

THE MEN OF BREE-LAND

by

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The Men of Bree-Land originated from an ancient people who dwelt in the vales of the White Mountains, before moving North to Dunland and the vicinity of the Barrow Downs. The Dead Men of Dunharrow and the Dunlendings were their kin. (The move probably took place around S.A. 1701 when Sauron was driven out of Eriador and the Westlands again had peace). The Men of Bree (Bree-Land was founded by the men who had moved north of the Barrow Downs) had become part of the North Kingdom when the realms of the Numenoreans in exile were founded.

When Earendur died and Arnor was divided into Arthedain, Carddan and Rhudaw, the regions around Bree were chief matters of debate, because both Rhudaw and Carddan desired to possess the Tower of Amon Sûl which contained the chief palantír of the North, the other two being both in the keeping of Arthedain.

At the beginning of the reign of Malvegil of Arthedain, Orcs again multiplied in the Misty Mountains and at this time, many Hobbits migrated westwards, many settling in Bree. It was then that the unique Bree-Land set up came into being. Need, perhaps, drove the Hobbits to live amongst men in a fertile strip of tamed land in the middles of a wilderness. Both Hobbits and Men alike were independant, each of the other, with their own laws and customs.

When the North Kingdom came to an end and the Witch King of Angmar vanished, the Bree-Landers had already survived the turmoils of war and plague (the latter coming from the South and causing losses amongst both Hobbits and Men).

The Men and Hobbits of the Shire and Bree then unknowingly, came under the protection of the Rangers. The Bree-Landers knew little about these and cared less.

With the coming of the Fourth Age and the Dominance of Men, the kins of Men and Hobbits were sundered and never again was there such a meeting and mingling of the two races.

Lanugage of the Bree-Landers

This originally was no doubt akin to that of the Dunlendings, but with the coming of the North Kingdom, they adopted the Westron speech, though no doubt keeping some words of their older language.