

Even back then, in the First Age of Middle-earth, there were courageous heroes.¹ One such hero was Hurin, son of Galdor.² We have seen how Hurin was steady in his race with his brother. So steady and faithful was he, that we think it eminently fair to say – much in the style of Galdalf the White, “Hurin, show us the meaning of *steadfast!*”³ This is evident from his courageous dialogue with Morgoth:

Therefore Morgoth had him chained and set in slow torment; but after a while he came to him, and offered him his choice, or go free whither he would, or to receive power and rank as the greatest of Morgoth's captains, if he would but reveal where Turgon had his stronghold, and aught else that he knew of the King's counsels. But Hurin the Steadfast mocked him, saying: ‘Blind are you, Morgoth Bauglir, and blind shall ever be, seeing only the dark. You know not what rules the hearts of Men, and if you knew you could not give it. But a fool is he who accepts what Morgoth offers. You will take first the price and then withhold the promise; and I should get only death, if I told you what you ask.’

Then Morgoth laughed, and he said: ‘Death you may yet crave of me as a boon.’ Then he . . . bade him . . . think of his wife and son and other kin. ‘For they dwell now in my realm,’ said Morgoth, ‘and they are at my mercy.’

‘You have none,’ answered Hurin.⁴

As their “banter” continues, at one point Hurin is even so bold as rightly to warn Morgoth: “No more are you now than an escaped thrall of the Valar, and their chain still awaits you.”⁵ He even tries to show Morgoth the folly of his ways: “You have spent your strength upon yourself and wasted it in your own emptiness.”⁶ Finally, Hurin tells Morgoth plainly: “You are not the Lord of Men, and shall not be, though all Arda and Menel fall in your dominion.”⁷

May God our Father grant us the grace to be steadfast and humble and strong against the evil Foe, trusting only in the mercy of Jesus and the grace of

¹ A future *Dunadin* will address the question of “the hero” in Tolkien's writings.

² Hurin is the topic of the first two chapters of *The Children of Hurin*.

³ In *The Return of the King*, as Gandalf the White is about to depart for Minas Tirath, he gently goads his beautiful white horse: “Shadowfax, show us the meaning of haste!”

⁴ J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Tale of the Children of Hurin* (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2007) 62-63.

⁵ *Ibid.* 64.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Ibid.* 65.

"You have spent your strength on yourself and wasted it in your own emptiness." - Hurin to Morgoth Bauglir

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His Holy Spirit. On account of God's grace and our subsequent humility, may our foes set out a trap for us but fall in it themselves (Cf. the Psalms of David).