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Alright, we have hit the top of the hour. Thank you all guys for coming back after the long break.

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You enjoyed whatever meal it was that you ended up eating. When we were about to get started, we are here with, Mercury Nadis, who is a student of imaginative literature at Signan University with a focus on talking studies at queer theory.

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They hold a previous MA and Museum education and a BA and art history and are working towards their PhD candidacy.

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Their primary focus is on queer resonances and the in interwar fantasy and the pre identity politics age of ambiguity and disruption.

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They have previously presented on Tolkien and camp aestheticism, a queer found family and back end and on Sauron as

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Go ahead.

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Shall I go ahead? Okay, let's share this screen, shall we?

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Can we all see it?

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Yes.

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Yep, you're good.

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Let me just hide these and we're going to go. Okay, so. Good afternoon, good evening everyone.

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What I'm going to be talking about today is something of a second part to my token society seminar paper on salon as fentatal in the second age.

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So if you've seen that amazing there will be a little bit of rehashing but enjoy the journey anyway.

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This is also one of the foundational frameworks of my future Ph. D. Just Also as a heads up, this discretion addresses patterns of domestic, familial and romantic violence and coercion.

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It's kind of throughout, so I can't give a specific warning, but do keep that in mind if it's something you're very sensitive to.

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This may be a difficult paper for you. I will not be offended if you leave. Please take care of yourself.

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This is also really coming. So at least I have time to speak slowly. Hooray! Specifically what I'm concerned with.

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Here is how Sauron's behavior in the second age is reflected also in the third through the device of the one ring.

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It has often been argued that Sauron is barely present in the Lord of the Rings existing as a villainous presence on the margins of the narrative rather than actively involved in the plot.

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To that I vehemently disagree you don't name an epic after a character who's not at all present.

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Rather, I'd like to suggest that Sauron is present throughout as manifested in the ring itself.

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The ring acts out sour on seductive behavior, which is his primary tactic in the second age.

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This seduction mechanism allows the ring to act as a querying agent throughout the narrative. Importantly, the ring does not create queerness but acts on characters who are already queer, emphasizing the worst versions of that queerness, strong air quotes on worst here that is very token subjective.

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The ring manifests a male presenting character's seductive powers enacted primarily on male characters who already exhibit queer deviation from the normative.

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The ring lust is inherently queer as it projects from a male character male presenting character onto male characters and capitalizes on their already present distance from heteronormativity.

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To corrupt them further from normative society and prevent their reintegration. What I'm going to look at here after explaining the second age bits is how the ring alienates Bilbo and Ferreto from heteronormative to society, functioning as a surrogate wife.

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And capitalizes on Borimer's homosexual hypermasculinity.

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Now for this audience, I don't need to define queer as much as I feel like I've polished a really good teaching slide in my mind on how to do that.

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But we do need a little bit of clarification on what definitions of queer are being used in this analysis.

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Queer is by definition semiotically unstable. A transgression of the normative, whatever that normative may be.

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Fabio Cleo notes that until the end of the nineteenth century, queer meant its own unexplainability.

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And the horror that unexplainability could create. Queer was the ambiguous, the satanic deuce, the fundamentally unmanageable semantic instability, a pure semiotic uncertainty, a hermeneutical wavering on surfaces doomed to failure.

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It was only after the turn of the century that Queer began signaling alongside along with its strangeness the violence of stigma for homosexuality following the trial of Oscar Wilde.

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Cleo is amazing but very dense language-wise. Well, many definitions of queer have developed naturally over time.

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This is the instability of queerness that Tolkien works, Tolkien's works exist within and engage with, including the awareness and knowledge of the shift towards queer as identifying a specific group of people, which was prevalent through most of his life.

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He was only 2 years old when Oscar Wilde's child changed the landscape of queer thinking forever.

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He does not by any stretch of the imagination predate the shift. Tolkien uses various definitions of queer in the Lord of the Rings alone along across the spectrum of negativity and positivity.

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And I'm not going to break down all of these uses. Now we have this whole conference. What's important to remember is that while what we're talking about here is a very negative portrayal of queerness.

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This is not Tolkien's only opinion on the matter. It is only one queerness in the Lord of the Rings of many, but it is significant.

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In this case, the primary definition of queer that we are using is that of a twisted corruption of the normative.

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The normative in the case of Tolkien's early twentieth century Catholic worldview is heterosexual marriage and normative family structures.

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In the feminine principle in Tolkien, Melody Ralls puts forth that throughout Tolkien's legendary, good is attained by a harmonious balance between the masculine and the feminine.

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Rolls rightly identifies that this balance isn't restricted to the masculine in male characters and the feminine in female characters and that these characters can still be considered good across the gender spectrum so long as they remain balanced.

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This distinction allows us to consider the masculine and the feminine outside of the constraints that male characters must be in the masculine position and feminine characters must be in the female.

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Well, token does potentially make room for further distinction between sex and gender, which I know Luke will be addressing after me.

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I'm very excited. And while Rawls's language is very out of date and being quite gender essentialist, we do also have to consider the fact that a twentieth century author not steeped in gender theory would put some stock in the genders of his characters as somewhat essentialized and significant in understanding their place and narrative.

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So while I have been saying, mail presenting for Sauron, because I think that's a much more accurate description, I am going to be saying male from this point forward as that is essential to understanding the gender ontology of Sauron's position in the narrative.

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For the sake of this argument, Rawls's outdated language regarding sex and gender, which was quite radical at the time.

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It's very useful and very appropriate. So using Roll's divisions of the masculine and feminine in Tolkien, silicon darium, we can see how Sauron and by proxy the ring is often placed in a feminine role according to gendered social dynamics.

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And we can consider the consequences of Sauron being given feminine gender roles. We should consider the genders of both the seducer and the seduced and which gendered relationships are being subverted by Sauron's position as the seducer to the seduced.

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In Tolkien's legendarium where the normative is the heteronormative, the definition of queer then becomes twofold to include our more contemporary but not unknown in Tolkien's lifetime definition of regarding LGBTQ plus people and relationships.

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We then have 2 definitions of queer and play presenting a negative perspective on non heteronormative relationship dynamics.

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So in order to understand how the ring functions as an extension of Sauron and as Sauron's presence in the main narrative of Lord of the Rings.

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We first have to look at how Sauron functions within the greater legendarium. Within the extended legendarium, Sauron plays a major part in only 3 stories.

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2 of these, in 2 of these 3, Sauron acts as the seducer. These are both the second age stories of the rings of power and a collab, so we'll put aside Baron and Lutheran for today.

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That is a whole different bag of cats. In other rings of power in the third age, Sauron is introduced as having been seduced by Melcor and action he will repeat upon others.

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Talking begins the story by telling the reader that Sauron was the most perilous servant of the enemy.

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So he could assume many forms and for long if he willed he could still appear noble and beautiful. So as to deceive all but the most wary.

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Someone comes to the Elves of Aragon in his fair and wise form, using not force, but a silver tongue and a beautiful face.

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Manipulate them into creating rings of power. Tolkien specifies in both unfinished Tales and Lord of the Rings that it was Kellin Brimbar who was seduced by Sauron to lead the creation of the rings.

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Get on Finnish Tales, Tolkien clarifies that Kellin B Bohr was not corrupted in heart or faith, but rather deceived.

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The same cannot be said for our FARZ on. Our far as on is one of the few examples in Tolkien's legendarium of a character who enacts clear sexual violence by wedding burial against her will, at least as permasilmariillion.

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He continues this pattern of violent hypermasculinity in his attempts to subjugate Sauron.

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Instead of offering any show of force to combat our far zone, Sauron well skilled to gain what he would, he would by subtlety, humbled himself before our fives are far as on and smoothed his tongue and men wondered for all he said seemed fair and wise.

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Sauron gladly returns to Newmanor as a captive where with the cunning of his mind and mouth he proceeded to corrupt both the besoughted king and his people towards their ultimate demise.

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For a really in-depth look at this relationship, please do go listen to my talk for the Newmanar Tilken Society Seminar Seminar.

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I can speak today. It's great. It's 8 PM.

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For the Newman or Tolkien Society seminar in which I did a close textual analysis.

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It will be in my citations at the end. I only briefly sum it up here. In the published dependence B, as opposed to the posthumous SS, and and unfinished Tales, Tolkien refers to both occasions.

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Keller Brinboro in Region and our Farson on Numan or as seductions.

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While seductions can be used metaphorically, the practical definition of the word is intrinsically linked to sexuality.

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And we can see inherent gendered bias in the interpretation of this word, when we consider the word in the feminine as opposed to the masculine.

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When made feminine, a seductress conjures up the image of a femme fatale whose primary activity is devious sexual corruption.

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It's no coincidence that the image of the Spider-woman is linked to the femme fatale and while Sheila has often been associated with devious sexuality in the scholarship, she's not as tall as she is a grotesque.

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Rather, the femme fatale is a metaphorical spider who weaves webs to ensnare her victims for her own pleasure.

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As an agent of female sexuality, females are often associated with original sin and the corruption of the men whom she seduces.

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For the numin or seminar, I argued that Sauron plays the role of femme fatale at all against our far zone with direct references to biblical femme fatales.

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And while the linear just not so clear with Keller Brimbo, it is the same mechanism in play.

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Rolls suggests that Sauron is a horrible parody of the masculine feminine interplay but focuses her reading on Sauron's masculine qualities.

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The outward facing active and violent domination of others. This neglects that Sauron's actions during the second age align with feminine traits as she puts them.

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Counsel, famed mercy and compassion, consumption and devouring. On both occasions, Sauron could have acted with force but instead chose to seduce with fair form and honeyed tongue.

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By Rawls's estimation, feminines give counsel, masculine, act.

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In Irregion, Sauron counsels Killibrin Bohr, manipulating Keller B B's pride to his own gain.

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Upon realizing his fault, Keller Brino marers himself by standing alone against Sauron's forces, a redemptive act for his fall.

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On Numan or Sauron counsels, again, feigning compassion for the king, and the femme fatale corrupts through seduction.

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It is a metaphorical devouring, but a devouring nonetheless.

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If Sauron plays the role of the fentanyl in the second age and then it's important then, while he, that while he is playing feminine, he is still a male character as his machinations are directed almost entirely towards other male characters.

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The singular exception being Galadriel who does not succumb to this temptation but is also not exactly Middle-earth's most heteronormative woman.

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So own seduction mechanism queers in that it is twisting and corruptive to heteronormativity.

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Yet Rawls was correct in observing that a balance of the feminine masculine is a force for good in Middle Earth as opposed to the feminine and masculine in isolation.

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But even as Saron plays the feminine role, Saron does not balance the masculine in others, but uses his own femininity to consume their masculinity to his own ends.

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Keller Burnmore and our Far is on are seduced by a masculine character playing the feminine role in their relationship dynamics, not as a genuine position of femininity, which would balance, but as a tool for their destruction, with power as the driving motivation for these manipulations.

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And we could get into how aggressively homophobic that is another time as this falls very comfortably into the trope of the evil twink or the devious favorite, see Bosey Douglas or popular opinion about George Villiers.

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So taking into consideration that Saron's seduction mechanism is his primary corruptive tool while embodied, we can then look at how the ring functions within the Lord of the Rings as an extension of Sauron's will.

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The ring acts as his presence with the same techniques throughout Lord of the Rings. Much like its master, the ring is described with exceedingly as exceedingly fair to look upon.

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And acts as a siren song towards corruption. Well, the ring is never given gendered pronouns, it is still an extension of the will of a male character using feminine characteristics to act primarily upon male characters and repeat the cycle through which Sauron began the great events of the third age in the second.

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With this understanding that the ring is performing feminine actions as the will of a male character, we can investigate the duality of feminine and masculine present in the ring's effects and how both work in tandem as a corruptive force on male characters.

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In a lecture that is unfortunately not public, but I am desperate for Sara Brown to publish this so I can cite it.

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This is me publicly hassling her. Brown compares the ring to Julia Kristeva's abject mother whose attachment is stifling and requires the child to provide the mother with selfhood and identity and who does not respect the autonomy of the child in return.

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Brown describes this relationship between the ring and its bearers as parasitic and unnatural nurturing according to its own agenda.

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The desires of the ring are paramount. Its child is there to nurture it and in return for false promises of the fulfillment of the desires of the child.

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This is taken to its extreme with Gollum as he is dependent upon the ring despite existing in a state of misery.

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He's tricked by it, lured by it, seduced by it. So the ring may use him as it wishes.

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No matter what, he is unable to fully reject the ring and in the process has lost both his individuality and his identity.

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What Brown is identifying here is the imposing and very negative feminine presence of the ring, which mirrors salon's behavior during the second age.

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These are as per roles as identification of feminine characteristics in the legendarium, a feigned nurturing through the illusion of love, counsel, mercy, and compassion that is actually a devouring of one's personhood.

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For Brown, the ring follows Christopher's description of the Abject Mother in that it uses and manipulates the bearer, child to aggrandize itself.

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Seducing it with empty promises and in doing so. Entirely consuming the identity of the bearer slash child.

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It's significant that the ring will give an agency a salon's presence throughout the narrative is usually object, not subject.

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And this is where the mental gymnastics become a little bit Olympic as we're getting into the ontology of the ring in relation to its bearers.

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Woman then stands in patriarchal culture as signifier for the male other. Bound by the symbolic order in which man can live out his fantasies and obsessions through linguistic command by imposing them on the silent image of women still tied to her place as bearer of meaning, not maker of meaning.

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So again, the woman becomes the object through which the man makes meaning rather than the maker of meaning herself.

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The ring never speaks and so it is given so it gives the illusion that Sauron is not present in the text as the ring functions as a stand-in feminine figure onto which the bearer can project meaning dependent on the bearer's desires.

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Yet the ring is not inactive and functions as bait for Sauron's domination. We can look again at Movies assessment of the male gaze to understand the complex duality of Sauron's web of control where he plays both the masculine and the feminine.

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When considering the male gaze describes what Freud calls scopophilia or the love of looking, which takes other people as objects, subjecting them to a controlling and curious gaze at the extreme, it can become fixated into a perversion.

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It is significant that Sauron is identified with a great eye whose presence outside of the ring pervades the text as a constant sense of being watched or the fear of being perceived by the watcher.

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Well, the ring plays the part of the feminine object, the ring's master of whose soul the ring is a fragment, is the constant spectator whose gaze aims to control and transform a subject into object.

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Here we see Rawls's description of Sauron as horrible parody of this masculine feminine interplay played out.

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Where feminine action is a tool towards masculine will to power. The feminine object, the ring, seduces the male subject, the bearer, which allows the male subject, the bearer, to be transformed into object himself for the consumption by masculine subject, the great eye.

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The object, the ring, and the consumptive male subject, the great eye, are the same person by the mechanisms of fantasy that allow a person to be split in 2.

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I know, it's a lot.

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The feminine action as tool towards masculine will to power is significant in considering Sauron's presence at Sphin Fatal.

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The driving fear behind the fentanyl is the loss of masculine power to an active rather than passive feminine presence.

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Utilizing seductive femininity to control and consume. It is here that we can take the concept of the ring as abject mother a step further into the realm of abject wife.

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It's as an aside, not irrational for the same character to play the role of both mother and wife.

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So the identification of the ring as optic mother remains a valid one as hetero patriarchal structures often require wives to become surrogate mothers to their husbands.

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But anyway. Token often describes the ring as being lusted after a behavior not often associated with one's mother figure beyond the Freudian and tragically edible.

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The victims of the ring are not born to the ring but are drawn to it in adulthood as an object of desire.

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As well stated by Alex Ross for the New Yorker and that's a Wagner and Tolkien article, but it is interesting.

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The ring is a never-ending nightmare to which people are drawn for no obvious reason. It generates lust, it gives no satisfaction.

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As I will demonstrate now through Bilbo, Frodo and Borimer, we are shown the ring having its greatest effect on those who are already outside the bounce of heteronormativity, amplifying those non-normative qualities in 2 cases making them perpetual bachelors and in one capitalizing on aggressive hypermatic affinity.

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It seems too coincidental to me then than the object of lust that binds the bearer in a vicious cycle of codependence and is in the form of a golden ring.

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Reminiscent of a wedding band, which Tolkien would have had on his own hand.

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Through Sauron seduction mechanism, the abject wife that is the ring draws its victims to it through desire and empty promises.

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Only to dominate their minds and bend them to its will.

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We see the ring performing sour on seduction mechanism in real time with both Bilbo and Frodo.

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In both cases, the rings effect is shown to take an already somewhat queer and alienated person and alienate them further.

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To complicate this even further, there are 2 different definitions of queer and use here. The queerness of Sauron's mechanisms is a twisting and corrupting, whereas the queerness of Billbone Frodo is an eccentricity that refuses to fit within the lines of polite society.

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These are 2 very different things with the connecting link of a process of destabilizing the normative.

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But, boy, comparing and contrasting these 2 different versions of queerness is a whole PhD chapter moving on.

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Before Bill, even leaves Hobbiton, he is set apart from the other Habitonians as a bit queer.

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In Bilbo's case, his pre-ring queerness is attributed to his 2 ancestry.

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Though this does not explain his still being a backachelor at 50, an age at which Photo's bachelorhood would be considered exceptional.

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By the events of Lord of the Rings, Bilbo has grown into the archetypal eccentric bachelor with no close friends besides his young cousins.

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I would love to spend more time breaking down what makes Bill both so spectacularly queer, but that is again a whole paper all its own.

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I've just copied a bit from my found family paper onto this slide so that we at least have a little bit of a frame of reference.

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I will be publishing that conference paper to JTR soon. I promise. What is important for this discussion is that Bilbo has ring bearer has become more isolated and more queer for having it in his possession.

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In the third version of the draft along the expected party, Tolkien toyed with the idea of Bilbo having a wife, but this was abandoned, which Christopher Tolkien referred to as inevitable.

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We can take from this that Bill both bachelorhood was essential to the internal logic of the narrative.

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Why would a ring bearer need a wife if they have the ring to fill that role for them? And when devotion can only be given to a singular object.

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Not only is Bilbo's queerness accentuated because he remains a bachelor, but because the role of wife is now occupied by the presence of a male character.

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The role of the ring as abject wife and by extension its querying mechanism is dramatically increased through Frodo's journey where Bilbo is able to free himself from the ring and retain his independence and individuality his innate queerness rather than a corrupting clearness.

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Frodo becomes entirely consumed by it. He loses a major chunk of his sense of identity and is unable to reintegrate into normative society.

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Frodo was considered queer by the habits of Hobbiton before the ring comes into his possession.

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But as Gandalf says, the ring has unwholesome power that sets to work on its keeper at once.

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In power and knowledge and talking the problem of difference in the birthday party, Jane Chance effectively shows that Bilbo's queerness in his society is tempered by his generosity.

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But Frodo's journey can be characterized by a continuous slow isolation and introversion.

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It's a subtle corruption in the pages of fellowship. But it is there from the moment Frodo takes the ring in hand.

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Frodo's tenure as ring bearer begins with Lobelia's admonition that Frodo does not belong in Hobbiton.

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And this turbulent start begins a creeping trend of Frodo feeling isolated from a sense of community. This develops through the narrative from his determination during a conspiracy unmasked to make the journey alone and his consideration in fog on the Barrow Downs that he might use the ring to escape by himself and leave his friends to die.

04:59:14.000 --> 04:59:23.000

All the way through the Tower of Keir Thungle where Frodo insists the burden should be his own without Sam's help.

04:59:23.000 --> 04:59:28.000

On each occasion, love and friendship prevent Frodo from further isolating himself. Yet the impulse builds throughout.

04:59:28.000 --> 04:59:35.000

It is the drive for Frodo to be alone, with only the ring, without help or friends.

04:59:35.000 --> 04:59:40.000

The same drive that alienated Gollum from the world.

04:59:40.000 --> 04:59:50.000

By being isolated from friends and loved ones, the ring acts out the role of the domineering abject wife for whom the partner slash child exists only for the benefit of the reins desires.

04:59:50.000 --> 05:00:04.000

In incorporated and transformation in the Lord of the Rings, Evette Kaiser notes that Gandalf defines a ringbearer notes that Gandalf defines a ring bearers fainting as not only becoming invisible permanently, but walking in the twilight under the eye of the dark power that's not only becoming invisible permanently, but walking in the twilight under the eye of the dark power that rules the

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ring. Kaiser's focus on this observation is that the ring bearer slides between the scene and unseen worlds and loses corporeality.

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But this can also be interpreted metaphorically. In becoming invisible to the living world, get constantly visible to the eye of Sauron, the ringbearer becomes the abject mother, wife's ultimate victim.

05:00:22.000 --> 05:00:29.000

A sense of self entirely lost to the outside world, yet constantly under surveillance of the dominant parasite.

05:00:29.000 --> 05:00:36.000

Well, the object nature of the ring and its influence on photo enacts this paper's primary definition of queer, the twisting and corrupting of the normative.

05:00:36.000 --> 05:00:43.000

It is the return home without the ring that emphasizes Foto's inability to reintegrate into heteronormative society.

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The ultimate querying from a conservative Catholic perspective. While Sam is able to reintegrate into habit society to marry and have children, Frodo is not.

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Much has been written on Foto's failure to reintegrate as reflective of the experience of shell-shocked soldiers and that should not be downplayed.

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That is super important. But Shellshock was not an inhibitor of marriage. It just meant you needed more care.

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In male friendship in the Lord of the Rings, medievalism, the First World War and contemporary rewriting's and a small notes that photos presence hampers Sam's full and final return to ordinary life.

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Sam is not fully able to return to the normative until Foto has left the Shire for good.

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For Frodo, that option doesn't have been taken away from him entirely by the rings and sorons domination.

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He cannot reintegrate. He has been twisted to the abject wipes will so thoroughly, too thoroughly to function without it.

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And this affects Sam's ability to reintegrate into the normative in the process. And we could talk about homophobic ideas of contagion here, but again, another time.

05:01:45.000 --> 05:01:51.000

This inability to reintegrate is founded on the same seductive mechanism as Keller Brimbo and R.

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Farzon's falls. The lie that without salon, they are nothing and they are no one.

05:01:55.000 --> 05:02:08.000

Keller Brimbora is just the last in a failed line of fanorians. Our farzon is just a footnote in Newman ors history and Frodo is just an introverted little habit who fades into history as far as hobbit society is concerned.

05:02:08.000 --> 05:02:23.000

Fronto is used and abused by what is essentially a narcissistic malicious lover who wants his full and undivided attention and is left in pieces with a ring shaped hole where his life had been.

05:02:23.000 --> 05:02:33.000

I just wanted to lighten the mood because that was really heavy. Okay, moving on. Outside of the ring bearers, barn beer is the most prominent character affected by the ring seduction mechanism.

05:02:33.000 --> 05:02:48.000

While we tend to associate borne me with cyber masculinity and of our 20 first century perspective on masculinity associates hyper masculinity with hyper masculinity that would not necessarily be the case in the early twentieth century.

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As has been noted by many scholars such as Anna Small, life in the trenches of the First World War allowed for a level of homosexual ambiguity that often blurred the lines of sexuality.

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Romance and friendship. December, ambiguous homosexuality was not unique to the trenches.

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Until women began entering the workforce the social lives of men and women were considered to be different spheres.

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It's no coincidence that Tolkien Social Circle was with few exceptions entirely male, as Tolkien himself believed that men and women could never be friends.

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Where homosexuality is prioritized, sexuality and romance become ambiguous. Academic masculine circles, especially those engaging in any discussion of classics, would be intimately familiar with this ambiguity, which Ian Forster refers to as the unspeakable vice of the Greeks in his novel Maurice.



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With this unspoken knowledge in mind, we can consider Borimer in contrast to firearm air through a queer lens which sour on seduction mechanism emphasizes.

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Independence A, Tolkien notes that Borimer was a man after the sort of Kingy.

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Arnor of Old, taking no wife and delighting cheaply in arms. Barmu's hyper masculinity is bound to homosexual war culture to the extent that having a wife is of no interest.

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Now, I happen to get a sneaky peek of Nicholas Burns's chapter for Robin, Stevie and Dell and Presto Caro's queer poking publication, which focuses specifically on this and we're going to see, yeah, and by extent Borimer.

05:04:11.000 --> 05:04:17.000

And it's really interesting. So I will leave that there for now. Definitely read that chapter when the book comes out.

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Well, I don't necessarily want to argue that the ring affects Borimer specifically because he was devoted to the realm of the hyper masculine and the homosexual, it is notable that Tolkien specifies this about Borimer and that of the fellowship is the man most devoted to the homosexual who is most affected by the rings presence, it fits the

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pattern. This makes Borimer the third character actively affected by the ring in the narrative, the first 2 being Billbo and Frodo.

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And all 3 are non heteronormative before the ring. This is highlighted by the fact that Farmer as Borimers opposite and Tolkien's example of ideal masculinity is the only character aside from Tom Bombadill to seem unseducible by the ring.

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As Rawls observes, Bohemia tragically lacks the feminine attributes of insight and understanding.

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It's no wonder that he is easy prey to the self-inflation birth inflationary spell of the ring.

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Farmer, on the other hand, is well-balanced and his feminine masculinity is able to balance A.

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One's masculine femininity in an ideal marriage. As noted by Beatrice Ruiz in JRR, Tolkien's construction of multiple masculinities in the Lord of the Rings.

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The third age means the end of a dominant type of hegemonic hyper masculinity in favor of more evolved patterns.

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The type of hypermasability that Bournemouth represents is of the old world and cannot survive into the third age.

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The These are more evolved patterns, the token correctly, these more evolved patterns that Tolkien correctly identifies requires mutual cooperation with women, though notably as wives.

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Tolkien notes in letter 43 the letter that haunts my waking days and many of your waiting days as well.

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On the relationship dynamics between men and women that marriage is an essential part of resisting temptation for any man as it helps to sanctify and direct to its proper object his sexual desires.

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That's a hell of a statement. Farmer is representative of this new more quote and quote, evolved pattern of masculinity.

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Borimer, on the other hand, is a prime subject for Sauron seduction mechanism to act upon as his non-normativity needs only be fed and inflated for his corruption.

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In this, B, Muir is no different than our farzon of old.

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It's well understood that the ring is seductive and corruptive. This is no groundbreaking statement.

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What these examples do is highlight the gendered nature of the ring's actions as well as the status of the ring as a manifestation of a male character's transgressive behavior.

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In the Sommerillion, Sauron enacts both masculine and feminine gender roles, but it is important to view that within the frame of characterization.

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Where Sauron is presented as male exclusively. If, as Rawls suggests, the feminine principle shapes individuals, the masculine principle shapes events, Then in 2 of the major events in the history of Middle Earth, the creation of the rings of power and the fall of Nubenor, Chaueron shapes the individuals who move events for him.

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It is the same masculine and feminine principles that the ring enacts in the body text of the Lord of the Rings.

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If as put by Valerie Rohe in cinema, sexuality, mechanical reproduction, the ring is the sole emblem of sexual perversity, the voracious force that distorts desire, drawing all lust and longing to itself and suspending normative coupling, then we cannot neglect the gender aside to the character that the ring represents.

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The ring is a querying mechanism on more levels than one. That the ring twists and corrupts therefore fitting comfortably within one archaic definition of queer is well understood.

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That the ring manifests a sexual perversity requires us to consider how Sauron's feminine masculinity and his masculine femininity wears any reading further.

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And I wanted to end on a fun image because I trust you guys to not take things too seriously.

05:08:09.000 --> 05:08:15.000

Well, thank you so much. That was great.

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Oh, and a lot of good things have been brought up in the chat, but, I'm the session moderator, so I'm going to start with my question.

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Excellent.

05:08:27.000 --> 05:08:34.000

What are your thoughts about? Sam having successfully reintegrated into society and yet he follows

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I mean, oh god, that's a, it'll take me forever to answer that question.

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I think successfully reintegrating into society doesn't. Change how you actually feel.

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I think Sam is a really, really good example of. The fact that he ends up joining photo at the end, the fact that he cannot get over photo even when he's successfully able to.

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We integrate. It's really just very telling, I think, of.

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Okay, I don't want to make speculations. I'm not going to make speculations, but it is very telling of some things.

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But it's it really just shows I think in my opinion. That integration is not. The same thing as.

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Conversion. If that makes sense.

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Oh, that's a good point. Alright, a camera.

05:09:36.000 --> 05:09:41.000

Hey.

05:09:41.000 --> 05:09:42.000

Okay.

05:09:42.000 --> 05:09:46.000

Hello, you know I love this. So I'm, I know we've talked about this a little bit.

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When we're doing queer lodgings, although I don't actually got reported.

05:09:49.000 --> 05:09:51.000

Yeah.

05:09:51.000 --> 05:10:09.000

And I wanted to see what thoughts you had, on The whole issue of the point where in one of his letters, token refers to, Sauron as in not the ring, but the Sauron sitting at the top of his tower that part of the split being.

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I mean.

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Then the third days eventually starts referring to himself as Morgoth returned. I know we talked about that a little bit then.

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I'm wondering if you have any thoughts on that here now in relationship to looking at Sauron in this way and the function that the ring serves for him.

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Versus the part of him that's here in his tower.

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So I think those are 2 different questions. I think The first part of it being his association with feeling like he has more got returned.

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There is a really interesting part which Christine Larson actually drew to my attention. In the afterbath.

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In which Sauron is described, I think it was in the half-bath. I don't have the citation off the top of my head.

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I think it's in the afterbath. Where Sauron is, Morgoth basically does everything that's how run ends up doing later.

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And so you can see very clearly that. Sauron is in many, many ways trying to replicate what Morgoth is doing or maybe you can even ask the question how much control does more souron even have over his own life?

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How much is he just repeating the music of Morgoth because I mean that's a whole other metaphysical question of how much you know will free will, Sauron has.

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So I think Sauron and his association with Morgoth is very much an ego boost on his part.

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But also is linked to the fact that he is playing out Markov's music, but I think it's a separate question to what's going on with the ring because I think

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In my opinion, and this is Headcanon in speculation. In my opinion, the part of Sour on this in the ring because they don't communicate because someone that's in the tower and sour on this in the ring cannot communicate.

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Otherwise the plot would be over.

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The part of Sauron that's in the ring. Is the part of him that does the second age stuff.

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So when you get to the, in the tower, the one that is controlling the orcs doesn't have access to that anymore.

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He's a very, these are 2 very different versions of Sauron that are split. So I think that's more the relationship in my opinion between sorrow on the tower and sovereign in the ring.

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I think they're completely severed. Which is interesting. And if someone got the ring back, he'd have his full power back.

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And so we'd have those seductive mechanisms back.



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I hope that answered your question.

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It did, it did. And I, and you, I mean, essentially, I agree.

05:12:41.000 --> 05:12:51.000

In terms of, him being split and these different, aspects of his abilities, his personality, his characterization being split between the 2.

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Yeah.

05:12:52.000 --> 05:12:56.000

But yes, yes, I agree with where you're going there. Anyway, thank you.

05:12:56.000 --> 05:12:58.000

Oh.

05:12:58.000 --> 05:13:00.000

Alright, Dennis.

05:13:00.000 --> 05:13:07.000

Hello, I will follow from what is just been said because part of what I was going to refer to is being mentioned.

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In the second age, Sauron chiefly used Gile. To seduce Gerbimbo and far as on.

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Just as Melcor had himself done in Vallidnor, namely because he was among people of similar power to him.

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So he could not have used brute strength in Vayner when he would have been overmed by the powers.

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Likewise, he would have done He would not have used power at least directly against Scaleb in Bor and far as on.

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However, in the third age Sauron did not need to result seduction anymore. For one good reason which you've quoted earlier on, namely because he claimed that he was Morgoth returned.

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And Mogoth power chief power is in brute strength. Acting as you seducer in the third age.

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Acting as more god. Using seduction would have been out of character. Comment.

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I think there's another, I agree with you, I think there's an extra level to it as well.

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Yep.

05:14:11.000 --> 05:14:17.000

I think there's 2 different things going on as well. On one hand, The Sauron in the Lord of the Rings who isn't in the ring because where I the whole point of this is to say the ring is sour and it is a major part of him.

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So we can't say Sauron and the ring. They are the same. They are the same person.

05:14:25.000 --> 05:14:26.000

Yep.

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They're split. So the, that's in the tower. Is also this is something that I think is mentioned I can't remember I I'm terrible at pulling citations out of my head.

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I apologize. But it's mentioned that the orcs don't listen to him when he's being a politician.

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It's mentioned that they don't take him seriously. And so there's no point in him being a politician.

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Hmm.

05:14:48.000 --> 05:14:58.000

When he's in Lord of the Rings and the tower because he needs to be a general, he needs to be a warlord.

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I can't remember what maybe in mogos ring I think

05:14:59.000 --> 05:15:01.000

And he shapes his method of control to whoever he's trying to control. Okay. So. It might be in Morocco's ring.

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I know that it was mentioned in fall of Newman or let Brian simply put together, which is why I can't remember the exact citation.

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And the second thing that I think is an added part of that is that Morgoth and Sauron on the big difference aside from power level between Morgoth and Sauron in my opinion.

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Is it that Morgoth wants to destroy? But Sauron wants to control. And those are 2 very different things.

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Those are wildly different things. So when Sauron is seducing in the first age, he's doing it to undermine and inevitably destroy.

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Whereas when Sauron is seducing, he's doing it to control. And I think those are very, very, very different methodologies.

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Great.

05:15:48.000 --> 05:16:01.000

Oh no, I'm jumping in again. Yeah, the preview to my paper where I talk about, the, as being a secondary source of seduction for Sauron and the third age.

05:16:01.000 --> 05:16:03.000

What do you think about that one?

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I have no thoughts about that. I'm excited to hear what you have to say. I have no thoughts at all about that.

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Yeah. Okay.

05:16:09.000 --> 05:16:15.000

As brand new thought to me. Okay.

05:16:15.000 --> 05:16:27.000

Yeah, cause I, it's hard for me to completely divorce seductive salon from actual in baradore souron, right?

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We'll talk after my talk.

05:16:28.000 --> 05:16:33.000

Yeah, and because Yeah, we will because I'm excited because I guess again like they're split but they are the same person.

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And I think that's, a really special thing that fantasy allows us to do. That we can't do in in sci-fi you could do it but it would be explained how they do it.

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Whereas in fantasy you can have the same character be in multiple places at once doing different things but they're still the same character.

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I think that's really unique to fantasy.

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Okay.

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I will stop sharing my screen even though they have these pretty pretty pictures on here. But.

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Are there any more questions? Surely there are more questions.

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There's plenty of commentary happening in the chat.

05:17:19.000 --> 05:17:21.000

Yeah, there is so much commentary happening in the chat.

05:17:21.000 --> 05:17:25.000

If you want to bring some of that into. Licamba. No, at least Alicia can.

05:17:25.000 --> 05:17:26.000

Well. Yeah.

05:17:26.000 --> 05:17:30.000

Oh, I, I can't read, I can't read that. Yeah.

05:17:30.000 --> 05:17:33.000

Put it on discord to make it stay because this chat won't keep

05:17:33.000 --> 05:17:34.000

Yeah.

05:17:34.000 --> 05:17:35.000

That too.

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It's great, great stuff.

05:17:36.000 --> 05:17:51.000

I was I was thinking in terms of what Alicia and Mercury were just talking about and, what Dennis had mentioned as well as the differences in S in the third age and because he doesn't have access to his fair forms.

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This seems like why he applies different tactics. But I really like Alicia's point then that in some of these there are remote tactics where he can still apply some of that.

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Instead, at least even though we don't get to see it in the same ways that we did in the second age.

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Hi, I'm really

05:18:12.000 --> 05:18:18.000

Yeah, and I didn't look at Saramon intentionally. I didn't look at Saram because that would be going down a completely, a different rabbit hole.

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But I do think Sauron is, that Sauron is included in this group. Sauromon is included in this group.

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Sauromon is definitely included in the group of characters who are non heteronormative to begin with.

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And then there their queerness is. Taken advantage of by S. In a very specific way.

05:18:41.000 --> 05:18:51.000

Yeah. Yeah.

05:18:51.000 --> 05:18:52.000

Oh, Robin.

05:18:52.000 --> 05:18:57.000

Oh man. What are your thoughts about how Sauron seduced in a Thor via the Poland here?

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I don't have plagued your thoughts. I want to hear your pleasure. I have no blank your thoughts.

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I don't.

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I just think because like if

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Yeah, yeah, yeah.



05:19:26.000 --> 05:19:27.000

Yes.

05:19:27.000 --> 05:19:31.000

If Sauron is seducing based on like inherent queerness. Oh my god, Janet's shared that meme about was it Janet or I was discussing With no, it was, Megan that shared it and then Janet and I got into a discussion about that trans reading of I'm gonna be part of my paper tonight.

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Robin.

05:19:32.000 --> 05:19:33.000

Yeah, I'm excited about it after. Yes, Robin.

05:19:33.000 --> 05:19:41.000

But I, yeah, but I think, good seducer knows what will seduce the person they're after and it's different for Dennithore.

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Yeah.

05:19:42.000 --> 05:19:43.000

Exactly. It's bait.

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It's different for Sareman. However.

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Also, also while using the balance here, Sauron is like presenting an avatar of himself, not, not the real himself.

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So he's like, he's doing the same thing that we're doing with social networks.

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People are corrupt, being corrupted on social networks because they're not The real self is not in front of the other person.

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So you can have a man pretending to be a little girl or whatever you you have no way of proving one way or another whether that's the truth or not.

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So, the, the, in a way, we have planetary in our hands these days.

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And with all the with all the similar properties to palancery and similar consequences sadly.

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Yeah, I agree.

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Well, I'll just jump in here because it's kind of kind of related. I think this happened in the discussion on the discord, possibly in the con suite.

05:20:39.000 --> 05:20:54.000

When I was asking a question about my paper and someone who's using me, I cannot recall. Put forth a theory that the, and of course, sorry, in was a, are asexual.

05:20:54.000 --> 05:20:55.000

Hmm.

05:20:55.000 --> 05:21:05.000

They were, you know, we didn't have a chance to pursue it, but I think that's a very good theory.

05:21:05.000 --> 05:21:06.000

Hmm.

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But I also think it's possible to seduce non sexually. Although I mean the needs, I'm sorry, I've been reading things about the internet and the calendar here in social media and the calendar and social media as evil for decades.

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And I reject that because that implies that all the scamming and lying and corruption and etc.

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That went on before the internet wasn't there and it was. I mean, it makes it happen faster.

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It's perhaps it's more powerful on some, but that. Cake also overlooks all the amazing things that the internet has enabled for people with disabilities, people in marginalized groups.

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Hmm.

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There is Black Twitter. Yeah, I don't know how many of them stayed on under. Musk, but it's it's not as simple as the internet.

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Is the talent here because we're here. But yeah, I think it'd be interesting to think about how.

05:22:01.000 --> 05:22:11.000

Sorry, Sauron may have seduced, sarum in in that sense of how would you seduce someone?

05:22:11.000 --> 05:22:12.000

Hmm.

05:22:12.000 --> 05:22:19.000

Who arguably is asexual. And if you take the mayar like the valor, just put on bodies like clothing, not necessarily specifically gendered.

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In any way. Although it's a pretty long flowing robes just saying.

05:22:25.000 --> 05:22:30.000

Yeah, can I, I've been here on, on the seduction.

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There definitely are other ways to do since sexually. The ring seduces through the lust for power.

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Yep.

05:22:38.000 --> 05:22:56.000

And that's where the calendar is different because siren is not. So to think, or through power, he is deluding him in the way that Denny was suggesting, that he's showing him things that are True but not entirely true.

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That is, the armies, as Gandel says, are really there. But it's not quite, it's leading dentists or to despair.

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So he's. Corrupting his knowledge, essentially. It's not a matter of seduction for power as it is through the ring.

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Hmm.

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As somebody else said, you a good seducer knows how to seduce different vulnerabilities.

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It's true.

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So I, I want to take that idea of. The rings lust is not. It's inherently sexual, it is less for power and for a wrench in that and to say that

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Sexual lust is a drive for power in a lot of cases.

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Yeah.

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So. What we are talking about here and what I am talking about in this paper is the fact that The type of seduction that Sauron does in the second age.

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Hmm.

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Throws into question the question of it not being sexual either. Because especially with our Farson, especially with our Farson.

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He is besotted by him. He is taken in by his beautiful form. He listens to his honey tongue.

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He there are direct references to biblical femme fatales. If Sauron is doing the same thing.

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In Newmanor and he is doing the same thing to Keller Brimbo and he is doing the same thing in the ring.

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And if we're considering that he's doing the feminine actions as per roles, the reason I brought up that distinction where you see the, gender bias.

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When you say a male character is seducing non sexually it's all about power but a female character is seducing sexually.

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No. That's a false bias. There's the gender makes no difference. So if you're saying sexuality is inherent to the female seducer, there is a level of it that's inherent to the male seducer as well.

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It's not a hundred percent, it depends on the context, but those it's a false dichotomy.

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So it's I, I think it's a mistake to say. That the ring lust is.

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In not in any way sexual at all. Because a lot of sexual power especially in a heteronormative power dynamic.

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It's power. Our far zones lust for Sauron is power. It's all power.

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Yep. Yep.

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I said, let's say it was your, I say this coast the other way around. It's not so much that the L for powered in the ring is sexual is that the lust for sexuality includes power so that the it's the one on top of the other rather than the other on top of the one but I agree that there is a connection and a continuity and so forth and I certainly am not saying anything

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about separating male from female. A lust.

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And in English, we use the word lust for power. So there's something there.

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Exactly, exactly. It's they're connected.

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Yeah, they're yeah, there is a connection. Yeah, but I think, I think somewhere someone, I can't remember who was was talking, I might have been.

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Lewis and the 4 loves is talking about the, this the 7 deadly sins and saying that lust is you know people tend to equate lust purely with sexual desire but there's a lot more to lust than that.

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So it's a broad, it's a broader thing. Yeah.

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But CS Lewis. I agree. I agree with you. I'm not disagreeing with you.

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But CS Lewis is also a hypocrite.

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Well, just because, that doesn't mean that something that says can't be true.

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No, no, of course not, but it's especially in the case of lust and power, he is a hypocrite.

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If we expand the the notion about the ring as he said about like a sort of a wedding ring You, sour on is multi, multi, it's not multi-androus in that way because he gives the rings of power to many people and



he would and he may have used his wiles of seduction to seduce all these mortal men so that they would have his own rings and they would feel

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in a way wedded to him in some way, which is a way of of of creating sort of well it's a bond of course.

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Exactly. Exactly.

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Oh, I like what Grace said.

05:27:21.000 --> 05:27:22.000

Alright, everyone, that was great. We are at time. We're a little beyond time.

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If you would like to continue the conversation, it is Going on the discord. And I will drop a link in the chat.

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If you want to go directly.

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Thank you everyone for coming. Thank you so much, Mark. It was fantastic.

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Thank you.