Bilbo's Journey

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Bilbo's Journey

For Clyde S. Kilby, Curator Emeritus

Has Bilbo left the House of Elrond?
Yes, though his manuscripts have stayed behind—
those tales he'd sometimes make and sometimes find
are wrapped and stored in a chest with cedar lined.

Has Bilbo left the House of Elrond?
The letters he'd collected, author-signed;
the songs of ages gone with mythos twined—
all these, all these, he chose to leave behind.

Has Bilbo left the House of Elrond?
The great Red Book of Westmarch, which shows his mind
and tells of his adventures, has stayed behind—
to those still there, its finishing's been resigned.

Has Bilbo left the House of Elrond?
Unto a new adventure he's inclined—
but slowly, slowly, on his way he'll wind
beneath the tall oak trees with ivy vined.

So Bilbo's left the House of Elrond—
to look at trees and make new songs, to bind
his heart to clouds and changing seasons shrined
in Middle-earth, first home of all his kind.

Yes, Bilbo's left the House of Elrond,
and slowly wends to the Grey Havens brined,
the White Ship, fit to leave the world behind,
and ah! the long Great Sea, for which he's pined.

—J. R. Christopher