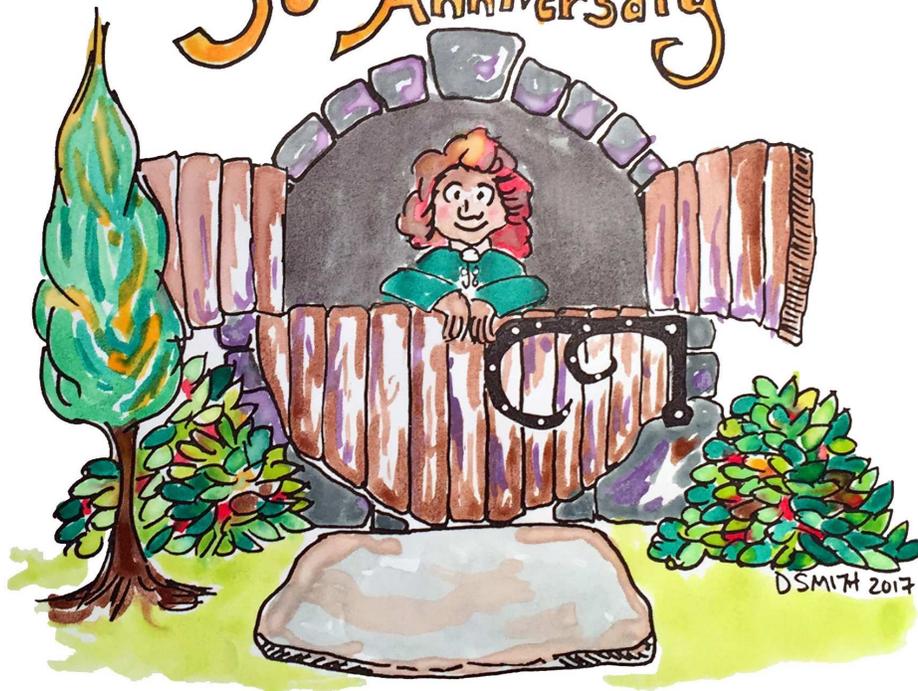


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# Minas Tirith Evening STAR

The Journal of the  
American Tolkien Society

## 50<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary



*Volume 43, Number 2*

*Autumn 2017*

# Minas Tirith Evening-Star



*Journal of the American Tolkien™ Society*

Volume 43, Number 2

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# Hugo's Bookshelf

*An American Tolkien™ Society  
News and Review Feature*

*edited and selected by Philip W. Helms*

## **Beren and Lúthien**

**J.R.R. Tolkien**

**Edited by Christopher Tolkien**

**Illustrated by Alan Lee**

**Houghton Mifflin Harcourt**

**ISBN 978-1-328-79182-5**

**Hardcover, 288 pages, \$30.00 US**

In his Preface to this volume, Christopher Tolkien succinctly points out, “On the one hand I have tried to separate the story of Beren and Tinúviel (Lúthien) so that it stands alone, so far as that can be done (in my opinion) without distortion. On the other hand, I have wished to show how this fundamental story evolved over the years. . . The purpose of this book, then, is

altogether different from that of the volumes of *The History of Middle-earth* from which it is derived. . . It is an attempt to extract one narrative element from a vast work of extraordinary richness and complexity. . . In my ninety-third year this is (presumptively) my last book in the long series of editions of my father's writings, very largely previously unpublished, and is of a somewhat curious nature. This tale is chosen *in memoriam* because of its deeply-rooted presence in his own life. . .”

The volume begins with the Preface and Notes on the Elder Days. The main text opens with discussion of *The Tale of Tinúviel*, the earliest form of the story, now lost, then proceeds to the *Lost Tales* account, preserving the differences from the final version: i.e., Tevildo, Prince of Cats rather than Sauron, Beren as an Elf, etc. Following this text is an excerpt from the *Sketch of the Mythology*, giving the tale in condensed, prose form. This is followed by a passage from *The Lay of Leithian*, running to 250 lines of poetry. Next is the *Quenta Noldorinwa*, a return to prose, and close to the style of the published *Silmarillion*. A second extract from *The Lay of Leithian* follows, extending to 557 lines, followed by discussion by the editor, then another 1,986 lines of poetry. Next follows the *Quenta Silmarillion*, and the return of Beren and Lúthien, drawn from the *Quenta Noldorinwa*.

At this point, the story reverts to the *Lost Tale* of the Nauglafring (Nauglamir), with material from the *Quenta Noldorinwa* on the further history. The Appendix incorporates sections on “Revisions to *The Lay of Leithian*,” (with another 420 lines of poetry), a “List of Names” to assist the reader in keeping the name changes in order, and a Glossary. Scattered throughout are a total of nine plates by Alan Lee, which the reader may find more or less satisfying, based on individual taste and subject matter.

The book as a whole is splendidly done, and serves an admirable purpose as described by the editor: to provide this important tale in a single volume, without the necessity of making one's way through a shelf full of the *History* to identify the bits in order. Christopher Tolkien has devoted more than 40 years to these works, since *The Silmarillion* was published in 1977. We, as his father's fans and followers, stand in incalculable debt to Christopher and this heroic effort.

Some readers may hesitate at the price of this volume, but it may help to recall that it is most likely the final such effort. We are proud to have a first U.S. edition in our collection.

**- PWH**

**J.R.R. Tolkien**  
**The Mind of a Genius**  
**100 Years of Middle-earth**  
**Introduction by Alan Lee**  
**Issue Editor: James Ellis**  
**Senior Designer: Michelle Lock**  
**Newsweek, LLC—IBT Media**  
**A Topix Media Lab Publication**  
**2017, 100 pages, \$10.99 US**

This is a peculiar publication. It is formatted as a substantial, glossy magazine, but is in fact much more like a paperback coffee-table book. It is richly illustrated, in true being more illustration than text. Some photographs are reproduced as a two-page spread for a single photo. The quality of reproduction is excellent.

The text is there. One of the curiosities of this publication is that even photo credits are difficult to locate, being placed very close to the binding in tiny print (perhaps four point type: like this). There are no discernable credits for the text. (more on that below) Hope springing eternal, we searched for a credits page, which was found on page 94. It reads rather like a corporate directory, and does not credit authors of any of the text. Regarding the credits for photographs, it notes (in very small type) “Certain photographs used in this publication are used by license or permission from the owner thereof, or are otherwise publicly available.” No names of photographers or owners, no copyright notices other than the whole publication notice.

The text in question is at times dubious, and may explain why the author(s) did not demand credit. The photographs rely rather heavily on the Jackson films and related matters. We will confine ourselves to a single blooper as an example of the quality of research which apparently went into

(or did not go into) the publication: On page 77, the U.K. and U.S. first editions of *The Silmarillion* are pictured (or at least their dust jackets). The caption misidentifies the two, labelling the Houghton Mifflin edition as the U.K. first, and the George Allen and Unwin edition as the U.S. first.

The completist and the neophyte may wish to acquire this publication. Instructions to news dealers call for it to be displayed until October 31, 2017. Neophytes should be aware: this is not an adequate short course on the subject.

- PWH

## **A Well of Wonder**

**Essays on C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and the Inklings**

**Clyde S. Kilby**

**Edited by Loren Wilkinson and Keith Call**

**Mount Tabor Books (Paraclete Press)**

**ISBN 978-1-61261-862-3**

**348 pages, hardcover, 2016, \$28.99 US**

We may begin by noting that this volume is copyrighted by the Marion E. Wade Center of Wheaton College. Professor Kilby was the founder of the Wade Collection, which grew into the Wade Center. We interviewed Professor Kilby during a conference at Wheaton College, and the resulting article was reprinted in the January-February, 1984 issue of *Minas Tirith Evening-Star* (Volume 13, Number 1) which is, curiously, still available. Unfortunately, Professor Kilby died in 1986, and this volume marks the thirtieth anniversary of his demise.

The reader will quickly understand that there are no new essays here. Rather, the editors have performed the service of gathering carefully selected items between two covers, to assist those who may be new to Professor Kilby's works in gaining a suitable perspective. Like Gaul, the book is divided into three parts: C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and the Inklings as a group. All of these are certainly worthwhile, but our focus has always been on Tolkien. We will confine our comments generally to that section, leaving the others to those of another focus.

Professor Kilby gained great fame and/or notoriety in

Tolkien circles in the 1970's with the publication of *Tolkien and The Silmarillion* in 1976, one year before *The Silmarillion* actually appeared. Professor Kilby became a folk hero and nearly legendary to Tolkien fans: here was a man who had actually visited Professor Tolkien and gained access to at least parts of the manuscript of that literary Holy Grail, *The Silmarillion*! His insights into the long-awaited volume, and his personal acquaintance with Professor Tolkien led fans to snap up copies of the slender volume as if it were a lifeline.

For those readers too young to have gone through those epic days, or for those new to the field, this collection is well worth time, effort and expense. For those who vividly recall those days, it may seem less urgent. The editors and the Wade Center have done us a service in preserving these essays in accessible format.

- PWH

**The Great Tower of Elfland**  
**The Mythopoeic Worldview of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, G.K. Chesterton, and George MacDonald**  
**Zachary A. Rhone**  
**Foreward by Colin Duriez**  
**Kent State University Press**  
**ISBN 978-1-60635-329-5**  
**186 pages, hardcover, 2017, \$45.00 US**

Professor Rhone rather telegraphs his thesis in his subtitle: that is "worldview" singular, not plural. He argues that the four authors listed held a single worldview among them.

Professor Rhone is an adjunct professor of English at several institutions (unspecified). He has spoken at (unspecified) conferences, and published (unspecified) material on the four authors listed.

He apparently has a quarrel with Humphrey Carpenter. This becomes apparent in the first paragraph of the publisher's news release announcing the book, and in the first paragraph on the front flap of the dust jacket. In his Introduction, this animus toward Carpenter does not rear its unseemly head until the third paragraph.

In this era, it may be proper for the reviewer to acknowledge that he has long appreciated Carpenter's *Tolkien: A Biography*, and attended a lecture during which Carpenter read a chapter from *The Inklings*, prior to publication. We have twice interviewed Carpenter for these pages and harbor only friendship for the man.

In order to accomplish his argument, using the tools at hand, Professor Rhone has seemingly redefined the Inklings. The core group of the Inklings has traditionally been understood as Lewis, Tolkien, Charles Williams, Owen Barfield, J.A.W. Bennett, Lord David Cecil, Neville Coghill, Hugo Dyson, Adam Fox, Roger Lancelyn Green, Robert Havard, Warren Lewis, and Christopher Tolkien. For convenience, the group is often kept to a manageable size by limiting discussion to Lewis, Tolkien, Williams and Tolkien. However, apparently to fit his argument and avoid the necessity of explaining Williams, Professor Rhone has ignored ten members of the group and added two more, whom he seemingly finds more congenial.

George MacDonald died in 1905. G.K. Chesterton died in 1936. The Inklings met as a group from the late 1930's until 1963, with site and schedule varying. (The reader is invited to check the Mythopoeic Society website at [mythsoc.org/inklings.htm](http://mythsoc.org/inklings.htm); they list three core members.) It seems utterly improbable that MacDonald was ever part of the group, and only slightly more likely that Chesterton visited before his death.

In any case, Professor Rhone has set out to compare apples and pomegranates, presumably in order to make his argument and somehow discredit Carpenter. This reviewer is not convinced, and can only conclude that \$45.00 is a very high price for such a book.

- PWH

## **Akallabêth and other Tolkien works**

**Paul Corfield Godfrey**  
**Prima Facie Records**

Renowned Welsh (Tolkien) composer Paul Corfield Godfrey is best known within the Tolkien world for his

extensive four part *Silmarillion* operas (of which piano/vocal scores are available on his website); however his Tolkien repertoire is much more extensive than that, considering that the composer has been composing Tolkien music for over 50 years by now.

Corfield Godfrey was first introduced to the works of Tolkien in 1956 by his then sister-in-law Lois Mitchison (daughter of Naomi Mitchison) who gave him a copy of *The Hobbit*. Only about ten years later he got to read *The Lord of the Rings*. In 1968-1969 he started working on operas based on *The Lord of the Rings* and later on based on *The Silmarillion*; for the latter he was aided by Christopher Tolkien. The younger Tolkien allowed the composer to see and use various versions of texts which later found their way into the *History of Middle earth*. All of the 'Tolkien material' used by Corfield Godfrey is being used and/or published by permission of the Estate and HarperCollins as the publishers of the late J.R.R. Tolkien. Recordings of his works are rare and few. Fortunately this is slowly changing.

There has been a series of orchestral suites based upon various of Corfield Godfrey's Tolkien operas such as *The Hobbit* and a symphony based on the *Ainulindalë* chapter of Tolkien's *Silmarillion* epos with the same name. His most recent Tolkien works include a 'Legend for organ' called *Umbar* and the symphonic song *The Lay of Eärendil*.

Overall the recordings seem to be made in close proximity of the microphones (or so one does suspect) which provides an audio-image to the listener in which he (or she) might feel to be in close proximity of the performers, as if they are performing in your living-room. This (proximity) might give the listener the idea that the instruments and performers seem larger than they perhaps are in real life. The acoustics are fine, the quality of the recording is otherwise excellent, the instruments and voices are nicely separately audible and the words sung are very well understandable. This might not be an audiophile recording but it certainly is not a cheap rip-off you can buy in massive quantity with little to no quality in any convenient store, this recording is excellent and well worthy of your attention, and above all its price can't be an issue.

This is but the top of the Lonely Mountain of what musical Silmarils this composer might shine in Tolkien's

Middle-earth, and the transition of the music from the synthesized versions of his scores to these marvellous recordings prove Paul Corfield Godfrey to be a great composer worthy of a broadening of performances and recordings. So if you want a new music to descend on your Middle-earth or simply add something special to your classical collection, go run through the seven woods (beware of the Queen of Air and Darkness) to get your copy of this album, sing a Drinking song and run back through Western lands on Roads that go ever ever on and hide like Strider in your perfect audio-spot and listen to this recording, being Alive without breath and let The mystery begin.

**- Jeroen Bakker**

## **Fiftieth Anniversary of *Minas Tirith Evening-Star***

*Minas Tirith Evening-Star* (MTES) began publication in September 1967. We have traditionally observed the anniversary of this event on Hobbit Day, September 22. Fifty years is a respectable period of time, and we take a certain pride in that history. It is also, perhaps, remarkable that the original, founding editor, Phil Helms, is still involved with MTES and the Society after these several years.

Effective after this issue, in consideration of several factors, we will cease hardcopy publication of MTES and incorporate it as a feature of our website, [www.americantolkienociety.org](http://www.americantolkienociety.org). Materials submitted and accepted will be published on the site as they become available and time permits. When new material is added, the date will be added to each item.

In part, this arrangement reflects the reality of submissions: since the Jackson films appeared, the rate of submissions of acceptable material has declined markedly, and much of the focus of fandom has shifted to digital media. In addition, this will reduce operating expenses and time demands on our volunteers. It will also further one of our original goals: equal service to all members, regardless of geographic location. The realities of mail service have led to higher dues rates to

accommodate the higher postage rates to other nations. Online publication will eliminate the need of postage for MTES and permit a uniform rate for all.

In celebration of the anniversary, and in recognition of this shift in mode of operation, Society dues will be reduced to \$5.00 US per year across the board, regardless of location. This was the initial dues rate in 1975 when the Society began operation. We will continue to offer membership for those who wish to retain that dignity and to support the relatively modest cost of maintaining the website and related matters. However, access to the website will not be restricted and will not require a password or code of any sort. MTES will be available to all comers online.

For those who have already paid dues at the current rate, we will offer, upon request, a prorated rebate of dues (or extension of membership) based on scheduled expiration. If you do not request a rebate, we will gratefully accept these amounts as contributions to defray operating expenses. Members who wish to be notified when new materials are posted to MTES on the website: please notify us and update your e-mail address at the same time!

We will continue to offer hardcopy back issues while the inventory lasts. In honor of the anniversary, the “all available back issues” package will be reduced from \$100.00 US to \$50.00 US, noting as well that current inventory includes about 30 back issues. In memory of our late Board of Founders member, Paul S. Ritz, who was himself a librarian, the first five libraries to request “all available back issues” on or after 09-22-2017 will receive the package free of charge.

- PWH



## *A Short History of Minas Tirith Evening-Star*

As we observed 20 years ago, in the “Best of the First 30 Years” issue, how time flies when you’re having fun! It does not seem like 50 years from the editorial chair, and the reader is asked to excuse any aspects of this feature which may seem self-indulgent.

Minas Tirith Evening-Star was created in 1967, in Oquawka IL by Phil Helms and Bill Oswald. Phil served as editor in those early days, with the exception of a single issue in Volume Two, which was edited by Father Clyde Leigh. During these volumes, the publication was letter-sized and side-stapled, reproduced by spirit duplicator, with the exception of Volume One, Number One, which was legal-sized and corner stapled, reproduced by mimeograph.

Beginning with Volume Three, MTES was co-edited by Phil Helms and M. Zoe Starkweather, and was published by Pant-Hoot Publications. During this period, interior pages were by spirit duplicator, and covers were off-set press. The publication remained letter-sized.

When the American Tolkien Society was formed in 1975, MTES became the official publication of the fledgling Society, adding the subtitle “Journal of the American Tolkien Society.” The four Founders of the ATS—the late Paul S. Ritz, David L. Dettman, M. Zoe Starkweather, and Phil Helms—comprised the Board of Founders and were known as the ATS BOFFins. During this period, the letter-sized publication switched to off-set printing.

This arrangement continued until 1980, when M. Zoe became sole editor.

Phil resumed the role of sole editor in 1983, and continued in that capacity, or as Editor-in-Chief until Hobbit Day 2004. Steven Mark Deyo formerly edited a journal titled *Mythos*. When *Mythos* ceased publication in 1987, it merged

into MTES, and Steven became a contributing editor of MTES. He continued in that post until 1993. During the transitional period, MTES carried an additional subtitle, "Incorporating *Mythos*."

Paul S. Ritz, in whose living room the ATS was created, served as Bookshelf Editor and chief reviewer from 1980 to 2004. He passed from this life in 2016.

Kerry Elizabeth Thompson served as Poetry Editor during 1995 and 1996, helping to re-establish and revitalize the poetry feature in MTES.

David L. Dettman has never actually held the title "editor." He has devoted untold labors to the Society and to MTES, organizing and maintaining the membership and mailing list, and actually processing mailings for several years during the period when the Society used a nonprofit mailing permit. We have recognized these services with the title Membership Services Coordinator, and hold his contributions as equal to those made by any of the editors. In addition, David has been among our most scholarly contributors over the years.

On Hobbit Day, 2004, Amalie Helms (daughter of Phil and M. Zoe) became Executive Director and Editor, while Phil remained as Editor Emeritus. From 1983 to date, MTES has been published by WereWolf (WW) Publications. Her sons, Connor Helms and Phelan Helms are somewhat involved with MTES, contributing reviews and other input, and have been recognized as Interns.

In 1997, all present and past editors were recognized with the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Hobbit Letters (DhL) and suitable diploma with the ATS seal. The Interns have been recognized with the Honorary Degree of Master of Hobbit Letters (MhL).

On behalf of the Society, our gratitude to these folks who have made MTES and the Society work for 50 years and 42 years respectively. Their contributions extend far beyond the actual tasks of editing: all have been contributors to the content of MTES and to the creation of other publications and programs, including Hobbit Day and Tolkien Week celebrations (begun in 1978), and the Shire Messenger Service (created in 1990).

**- PWH**



## *In the Hall of Fire*

*An American Tolkien Society  
Poetry Feature*

### *Of Commonweal in Middle-earth*

They may take it  
without respect for your own pain or mirth  
in the scramble  
for anything of which there's been a dearth,  
where, in a race  
of four, you're assured a distant Fourth,  
with the effect  
that It pays to give them a wide berth.  
For what you have or what you're worth,  
no one else cares  
where everybody lives in Middle Earth.

*- Robert Wooten*

### *Middle-earth the Place to Escape to*

Walking around my hometown  
New York's Lower East Side  
I hear cars whizzing by and ambulances wailing

as their sirens cut through the thick atmosphere  
and I hear the sounds of building being constructed  
Cranes and other machines create a cacophony  
I need to escape!  
So I run home and pick up one of J.R.R.'s works  
Friends—you know as well as I do  
How to escape the tumult and strains of everyday life  
Take a trip to Middle-earth!  
Autumn in the Shire  
Elvish voices in the distance should lighten your load  
Not everyone wants to take that journey  
But we feel they are missing out don't we?  
Kindness our guide, courage our companion  
as we leave the modern era and  
retreat to the lands of enchantment  
The kettle is just starting to sing in Bilbo's home . . .

*- Matthew Anish*

## *Old Farmer Giles*

A doughty farmer  
with a dog  
who respects him  
Winds up battling a giant  
and a dragon  
He won fame and fortune  
After he defied his king  
He grew in stature  
and became wealthy as well.  
His sword was the mighty tailbiter  
His life has become the  
stuff of legend  
A humble farmer  
rises to the rank of nobility  
By way of his bravery  
and a touch of luck

*- Matthew Anish*

## *Thus passes Denethor son of Ecthelion*

Full of despair  
the Steward of Gondor  
gave in to the dark forces  
within his soul  
He felt the West  
stood no chance  
against he who dwells  
in shadow  
He considered the true king of Gondor  
a member of  
“a ragged line long bereft of dignity”  
He prepared a  
funeral pyre  
for himself and his son  
Faramir  
Faramir survived  
and would later wed the  
lovely Eowyn—shield-maiden  
of Rohan  
But Denethor self-immolated  
We must learn  
from this  
That even in our  
darkest hours  
rays of light exist  
that can pierce  
the darkest and  
most dense clouds  
Fighting off despair  
is something the  
brave know how  
to do  
The tide would eventually  
turn against  
Mordor  
Denethor, son of Ecthelion

did not believe  
that possible  
and burned like  
one of the heathen  
king of old

*- Matthew Anish*

## *Eowyn* *A Daughter of Kings*

A shield maiden  
of Rohan  
a beauty by all  
accounts  
was filled with  
love for Aragorn  
the heir of Isildur  
Her love for him  
was not  
to come to fruition  
For his heart lived  
in Rivendell  
and had been captured by  
an elven-maid  
named Arwen Evenstar  
Yet the shield maiden would  
find love  
in the arms of Faramir  
the son of Denethor  
the last steward of Gondor  
Her bravery in  
battle was second to none  
as she feared none  
not even the Ringwraiths  
of Mordor  
O Daughter of  
Theoden!  
O Shield maiden!

Thy heart found  
peace at last  
After the defeat  
of the one  
who dwelt in Shadow

- *Matthew Anish*

## *The Eagles of Middle-earth*

Windlords  
They rule the skies of  
Middle-earth  
They got the dwarves, Bilbo the hobbit and Gandalf  
out of the trouble they found themselves in  
Lifting them into the skies  
and taking them into their eyries  
in the Battle of Five Armies  
The Eagles also played a role  
Due to their efforts  
The hordes of orcs and wolves  
were beaten back  
Eagles helped Gandalf  
escape from Saruman's  
clutches the master of the Istari  
succumbed to the Dark Power  
When you see eagles fly  
Think of Middle-earth  
Where the great birds have played  
such an important role

- *Matthew Anish*

## *Another day here in the Big Apple*

Another day here in the Big Apple  
Met with some friends  
one of whom is a big Tolkien fan as I am

The crowds and musicians in Union Square Park  
Are delightful  
And sometimes there are protests there  
I think the people there are in need  
of a shot of Middle-earth love  
The world is something we can take  
at whatever pace we want to  
Tonight I expect to see the lights on Minas Tirith  
Hear the hammers of the dwarves and the singing of the elves  
The metropolis I live in is exciting  
But the silence of the woods beckons  
and I will be there—in my mind and yes in reality  
as I take joy in the moment  
and live a life filled with joy

*- Matthew Anish*

## *Angelic Power*

Cutting stone, mending dresses  
Casting these spells must I spy  
By knowing all that he blesses  
You must know elvish eyes may cry  
For all the war tend brought again  
This spirit of fire, a Noldorin prince  
Less said, more known—this stain  
A method blind to fact yea wince  
To persist amongst three houses  
Angelic power within it remain  
Such are these heavenly spouses  
As of yet to be proven vile or vain  
Upon her breast spent my bow  
Never yet have I sent her regard  
What will be worked that you know?  
Amiss this heart shall I ward.

*- Justin Jay Lorince*

## *Haughty Men*

What need be said works  
That condemn oneself, in

Mere composure. We must  
Appear they think to them -

Selves, their women over-  
Confident, blind are they in

The mountain, my pain becomes  
Sweet, haughtier with each

Smile, the alliance is broken  
Where this dread helm fashioned

So ashamed to never find beauty  
In blue eyes, golden hair

Then to witness their hidden  
Fall, I feel to blame, shall the

Wind stir no more. Stirring  
The land of echoes with what

Is to come. No comfort nor wisdom  
Found in that golden house, so

I took their spirit with me,  
To the court of Thu we held

Off those echoes in Nelderoth  
As long as we could, they would return . . .  
If I had a son -

*- Justin Jay Lorince*

