

## YOUR COMPLIMENTARY COPY

"I do not wish him to be slain in this evil mood." -Frodo Baggins Volume 1, number 7, July 2006

*The Dunadin*  
*Rings*

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

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After escaping Mordor and Mount Doom, Frodo and Samwise join Meriodoc and Peregrin back in the Shire. However, once they arrive there, they are in for a rude awakening. The Shire has been taken over by Saruman! He even has the audacity to set up his headquarters in Bag End -- the home of Bilbo and Frodo! My friends, fear not! Frodo had matured and knows how to deal with the likes of Saruman.

There standing at the door was Saruman himself, looking well-fed and well-pleased; his eyes gleamed with malice and amusement. . . . He . . . stared at [the Hobbits] sharply with his black eyes. "But do not think that when I lost all my goods I lost all my power! Whoever strikes me shall be accursed. And if my blood stains the Shire, it shall wither and never again be healed."

The Hobbits recoiled. But Frodo said, "Do not believe him! He has lost all power, save his voice that can still daunt and deceive you, if you let it. But I will not have him slain. It is useless to meet revenge with revenge; it will heal nothing. Go, Saruman, by the speediest way!"

Saruman turned to go and Wormtongue shuffled after him. But even as Saruman passed close to Frodo a knife flashed in his hand, and he stabbed swiftly. The blade turned on the hidden mail-coat and snapped. A dozen Hobbits, led by Sam, leaped forward with a cry and flung the villain to the ground. Sam drew his sword.

"No, Sam!" said Frodo. "Do not kill him, even now. For he has not hurt me. And in any case I do not wish him to be slain in this evil mood. He was great once, of a noble kind that we should not dare to raise our hand against. He is fallen, and his cure is beyond us; but I would still spare him, in the hope that he may find it."

Saruman rose to his feet and stared at Frodo. There was a strange look in his eyes of mingled wonder and respect and hatred. "You have grown, Halfling," he said. "Yes, you have grown very much. . . . You have robbed my revenge of its sweetness, and now I must go hence in bitterness, in debt to your mercy."<sup>1</sup>

How Frodo has matured! Now he is wise. He is like Gandalf and like Bilbo. He has learned to show mercy and to hope for healing for the sinner. He does not want Saruman to die "in this evil mood." Certainly a Christian may read this as,

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<sup>1</sup> J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Return of the King* (New York: Ballantine Books, 1994) 324 - 325.

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"Frodo does not want Saruman to die outside of God's friendship. He is hoping and praying for his conversion." That is the way that God's children—especially his ordained—ought to be: always working, praying, and interceding for poor sinners. Frodo has become as wise as Gandalf. In a sense, he *is* Gandalf to all the Hobbits in the Shire.