

"[T]here's some good in this world, Mr. Frodo, and it's worth fighting for!" -Samwise Gamgee

Volume 2, number 2: February 2007

The Dunadin
Rings

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

Gandalf is wise, Aragorn is brave and noble, and all the Hobbits are delightful; however, the *heroic friendship* of Samwise Gamgee and Frodo Baggins is the thing that *makes* the Tolkien Trilogy. There is a scene in *The Two Towers* that – in the opinion of “this humble Hobbit” – gives a marvelous insight into the character of Samwise, whom many have called the main hero in *The Lord of the Rings*. The scene proceeds as follows:

Sam and Frodo are held captive in Osgiliath when it is attacked by Nazgul. Frodo is overwhelmed by his Burden and goes to the top of a staircase where he is about to surrender the Ring to the head Nazgul.

Sam: What are you doing? Where are you going? *Just as the Nazgul is about to grab the Ring, Samwise runs up the staircase and pulls Frodo (and the Ring) away from the Nazgul. [Sam and Frodo tumble down the stairs. In panic and confusion, Frodo unsheathes his sword, and places the point of the blade up against Sam's throat.]*

Sam: It's me! It's your Sam. Don't you recognize your Sam!? *In shock and disbelief of his own behavior, Frodo drops his sword to the ground with a loud clank.*

Frodo: I can't do this, Sam!

Sam: *[With great emotion: teary at first, but then triumphant]* I know; it's all wrong! By rights, we shouldn't even be here, but we are! It's like in the great stories, Mr. Frodo – the ones that really mattered. Full of darkness and danger they were; and sometimes you didn't want to know the end, because how could the end be happy? How could the world go back to the way it was when so much bad had happened? But in the end, it's only a passing thing, this Shadow. Even darkness must pass. A new day will come! And when the sun shines, it'll shine out the clearer! Those were the stories that stayed with you – that meant something, even if you were too small to understand why. But, I think, Mr. Frodo, I do understand. I know now. Folk in those stories had lots of chances of turning back, only they didn't. They kept going, because they were holding on to something!

Frodo: What are we holding on to Sam?

Sam: That there's some good in this world, Mr. Frodo, and it's worth fighting for!

Faramir: I think at last we understand one another, Frodo Baggins.

Faramir's First Officer: You know the laws of our country – the laws of your father. If you let them go, your life will be forfeit!

Faramir: Then, it is forfeit. Release them!

Also, note the courage and nobility of Faramir, brother of Boromir and Captain of Gondor!