

YOUR COMPLIMENTARY COPY

"These Rings have a way of being found." -Gandalf

Volume 1, number 5: May 2006

The Dunadin
Rings

A Monthly Reflection on Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*

Last month's *Dunadin* quoted Gandalf's discourse on the need for pity, mercy, patience, and trust in Divine Providence.¹ However, if one continues to read the very next paragraph or two, Gandalf gives yet another insightful message. He tells us that one cannot escape from his responsibilities in life. He has to face them and make a choice. Hopefully, one will use his free-will to choose what is truly good and beautiful. Remember that—according to St. Thomas Aquinas—a thing is not beautiful because it is loved, but rather it is loved because it is beautiful (or good). Our will should be moved to the service of God and neighbor in love.

'All the same,' said Frodo, 'even if Bilbo could not kill Gollum, I wish he had not kept the Ring. I wish he had never found it, and that I had not got it! Why did you let me keep it? Why didn't you make me throw it away, or, or destroy it?'

'Let you? Make you?' said the wizard. 'Haven't you been listening to all that I have said? You are not thinking of what you are saying. But as for throwing it away, that obviously was wrong. These Rings have a way of being found. In evil hands it might have done great evil. Worst of all, it might have fallen into the hands of the Enemy. Indeed it certainly would; for this is the One, and he is exerting all his power to find it or draw it to himself.'

'But as for breaking the Ring, force is useless. Even if you took it and struck it with a heavy sledge-hammer, it would make no dent in it. It cannot be unmade by your hand or by mine.'²

So Frodo—like you and me—has no choice other than to decide to do good or decide to do evil. He cannot be neutral. Like it or not, one has to play "the game of life."

¹ J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring* (New York: Ballantine Books, 1994) 65-66.

² *Ibid.* 66-67.