

J. R. R. TOLKIEN - THE OLD



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By JAMES BURNESS

"Tolkien is dead"

I remember that night in September '73 when Steve, Rodney and I were sitting in the Mayfair Tavern discussing as usual, *THE LORD OF THE RINGS*. Our talk weaved through Tolkien's fabulous works and finally dwelled upon the GREAT mystery - *THE SILMARILLION*. All we, and the many other Tolkien fans, knew was that this was a complete chronology of the First and Second Ages of Middle Earth. All else was speculation. And speculate we did - was it a complete narrative similar to *LORD OF THE RINGS* but running ten to twelve volumes or was it like the appendices, stories, and geneologies embroidered therein to create a world more complete than our own. None of us knew,

though we were longing to find out.

Now, four years after that night, *THE SILMARILLION* has been edited and published by Tolkien's son, Christopher. It's not a narrative, nor is it a collection of appendices. It consists of one complete volume with not only the "Quenta Silmarillion" proper, but also the "Ainahinane", the "Valaquenta" the "Akallabeth" and "of the Rings of Power and the Third Age."

As always, an extensive set of tables has been included. These tables cover the geneologies of the important houses of the First and Second Ages, the sundering of the Elves, and index of names, and an appendix of the elements in the languages of Quenya and Sindarin.

Anwíndale, or the Music of Ainur, is the story of creation. Eru, the Holy One, thinks, and his thoughts become the Ainur his offspring. To each he gives a theme, wishing them to be in Harmony and make music. Their

music was so complete that it rose to great Light and Beauty.

In this great Harmony was Malkor, later known as Morgoth. He was strong and wanted to divert from Eru's themes. Eru's music was the stronger though, and Malkor could not overcome it.

Then Eru created a vision of the world for his offspring to behold and they had great Joy in it. Eru presented this vision to the Ainur to live in and to create in. Malkor was bitter, wanting the creation for his own and tried to distort or destroy what the others created with this world.

The second section, "Valaquenta" continues the story of the Valar (Ainur) and gives their names and their elements. This story and the following "Ainsul-ingala" are elaborate primers for the core of the work, "The Quenta Silmarillion".

"The Quenta Silmarillion" is the complete First Age. It tells of the beauty of the World created by the Valar, of the war Melkor started and of his

subsequent cap-

sonment. "And as the mound there slender shoots over all the world the saplings grew tall and fair awoke in the Trees of Valinor"

"The one had green that be shining silver and the countless flowers silver light was other bore leaves their edges were gold. Flowers branches in flame, each spilled upon the ground"

Then the Dwarves were created by Valanor, across the mountains. The elves came strong and no with the Valar"

Among the Elven was above the most learned