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All of the Notes / Some of the Reasons Why

Holly Day

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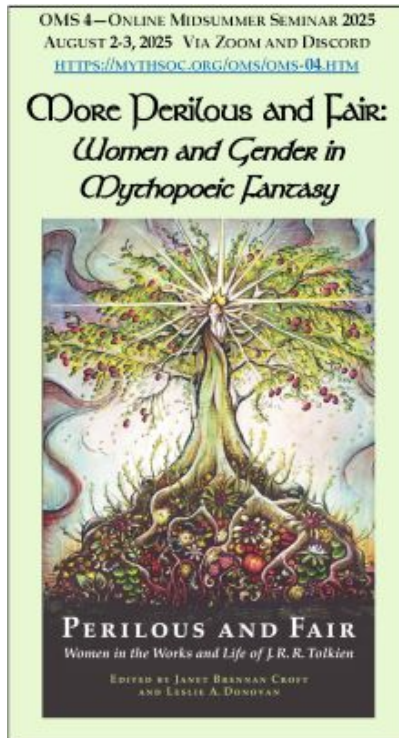
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Two Poems from Holly Day

All of the Notes

When our son is born, I will write his birth announcement
 on the river, fill my pen with ink and dip it into the current
 with the hope that the note will reach you, wherever you are
 even if the words need to be carried all the way to the ocean.
 From the deck of your ship, you should see my message coming
 possibly broken up by tiny whirlpools caused by rocks and twigs
 perhaps even gnawed on by mischievous fish. Most of the words
 should reach, you, though, if not in one piece
 then in an easily assembled string, one right after another.
 I will choose my language carefully
 so that even if most of my message is missing
 you'll know what has happened back here with me
 and why you need to turn back and let the tide bring you home.

Some of the Reasons Why

The story goes that Cain was too selfish to sacrifice one of his oxen
 and that was why he offered crops instead, built a byre of apples and wheat sheaves
 pumpkins and ears of corn. Or maybe it was some other vegetable or fruit unknown
 to us
 cultivated out of existence due to its phallic shape or unpleasant smell.
 Perhaps closer to the truth is that Cain couldn't choose which oxen he could let go
 having raised the lumbering brutes
 from tiny, red-haired calves that gamboled at his approach
 and followed him through his morning chores, to these mild-mannered oxen
 too willing to put their neck in a yoke and pull a plow through the sun-baked earth.
 Perhaps it was too much like the sacrifice faced
 by children in 1970s Disney movies
 who were tricked into offering their beloved dogs up for sale
 or hand-raise a goose or a duck or a goat for their landlord's Christmas dinner
 all because their parents had mismanaged the household finances somehow