the island of Numenor.

## Gondolin

Gondolin is the fabled stronghold of King Turgon that Tuor is searching for in "Of Tuor and His Coming to Gondolin."



## **Nirnaeth Arnoediad**

Known as the Battle of Unnumbered Tears, Nirnaeth Arnoediad is that battle where Huor is killed, and Hurin is taken prisoner. Morgoth wins this battle, and the war turns in his favor for some time.

## **Ephel Brandir**

Ephel Brandir is the village where Turin finally settles down to live. It is in Ephel Brandir that Turin and Neinor finally meet and are married.

## **Hyarnustar**

The Hyarnustar is the southwest portion of the island of Numenor.

## **Hyarrostar**

The Hyarrostar is the southeastern portion of the island of Numenor.

## **Lothlorien**

Lothlorien is the kingdom of Galadriel and Celeborn.

## **Mordor**

Mordor is the realm of Sauron located east of Ephel Duath.

## **Narsil**

Narsil is the sword that cut the Ring of Power from Sauron's hand. It's shards are kept by Elrond and eventually reforged for Aragon.

## **Numenor**

Numenor is the island kingdom where Aldarion is king, this land was prepared for the people of Middle Earth by the Valar.



## Orthanc

Orthanc is the great tower located at the center of Isenguard. It is in Orthanc that Saruman keeps his palantiri after he is given the location from Gondor. This is why it is known as the Ortho-stone.

## Palantiri

The palantiri are the legendary seeing stones. There were originally seven stones in the network, but by the time of the Third Age, their number had dwindled to only two, the Anor-Stone of Minas Tirith and the Ortho-Stone of Isenguard.



# Themes

## Pride

The theme of pride is one that is repeated over and over again in this collection of stories. It depends on the pride of the hero as to what type of fate he will find. If the character cannot let go of their own pride, then they never reach their full potential. Those characters that can let go of their pride and find humility are the ones that eventually make their way to greatness. If they cannot reach that point then all is lost.

Turin is a great example of this theme. Turin could be a great hero, not only for his people but also for all of Middle Earth. Instead, Turin cannot let go of his pride and admit his faults. Since he cannot overcome this fatal flaw in his character, he repeatedly brings despair to the people that he should be helping. When he returns to the village of his youth, the people look to him to deliver them from the bondage. Instead, he starts a revolt that leaves Sador his mentor dead and the people without their only real champion, Aerin. In the end, when he is faced with what he has done to his own sister, Turin kills himself rather than owning up to his own actions.

The opposite of Turin is Gandalf. Gandalf is known throughout Middle Earth and beyond as the most powerful of the wizards, but he never exploits this fact. Wherever Gandalf travels, it is his goal to make things better for those he comes in contact with. He has the power to do or take anything that he wants, but the point is that he doesn't do it. He even goes so far as to sacrifice himself for the good of the Fellowship. In the end, being brought back even more powerful than ever before rewards Gandalf for his service. He is now clothed in pure white as a symbol of his power. Even then, even with the additional power, he is still humble. This is what makes him a true hero.

## Hope

Throughout this collection, and continuing on throughout much of Tolkien's work, hope is a strong and recurring theme. The characters often find themselves in situations where it seems as though all hope is lost. Just when it seems that there is no more light, help arrives. In the struggle of good versus evil, it is hope that sets the two apart. If the characters lose hope, then they ultimately lose everything. If they can hold out and hope against all the odds then help will find them in the end.

This is seen again and again in many of the battles that are fought throughout these tales. In the Battle of the Fords Theoden is killed yet his commander doesn't lose hope. By staying focused and fighting until the end, they are able to hold on until help arrives. Having faith in your allies is what saved Gondor more than once when they faced their darkest hour. Their kings sent out a cry for help to the people of Rohan, and even though all the odds were against them, they remained hopeful that their call would be answered. It was.



The opposite of this is the example of Isildur. Isildur lost all hope that the battle could be won. He abandons his only living son to run with the Ring of Power. The ring betrayed Isildur and slipped from his finger just when he needed it the most. Isildur is killed along with all of his men. The only survivor of the entire battle is the man he sent away to hide with the shards of Narsil. When he lost the last of his hope, he lost the battle and then his life.

Gandalf is known for hoping against all hope. There is no one person in Middle Earth who understands the risks and repercussions of Sauron coming to power better than Gandalf. As such it would make sense if he were to lose hope that they could in fact win this war. Yet through it all, Gandalf remains hopeful, and true to his course. He knows that hope is the strongest weapon that they have and when they lose that they lose everything. Gandalf's strength is that not only can he keep hope alive when all seems lost, he can also inspire others to do the same.

## Attention to Details

The entire point of this collection is to provide additional details to enhance the other published works of Tolkien. Tolkien's readers are often drawn to his work due to the attention to detail that he can offer them. It doesn't matter which of his works are in question, the characters, events and locations are always created with the same level of rich detailing. The reader doesn't have to question where or how a certain event happened or who a person is. If they look hard enough, the answer will be right in front of them.

One interesting thing that this collection offers is new perspective on some very well-known stories. The reader has the chance to see for the first time the series of events that make up the beginning of the Fellowship of the Ring from the perspective of the nine riders. It adds a whole new layer to the tale to know where both sides are coming from. Also the tale of Isildur is a welcome addition to the collection. The entire Lord of the Rings trilogy is based on the events that take place in this story. This is the first time that the reader has had the chance to read about this series of events first hand rather than hearing about it through another character. Knowing what happened here gives the reader a much better understanding of Isildur's weakness and later Aragon's fears.

# Style

## Point of View

The stories in this collection are told from two main points of view. The first is third person while the second is a more reference style. In the character based tales the point of view is universally third person. The tales are told from a detached omnipresent party that is a reliable source. The third person point of view is important to the integrity of the stories as many of the tales are focused on several different characters. Without this detached viewpoint, the stories could not progress in the same manner.

Many of these tales are written in a style similar to a reference text rather than a typical fictional tale. For the most part, these stories are written to provide supplemental information to Tolkien's major works. Knowing these different pieces of information makes the overall experience much more vivid and real. The reader can see the same story from several different points of view, and therefore understand the mindset of all of the players involved.

## Setting

The tales in this collection are primarily set in Tolkien's fictional realm of Middle Earth. Middle Earth is a vast and detailed landscape that is brought alive through the rich details that Tolkien is known for. The land is made up of several distinct areas and terrains. The weather of a given area always fits both the landscape and the elevation. One of the most rewarding facets of reading Tolkien's work is that the details always match no matter which work is being read. The Middle Earth that is found in the Hobbit, is the same one that is found in The Lord of the Rings and in this collection.

The other main landscape seen in this collection is the island of Numenor. The island of Numenor is a land created for the people of Middle Earth by the Valar. The island is divided up into six specific sections that are defined by the lay of the land. Since the landmass is shaped like a star, each of the points is its own area with the middle portion making up the sixth section. Starting at the top of the island is Forostar, then moving to the west there is Orrostar, then Hyarrostar, Hyarnstar, and finally Andustar. The center of the island is known as Mittalmar.

## Language and Meaning

The language of collection is very formal and similar to what is found in other Tolkien works. The tales have a very formal tone that reads easily once the cadence becomes familiar. While Tolkien is known for the attention to detail found in all of his works, it is easy to become bogged down in the descriptions. The reader has to focus on the tale in some sections to not find themselves lost in the narration. This is especially true for many of the battle sequences and the historical and geographical texts.



Another facet that makes reading Tolkien more interesting than some other writers is the fact that he has made up his own language. In the realm of Middle Earth, each of the main races of creatures have their own language. As a reader, it can be confusing to keep the different terms straight with their meanings and language. It is helpful that the collection comes complete with a full index to define the terms and phrases used. While on the one hand it can be hard to remember which terms come from which race, it does bring a new level of detail to the stories. It is also a testament to Tolkien's skill and dedication to the integrity of his world that the words and meaning are the same from tale to tale.

## Structure

This is a collection of tales gathered from the last of Tolkien's notes by his son Christopher. All of the texts are incomplete, and none has ever been published before. Reading the different tales can become confusing, because many of them just stop mid story line. Others are printed in several different versions. It is important to remember that these are not finished polished texts, but rather incomplete ideas that are only written in note form for the most part. The different versions can become confusing and hard to follow, but the collection as a whole is only meant to provide additional details about the world of Middle Earth.

The tales are divided up into four separate sections. The first three sections each contain tales that have pertinence to their corresponding age. The fourth and last section contains three tales that take an in depth look into certain subjects. Two pertain to races of beings in Middle Earth while the third looks at the seeing stones. In the sections that correspond to the ages, the tales are meant to give the reader added insight into already published works. Many of these tales are at least alluded to in the longer and more famous works. Yet it is important to mention that the mention could be obscure, and something that is easily overlooked by the reader. In the notes about each tale, Christopher Tolkien points out where each story can be referenced. This is helpful for understanding the different threads and connections.



## Quotes

"There long while Tuor set, watching the swirling of the stream and listening to its endless voice, until night came again and stars shone cold and white in the dark lane of sky above him. Then he lifted up his voice, and plucked the strings of his harp, and above the noise of the water the sound of his song and the sweet thrilling of the harp were echoed in the stone and multiplied, and went forth and rang in the nightsclad hills, until all the empty land was filled with music beneath the stars." Of Tuor and His Coming to Gondolin, p. 23

"He repeated to himself his father's words, Heir of the House of Hador; but other words came also to his mind: Give with a free hand, but give of your own" NARN I HIN HURIN, p65

"But Turin said, "If the King were just, he would judge me guiltless. But was this not one of his counsellors? Why should a just king choose a heart of malice for his friend?" NARN I HIN HURIN, p82

"For Aldarion had become enamored of the Great Sea, and of a ship riding there alone without sight of land, borne by the winds with foam at its throat to coasts and havens unguessed; and that love and desire never left him until his life's end." Aldarion and Erendis, p175

"For Feanor beheld the hair of Galadriel with wonder and delight. He begged three times for a tress, but Galadriel would not give him even one hair. These two kinsfolk, the greatest of the Eldar of Valinor, were unfriends for ever." History of Galadriel and Celeborn, p231

"There Amroth and Nimrodel held a long debate; and at the last they plighted their troth. "To this I will be true," she said, "and we shall be wedded when you bring me to a land of peace." Amroth vowed that for her sake he would leave his people. even in their time of need, and with her seek for such a land." Amroth and Nimrodel, p241

"What would you have then?" said Celebrimbor. "I would have trees and grass about me that do not die - here in the land that is mine," she answered. "What has become of the skill of the Eldar?" The Elessar, p250

"Suddenly as the sun plunged into cloud they heard the hideous cries of Orcs, and saw them issuing from the Forest and moving down the slopes, yelling their war-cries." Disaster of the Gladden Fields, p272

"Yet beyond wisdom and policy both Cirion and Eorl were moved at that time by the great friendship that bound their peoples together, and by the love hat was between them as true men." Cirion and Eorl, p303





"We might now only hope to return from the victory here to ruin and ash. But that has been averted - because I met Thorin Oakenshield one evening on the edge of spring not far from Bree. A chance-meeting, as we say in Middle-earth." The Quest of Erebor, p. 326

"The Lord of Morgul therefore led his companions over Anduin, unclad and unmounted, and invisible to eyes, and yet a terror to all living things that they passes near." The Hunt for the Ring, p. 338

"Gandalf did not laugh again; and he did not answer, but looking keenly at Saruman he drew on his pipe and sent out a great ring of smoke with many smaller rings that followed it. Then he put up his hand as if to grasp them, and they vanished." The Hunt for the Ring, p.351

"and last came one who seemed the least, less tall than the others, and in looks more aged, grey-haired and grey clad, and leaning on a staff. But Cirdan from their first meeting at the Grey Havens divined in him the greatest spirit and the wisest; and he welcomed him with reverence, and he gave to his keeping the Third Ring, Narya the Red." The Istari, p.388



## Topics for Discussion

Discuss the theme of pride and how it relates to the main characters throughout the tales. In which of these heroic figures does pride turn out to be their fatal flaw?

These tales are all published in an unfinished state, several with multiple versions. Does having the different versions add to the overall experience, or just make things more confusing and difficult to understand?

Discuss hope and how it relates to victory. Show how keeping hope alive serves as a driving factor for victory, while a loss of hope leads to defeat.

Several of these tales are written strictly for reference material. Does having this material make the rest of the works easier to decipher? What do these tales add to the world of Middle Earth?

Tolkien is known for his attention to detail and the richness of his settings. How does seeing the same series of events from multiple perspectives change the reading experience?

In the tale of Turin, what could Turin have done to save himself from his fate?

This is the first collection where we see the side of the villain firsthand. How does this change your view of these characters?

The different races of Middle Earth all have drastically different life spans. This can make understanding a timeline very difficult. Does it take away from the world as a whole, or is it easy to overlook?