

Tolkien about the Saxons

Tolkien created an imaginary world called Middle Earth. In the First Age, Middle-earth was peaceful and the hobbits lived a happy and safe life. Later the world fell on darker times, the Second Age. The evil Wizard Sauron ordered an elf to forge 3 magic Rings of Power for the Elves, 7 for the dwarves, and 9 for the men. After 10 years Sauron, the Lord of the Rings, forged the one Ring that had very special powers and would give him control of the other rings and their bearers. Similar to the Saxons his characters follow a system in which every man must obey and respect his own Lord to whom he has promised loyalty, and from whom he in turn receives protection. Tolkien imagined many creatures: dwarves (stocky creatures living in the underground), Elves (tall, gentle and immortal), ents (moving trees), hobbits (little, friendly creatures with thick curly hair, long fingers and hairy feet) and orcs (ugly and nasty goblins).

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J. R. R. Tolkien (1892-1973) Lord of the Rings (1955)

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They are proud and willful, but they are true-hearted, generous in thought and deed; bold but not cruel; wise but unlearned, writing no books but singing many songs, after the manner of the children of men before the Dark Years [age dominated by Sauron]. But I do not know what has happened here of late, nor in what mind the Rohirrim may now be between the traitor Saruman and the threat of Sauro.. They have long been the friends of the people of Gondor, though they are not akin to them. It was in forgotten years long ago that Eorl the Young brought them out of the North, and their kinship is rather with the Bardings of Dale, and with the Beornings of the Wood, among whom may still be seen many men tall and fair, as are the Riders of Rohan. At least they will not love the Orcs.

But Gandalf spoke of a rumour that they pay tribute to Mordor," said Gimli.

I believe it no more than did Boromir," answered Aragorn,

"You will soon learn the truth," said Legolas. "Already they approach."

[from The Lord of the Ring, Book III, ch. 2]

Notes

the children of Men: the human kind.

the Dark Years: an age dominated by Sauron, the spirit of evil.

the Rohirrim: the Riders of Rohan. Rohan is the plain where they live.

Saruman: a wizard who has been corrupted and has become evil. This name is based on Old English roots, and means "cunning man".

threat: menace.

Sauron: the Dark Lord; the supreme express evil.

Gondor: a kingdom.

Eorl (Old English): leader.

kinship: family relationship.

the Barding of Dale: a population.

the Beornings of the Wood: another population

the Orcs: ugly, evil creatures. In Old English word "orc" means "monster"

In the same part of the book there Hunters are chasing the Orcs, evil creatures. They meet the Riders of Rohan whose leader, Eomer, is sympathetic to Aragorn, one of the Hunters.

"I serve only the Lord of the Mark! Theoden- King son of Thengel," answered Eomer. "we do not serve the Power of the Black Landfaraway, but neither are we yet at open war with him; and if you are fleeing from him, then you had best leave this land. There is trouble now on all our borders, and we are threatened but we desire only to be free, and to live as we have lived, keeping our own, and serving no foreign lord, good or evil. We welcomed guests kindly in the better days, but in these times the unbidden stranger finds us swift and hard. Come, Who are you? Whom do you serve? At whose command do you hunt Orcs in our land?"

"I serve no man," said Aragorn; "but the servants of Sauron I pursue into whatever land they may go. There are few among mortal Men who know more of Orcs; and I do not hunt them in this fashion out of choice. The Orcs whom we pursued took captive two of my friends. In such need a man that has no horse will go on foot, and he will not ask for leave to follow the trail. Nor will he count the hands of the enemy save with a sword. I am not weaponless." Aragorn threw back his cloak. The elven sheath glittered as he grasped it, and the blight blade of Anduril shone like a sudden flame as he swept it out. "Elendil" he cried. "I am Aragorn son of Arathorn, and am called Elessar, the elf stone, Dúnadan, the heir of Isildur, Elendil's son of Gondor. Here is the Sword that was Broken and is forged again! Will you aid me or thwart me? Choose swiftly!" Gimli and Legolas looked at their companion in amazement, for they had not seen him in this mood before. He seemed to have grown in stature while Eomer had shrunk; and in his living face they caught a brief vision of the power and majesty of the kings of stone. For a moment it seemed to the eyes of Legolas that a white flame flickered on the brows of Aragorn like a shining crown.

[from, The Lord of the Rings, Book III, ch. 2]

Notes

The Mark: another name for the plain of Rohan

Theoden: the king of the Riders of Rohan. In Old English the word 'theoden' meant 'lord'.

Thengel: in Old English this word meant 'prince'.

Black Land: Sauron's kingdom

threatened: menaced

unbidden: not invited

Aragon: one of the Three Hunters. He descends from the kings of Gondor, and at the end of the book claims the Kingdom and is crowned.

Eomer: one of the bravest of the Riders of Rohan. One of the characters in Beowulf

elven: of an elf. Elf = supernatural creature, usually small in size, with magical powers and semi-human form.

sheath: tube which encloses the blade of a sword.

Andúril: name of Aragorn's sword.

Elendil: an Elf name. Here it sounds as an invocation.

Isildur: an old and famous king of Gondor.

thwart: obstruct, contrast