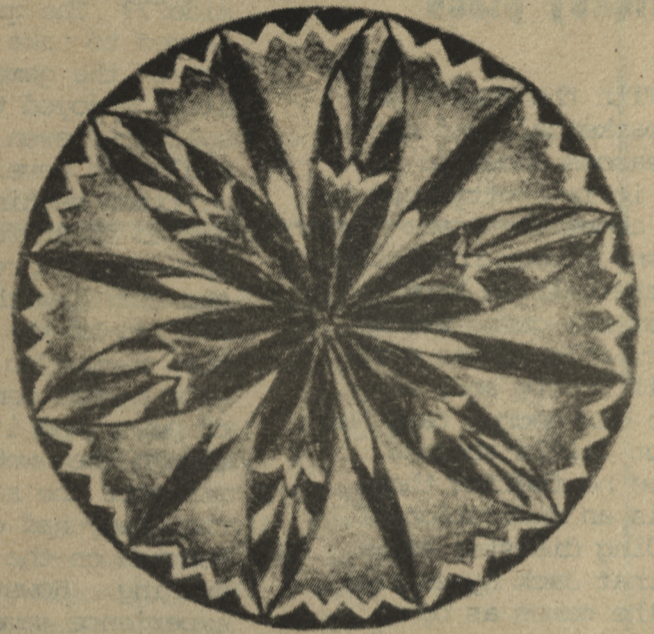
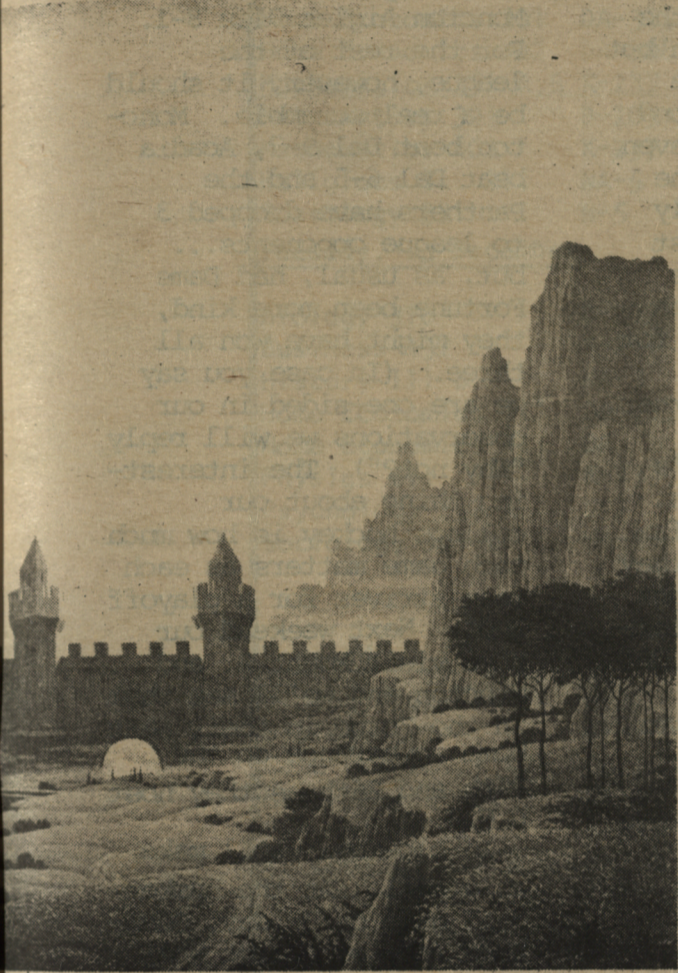


TESTAMENTS OF ERU



re and impri-
watched, upon
came forth two
and silence was
in that hour...
and became
and thus there
world the Two

leaves of dark
death were as
from each of
wers a dew of
ver falling. The
of young green,
e of glittering
med upon the
ters of yellow
g a golden rain

ris and Elves
the Valar, who
ves to come to
ne sea, to live.
and grew wise,
a. They dwelt
e brothers.
was one who
est, Feanor —
skilled of his

race. With his talents, he captured the Light of the Two Trees in three gems that he wrought. So came into being the Silmarillions. So overwhelming was the beauty of these gems, that Feanor hid them away.

Meanwhile, Melkor had been released from his prison and had put on a face of repentance. Under this guise, he plotted and spread black rumours against the Valor, slowly corrupting the bliss of Valinor. When his plans were ripe, Melkor came to Valinor and poisoned the Two Trees causing them to lose their light and wither, never to sprout again.

After murdering the Trees, Melkor fled to Feanor's dwelling and stole the three Silmarillions, then fled to Middle Earth.

Feanor, enraged, pursued Melkor (now called Morgoth). Declaring revenge at any cost, he, along with a horde of Elves, set out for Middle Earth never to return. A prophesy of sorrow and hardship was laid upon them by the Valor.

The battles that ensued between the Elves and Morgoth were many and tragic. The heroic deeds of this war are too numerous to recount. Of all the heroes, the greatest was Beren, who with Luthien, crept in Morgoth's lair and wrested a single Silmarillion from his iron crown.

When all looked bleak for the Elves, they steered a single ship back towards Valinor, using the Silmarillion as their beacon. The Valor sympathized with the Elve's plight and agreed to help them. Mustering all their forces, the Valor, in one sweep, overthrew Morgoth and broke the foundations of his fortress. So ended the First Age.

Akallabath, the Second Age, begins after the fall of Morgoth and deals chiefly with the Numanor and the Edain (the fathers of men).

The Numanoreans were never to set foot on Valinor (the Undying Land). However, their lust for immortality blackened their hearts, causing them to

challenge the ban of the Valor. This so enraged the Valor, that they destroyed Numanor.

"Of the Rings of Power", the last section, is the most familiar to Tolkien readers. It narrates the tale of the rings, their creation and how their power was corrupted by Saorun. The mighty struggle of the Elves and men against Saorin is portrayed as are the heroic deaths of Gil-galad and Elendil in the feat of overthrowing Saorin. Elendil's brother cuts the ring from the dead Saorin's finger, but loses it when he himself is killed by Orks.

This takes the reader to the episode in "Lord of the Rings" where Frodo brings the ring of Power to the Cracks of Doom. Thus ends the lay of the Rings.

THE SILMARILLION is Tolkien's parallel to the Old Testament; generations pass in a paragraph, wars are won and lost in a page. The book is much more complex and intricate than this synopsis leads one to believe. THE SILMARILLION definitely demands more than one reading.