

me," he replied.

The Erebor Symphony Orchestra! The Aglarond Symphonia! The Khazad-dûm Philharmonic! How he would drive the Dwarvish players and musicians to the very pitch of excellence and virtuosity! But the voice of Erester broke the surge of his thoughts and drowned his hopes.

"But you would need special permission to get into Moria, master, and I doubt you will get it," said the Elf sadly. "They are suspicious, these Dwarves, and it is said that their gates will not let any through unless they know the secret password. Now it has come to my notice that the Dwarves seem to have changed it since they returned there, because some curious old wizard managed to discover the secret command of opening, and told an Elf or two what the old password was. As far as I know, they have told no one what the new password is. Knowing the Dwarves they have probably forgotten it themselves by now, and so they are likely to be stuck in there unable to leave the nasty place. Serves them right, of course."

"But someone should know the way in. I shall depart and seek out Elrond and Galadriel, and the Hobbits Frodo and Bilbo Baggins, for they may help me to enter Moria, as they were friends of the Dwarves, according to the Red Book," said Klemperer, stroking his chin and looking to the West. "Perhaps they have a pass or something."

"You shall have to hurry then, master," said the librarian. The last White Ship is due to depart very soon."

"The last White ship...?" said Klemperer, hollowly. "There is only one White Ship! The rest were scrapped due to cutbacks. I came in that White Ship and it is anchored off the shore at the Grey Havens waiting for me!"

"Not for much longer, I'd say!" responded the librarian shutting the doors to his library for his mid-morning tea break.

"But I chartered that White Ship personally! I paid all monies in advance!" said Klemperer loudly. "It is supposed to wait for my return!"

"Ah, but a two-way paying fare is better than one,

and the ship's captain would rather be getting back home, I've no doubt. He was probably persuaded that you had run off and wouldn't be returning. Anyway, he gets more money for carrying more people, and there is livestock on this trip too."

"Livestock? What livestock?" asked Klemperer aghast.

"A horse I believe. It belongs to Mithrandir and he hopes to return and run it in the Aman Sweepstakes next season," replied the librarian, walking off towards the canteen from where the musical clinking of crockery came. "A lot of money in horse-racing nowadays."

"Mithrandir? Is he also known as Olórin?" asked Klemperer, hard at his side and looking pale.

"Olórin, yes, that he was, but in the West when he was younger, they say, and also Tharkûn among the Dwarves, and Gandalf to Men," said the librarian.

"That old trickster!" grumbled Klemperer. "I wouldn't trust him as far as I could throw him! Never trust anyone with so many names!"

Well, well; that can't be helped now. The White Ship is almost certainly gone by now. What is the date? The twenty-second of September? Ah, yes. I think she sails tonight."

"Then I have been fiddled! Fiddled!" said Klemperer with a curse.

Erester handed him a steaming mug of tea.

"There, there, old fellow; don't work yourself up so!" he said, patting the Maia on the shoulder, which only served to infuriate him all the more.

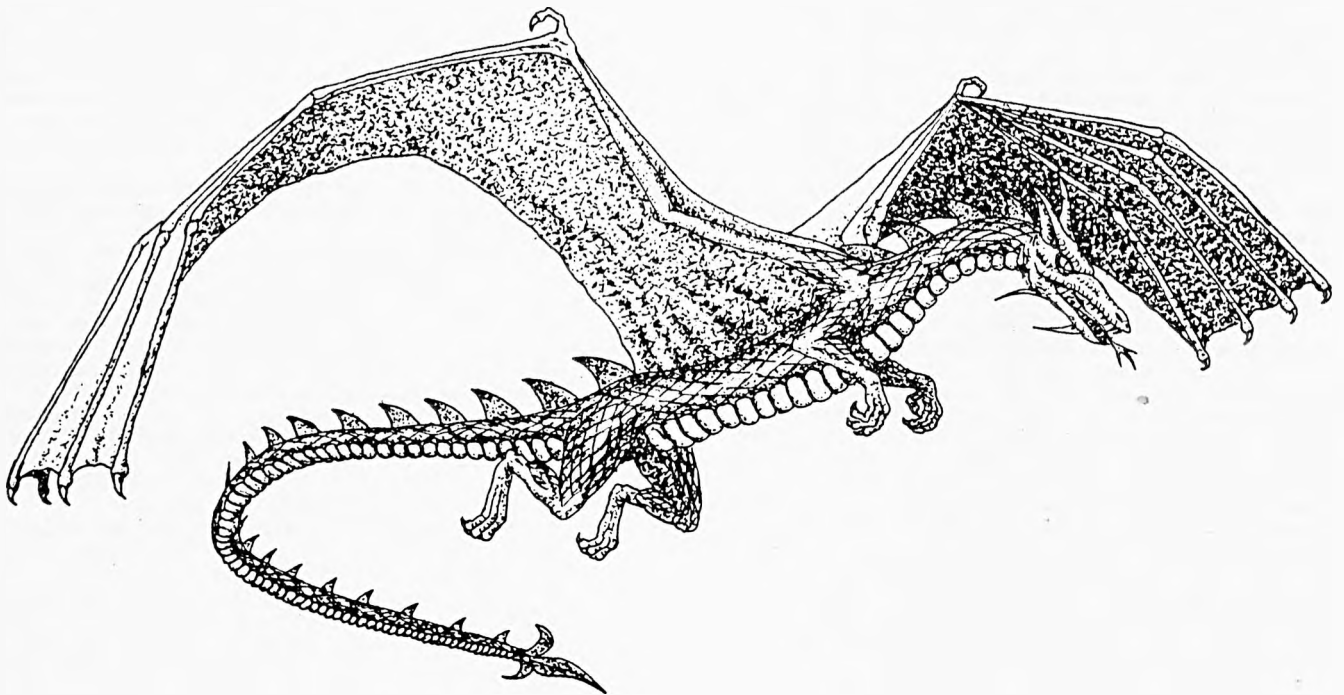
"Old fellow, indeed!" he snorted. "What's the use?"

"Use? Well, we can probably use you, if you would care to conduct our choir every now and again," Erester suggested hopefully.

"Plainsong for eternity? I'd rather burn in Mordor!" he responded angrily.

And somewhere upon the Western margins of mortal lands, a White Ship set sail onto the Straight Road as the evening came like a grey tide to nestle in the Gulf of Lune.

The End.



RONALD E. KYRMSE

# the geographical relation between beleriand and eriador



In what follows I shall try to achieve a concordance between two regions: Beleriand and adjacent lands on one hand, and the north-west of Middle-earth after the drowning of Beleriand (mainly Eriador) on the other. My main sources of cartographic information are two maps:

- A. the second "Silmarillion" map in Appendix III to LR;
- B. the map of the west of Middle-earth at the end of the Third Age in UT.

Map B agrees well with that in LotR as to scale; both are consistent with A, the only "Silmarillion" map with a useful scale indication (the 50-mile squares). The same squares, although without any clue about scale, are also present and in good agreement on the first "Silmarillion" map in SoMe, as well as the latter's west- and eastward extensions.

The proposed concordance between maps A and B is possible because of certain geographical features that appear on both:

- the Hill of Himling ( Himring), corresponding to the island of the same name in B;
- the chain of the Ered Luin with the outstanding feature of Mount Dolm ( Dolmed), corresponding to an unnamed spur just north of an extensive wooded area in Forlindon.

The following passages from IS - chapter 14 "Of Beleriand and its Realms" - give indications of distances, all consistent with A. Quotations in ( ) brackets are from the Quenta Silmarillion in LR - chapter 9 with the same name as above. A land league, let it be remembered, equals 3 statute miles, or 5,280 feet.

(( ...the Iron Mountains bent back northward and there was a hundred leagues between them and the frozen straits at Helkaraksë.)) [Not in TS]

... Dorthonion (( ... )) stretched for sixty (( a hundred )) leagues from west (( West )) to east (( East )) ...

... the (( this )) mighty river Sirion ... plunged through the pass ... flowed (( down )) south for [a comma instead of 'for' in LR] one hundred and thirty (( one hundred and twenty-one )) leagues ... until ... he reached his ... delta in the Bay of Balar.

(( ...West Beleriand, at its widest seventy leagues from river to sea ... )) [Not in TS]

... the River (( river )) Narog ... flowed some eighty leagues ere he joined Sirion in (( the )) Nan-tathren ...



... East Beleriand, at its widest a hundred leagues from Sirion to Gelion and the borders of Ossiriand ... [Same text in LR]

... some twenty-five leagues (( seventy miles )) east of the gorge of Nargothrond Sirion fell from the north (( North )) in a mighty fall below the Meres (( meres )) ... and he issued again three leagues southward ... through ... the Gates of Sirion.

From the meeting of his arms he flowed south for forty leagues before he found his tributaries; (( then joining his two arms Gelion flowed until he found his tributaries some forty leagues south of the meeting of his arms. )) and before (( Ere )) he found the sea he (( Gelion )) was twice as long as Sirion ...

The discrepancies in the width of Dorthonion and of West Beleriand are discussed by Christopher Tolkien in LR, where the earlier values are discounted as being "simple errors". One possible explanation for the puzzling figure of 70 leagues given for West Beleriand 'from river to sea' is that the river in question

is Narog, not Sirion - through some oversight, no doubt. The distance from the coast near Mount Teras to Narog just south of Ivrin is indeed some 200 miles!

The map I have constructed joining A and B uses the same numbering and lettering convention as A, extended south- and eastward. I have only sketched in some features appearing on neither A nor B:

- the lower course of Gelion, to account for the statement that its total course was twice as long as that of Sirion; I have taken this as an approximation, and have not made it quite as long as it might be, in keeping with the course of what (judging from its eastern tributaries) is clearly Gelion in Map V of *The Ambarkanta* in *SoMe*;
- the coastline of Middle-earth south of the Bay of Balar, according with the same Map V;
- the southern end of Taur-im-Duinath, which judging from the published maps seems to narrow down south of the Bay of Balar;
- the extension of the Ered Luin (submerged) west and south of Eryn Vorn, continuing its eastward curve already evident in B and even clearer in Map V.

I might of course have extended the map further southward and eastward beyond Fangorn and the issuing thence of Onodló, but I thought this would add little or nothing to our knowledge of the lands in question. My main interest lies in the mid-longitudes of the combined maps, where A and B are joined.

I find it not unfair to point out the disagreement between these measurements and the distance indications in Strachey's *Journeys of Frodo*. She shows an east-west distance of over 372 miles between Hobbiton and Rivendell, which according to B should be about 440 miles. The north-south distance between Hobbiton and the outflow of Onodló - some 380 miles - furthermore appears on her maps as 250 miles. Thus, quite unaccountably in view of the cartographic evidence already present in *LotR*, her scale seems to be compressed by factors of about 85% in the east-west and 65% in the north-south directions.

Doubtless many refinements remain to be added to the present work, such as adjustments to the spherical shape of the earth and fixation of the latitudes - if not longitudes - involved. A point may be made for

putting Hobbiton - and therefore Imladris as well - at about 50°N, which agrees with the statement by J.R.R. Tolkien in *UT* - note 9 to *The Disaster of the Gladden Fields*:

At the date of the disaster [30 Yavannië, or late September], in the latitude of Imladris ... there were at least eleven hours of daylight in open country; but at midwinter less than eight.

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