

One of the beautiful things Holy Mother Church gives us on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of our Holy Virgin Mother is a sermon by Saint Anselm, which can be found in the Office of Readings for December 8. In honor of our Blessed Mother, *The Dunedain* here quotes a part of this reading:

The world, contrary to its true destiny, was corrupted and tainted by the acts of men who served idols. Now all creation has been restored to life and rejoices that it is controlled and given splendor by men who believe in God.¹

Like the Evil One of our universe, Morgoth, was a fallen Ainur (angel), who tried to play his own symphony – he wanted to usurp God. In Middle-earth, he became an idol who was served by men. Furthermore, the Orcs were corrupted Elves, and the Firstborn (Elves) and the Followers (Men) were the Children of Illuvatar (children of God). But now in very truth -- in our earth – all creation has been restored to life by *the* unique Firstborn, our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.

The universe rejoices with new and indefinable loveliness. Not only does it feel the unseen presence of God himself, its Creator, it sees him openly, working and making it holy. These great blessings spring from the blessed fruit of Mary's womb.²

Our universe is healed from its ancient curse by “the blessed fruit of Mary's womb”, the Divine Physician, the Healer-King, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In Middle-earth, in Gondor, it is said:

Then an old wife, Ioreth, the eldest of the women who served in that house, looking upon the fair face of Faramir, wept, for all the people loved him. And she said, ‘Alas! if he should die. Would that there were kings in Gondor, as there were once upon a time, they say! For it is said in the old lore: *The hands of the king are the hands of a healer.* And so the rightful king could ever be known.’³

And so the prophecy is fulfilled in Aragorn son of Arathorn, with the help of Galdalf and the Hobbits! Faramir, Eowyn, and Merry are healed by King Elessar (Aragorn). Yet Aragorn is but a very, very faint reflection of Jesus, the

¹ Catholic Church, *The Liturgy of the Hours*, December 8, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (New York: Catholic Book Publishing Company, 1975) 1228.

² *Ibid.*

³ J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Return of the King* (New York: Ballantine Books, 1994) 138.

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greatest healer that ever lived! Indeed, the hands of *the* King are the hands of a healer.

Praised be Jesus Christ, now and forever!