Poem and Glossary

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basic faithfulness to the original; the booby-prize must surely be claimed by Brazil. However, even the best have blind spots. [WGH]


Reprint of the 1975 edition, with an added preface by Christopher Tolkien and the first complete printing of J.R.R. Tolkien's poem "Mythopoeia" ("man, sub-creator, the refracted light/through whom is splintered from a single White/to many hues"). The type of "On Fairy-Stories" and "Leaf by Niggle" has not been reset except for a few textually unaltered lines on pp. 9, 10, and 67, presumably damaged in the reproduction copy. In his preface Christopher Tolkien traces the writing of "Mythopoeia" and describes his father's inspiration with C.S. Lewis and Hugo Dyson that inspired the poem. J.R.R. Tolkien's original introductory note to Tree and Leaf is quoted in full within the new preface.

The text of "Mythopoeia" is "that of the final version exactly as it stands in the manuscript." In this form it differs in capitalization and punctuation from the extracts earlier published by Humphrey Carpenter in J.R.R. Tolkien: A Biography and The Inklings and by Stephen Medcalf in his contribution to Ways of Reading the Bible, and from the portion quoted by Tolkien himself in "On Fairy-Stories." The text also differs from the earlier printed versions in the penultimate line of the fifth stanza, including "The right has not decayed" for "That right".

The dust-jacket of the hardcover issue and the cover of the paperback issue reproduce J.R.R. Tolkien's drawing The Tree of Amalion. (WGH)


An imitation Screwtape Letter. Either the author or the editors of the journal (a publication of the Wycliffe Bible Translators) have created a heading for Screwtape's typing paper, reading "Adversary, Inc." / 1000 Fahrenheit Plaza, Lower Regions, HL 00666." Names of the officers are to the right of the main heading. In this letter Wormwood's "Christian" (patient is not used) has gone to the South Pacific Field Training Course (in New Guinea, of the Wycliffe Bible Translators). Screwtape advises encouraging the person to feel self-pity through home sickness, to center his thoughts on himself by means of diarrhea, etc., to feel dissatisfaction with God when suffering sickness upon first eating the local food, and so forth. The last paragraph, when Screwtape considers a director's visit because "it" (the spiritual situation? - in context, perhaps the missionary activities) is interesting, is the weakest part; in general, a satisfactory short imitation. (The bibliographer

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The red and yellow flowers, Gikku, are sacred to the name of Girru.

Gikku = chrysanthemums (Japanese)  
Girru = God of Fire (Akkadian)  
— Benjamin Urrutia