

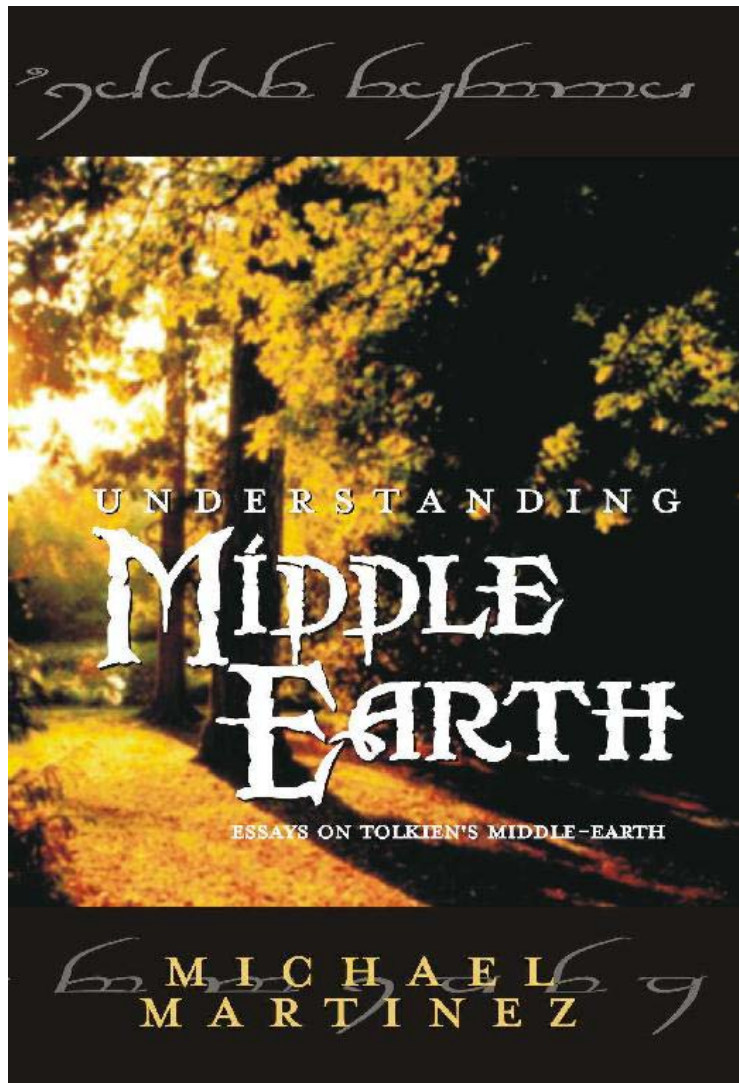
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PARMA ENDORION: Essays On Middle-earth



The Hunting Party I
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Electronic Book Edition
by Michael Martinez
Edited by Matt Tinaglia



Michael Martinez begins a comprehensive study of Tolkien's imaginary history by "Browsing the Compleat Middle-earth Library". His trademark conversational tone and style introduce Tolkien's readers to new perspectives on Elves, Hobbits, Númenoreans, and other fantastic inhabitants of Middle-earth.

Advising that "if you really want to see where it all came from...you first need to see what it all is", Martinez explores Tolkien's pseudo-history in detail, analyzing the motivations and values of Middle-earth's civilizations as described by Tolkien himself. Extensive research on Tolkien's Second Age, a mysterious era spanning thousands of years, illuminates the second "Fall" of Tolkien's Elves, who made the dreadful Rings of Power, withheld vital knowledge from their allies, and exposed all of Middle-earth to Sauron's evil.

Finally, Martinez provides a wealth of insightful commentary, quoting Tolkien's letters and his son Christopher's extensive documentation, on those of Tolkien's sources which are often missed by other researchers. You will never look at Middle-earth the same way again after reading Understanding Middle-earth.

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i. Copyright

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Luthien prepares her escape from Hirilorn

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ii. Introduction to the First Edition (1996)

There are several web sites that offer fairly standard information about J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle-earth. The essays you'll find here are intended to provide some insight into the histories and cultures of Middle-earth. Each "page" is a chapter in the "Book of the Middle Lands". The essays are written for your reading enjoyment. They contain some speculative remarks intended to point the reader toward some possible conclusions. It is not my aim to "finish the creation" for Professor Tolkien.

In working on a larger project I've come across a great deal of material that I'd like to share with people. I decided to put it up on this web site rather than try and publish it in a traditional manner because I have little hope of seeing it published (by me, at least).

Also, I've decided to have a little fun with this material. So be sure to take it with a grain of salt.

Note on accuracy

Christopher Tolkien has now published volume XII of THE HISTORY OF MIDDLE-EARTH. I've read it and am in the process of updating my essays based on information in that book. Wherever possible, to preserve Gwidon's sanity, I have tried to add new material rather than revise the old. But some of the essays are indeed changed and the Polish version of PARMA ENDORION may not match this one for some time.

There is indeed a historical analysis of the source materials for THE HOBBIT in preparation. I'm looking forward to reading it with high hopes.

Stern Warning

I'm not here to do your homework for you. Anyone who's looking for a quick, cheap essay on Tolkien should keep in mind that I write in a style that won't be mistaken for a student's 500-word theme. If you are stupid and lazy enough to cheat, you'll probably get what you deserve when you try to hand in this stuff.

Enjoy.

iii. Introduction to the Second Edition (1998)

Since I first created Parma Endorion: Essays On Middle-earth, the web site has received thousands of visits from interested Tolkien fans. It has "worn out" a few hit counters along the way and I've lost track of how many people have actually dropped in on the main page of the original site. That really no longer matters to me, to be honest. I've received so much e-mail from well-wishers that I know Parma Endorion is a success, and that it serves a purpose in helping to explain a few of the mysteries of J.R.R. Tolkien's world.

Like THE LORD OF THE RINGS, Parma Endorion has grown in the telling. It was an ongoing project in late 1996 and early 1997, until I finished the last of the essays I had envisioned for it. And like LOTR the work has consistently received one complaint: it is too short.

I cannot promise to add any more essays to the collection. I have other projects, some related to Middle-earth and some not. My time is fleeting and my energies are sometimes depleted. But with this new edition I hope to take care of the one other complaint I have often received: Parma Endorion is too hard to read. To be honest, I intentionally made it difficult to copy, but that had the unfortunate effect of making it nearly illegible. So I've decided to stop playing with my readers and just present the book as a book, with simple black on white text. I hope this decision meets with general approval.

Many people have written to me asking for permission to copy the essays. I have reluctantly agreed to this process on numerous occasions. After all, I can hardly prevent people from doing so, and it's quite thoughtful of those who ask me to do so. So, if you do print out these pages, please remember that this is my work, Copyrighted, owned by me. Unlike the authors of a printed books, I get no compensation for my labors. This project has been a labor of love.

To the many students, teachers, and librarians who have written to me, I want to thank you for your interest in my researches. Students, please check with your instructors before using this or any other Web site as a source for your reports and term papers. I've found that a lot of educators are encouraging students to use the Web, but you really owe it to yourselves to make sure it's okay. It sounds trite, but if you cheat on a term paper, you're only cheating yourself.

For those of you who have asked, time and again: no, Parma Endorion is not my last word on Tolkien research. I hope to one day find a publisher for a very detailed book that explores the pseudo-histories and cultures of Tolkien's Middle-earth unlike any book previously published. The world J.R.R. Tolkien created is so rich and diverse it simply never ceases to amaze me. I have not finished the book but work on it progresses as I wend my way through life and debate. Admittedly if Xenite.org didn't contain so many Web sites I'd probably have finished the book by now, but I do intend to finish the task and hope to have it done by the end of 1998.

Finally, I should point out that I've added some new material and have corrected many typos. None of the graphics from the First Edition are being carried over to this new edition. One of my goals is to speed up the download time for each page. So the book metaphor is useful in that the pages are all considerably shorter.

As ever, I hope you enjoy Parma Endorion. If you send me e-mail and don't hear back, please don't be offended. At this writing Xenite.org receives more than 1500 visitors a day and I sometimes get a lot of e-mail.

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