

BELLADONNA'S POSTBAG

First of all, though rather belated, my warmest thanks to all those who sent me Christmas cards --- some with elegant Elvish inscriptions which I could never hope to equal. If I haven't thanked any of you personally, do please take this general thanks now.

WILL HAVEN writes: Re the Light of the Most Silver Dragon--- sorry to disappoint you, but he's entirely a figment of my imagination: the Most Silver Dragon, Dragas Amroth, is the supreme god and creator of Haya (pron. Hay-yah) culture, who, finding himself defied by a Council of Lesser Gods, embodied much of his power, or 'Light,' in three Stones, which he gave to the Willea (pron. VElay-yah) knowing that they would be destroyed sooner or later by the tides of human power and greed, and hoping, in this way, to diminish the Lesser Gods until he could reabsorb them, though knowing that he himself would be diminished too. For the Light, once a Stone had been destroyed, would be dissipated into the material world. Yet it was of sorcerous origin, and so all sorcery would be diminished, with him (save the material world, which gains.) But the Willea did not know this, and set about establishing an Empire, with the power of the Stones, to the greater glory of Dragas Amroth. Thus the blessing (by the Most Silver Dragon) has a twofold meaning: Firstly, if you walk in the Light of Dragas Amroth, you live in the Empire of the Willea (or later the Kenneth) and thus it expresses a wish to bring you under the Willeas' dominion; and secondly, should you be so blessed, you know the truth and the true god, or some manifestation of Him, as He wills, and gain great delight and joy from your knowledge, as all the blessings of truth and the wisdom it bestows are manifest in you. Therefore I say: May you walk forever in the Light of the Most Silver Dragon---- and so all the greatest happinesses can be yours.

((Yours is a fine piece of personal mythology--- why should not everyone have his own? It is strangely reminiscent of some of the variations of Gnosticism, yet by no means the same. Are we to understand that you believe in it? Indeed, you might do worse. But in any case, many thanks indeed for the blessing of the Most Silver Dragon--- may the same light illumine you also.))

JOHN B. ABBOTT writes: Dear Mrs. Chapman... (I can't get used to these noms-de-plume assumed by some Tolkien Society members!) Note: Noms-de-plume- Hats with feathers. ((I continue to wear a feather in my hat, and subscribe myself, yours, Belladonna Took))-

(He sends me a cutting from the 'DAILY TELEGRAPH' for 29th August 1967 regarding the 'Hippy-hobbit business', which although four years out of date, is, I think, worth quoting for its own sake --- after which we will let the question drop.

'Peter Simple II.' writes: If I were still capable of surprise, which I scarcely am, I would have been surprised to learn that Prof. Tolkien's magnificent trilogy, 'The Lord of the Rings,' is the favourite reading of hippies, beatniks, flower people and others engaged in switching on or dropping out. 'The Lord of the Rings' presents a fantasy world, to be sure, but Tolkien's fantasy and the hippies' fantasy are, I should have thought, oil and water. Tolkien's epic is about the struggle of civilised beings to fight off the encraching forces of chaos and Old Night. The heart and symbol of what they are defending is The Shire, a homely and intensely respectable place where family traditions are strong, property is valued and servants are not ashamed of their calling. The heroic Hobbits go out to do battle with the Dark Lord, not as some kind of psychedelic lark, but very reluctantly, out of the sternest sense of duty. There is no love-in at the end of the road. They buckle on their swords.--- What ever can the hippies find congenial in this? But perhaps they look at it from a different point of view. Perhaps, for them, 'The Lord of the Rings' is a great tragedy, which tells how the lovely dark forces of hippiedom were overwhelmed by bourgeois reactionaries.'

It must be said that both ARFallone and yourself come out of the recent dispute with credit. Honours even?

((J.A. continues by saying that the TS might follow the lines of the Sherlock Holmes Society. Agreed, heartily. Solar Pons fans please note, and if you haven't met Solar Pons, JØhn, contact Roger Johnson^{??}

No more in the 'Postbag' now, but do keep on writing to me - and if you're passing through London, contact me at 01.397.2588 (mystic numbers) and let me know when you can climb up to Overburrows Flet.

E.L.A.Silenn etc.....

Belladonna Took.

PS. I am much interested in what I have learnt of the 'FANGUAGE' or should it be 'FINGO'? GAFIATE is a good word. Another occurs to me, that is the verb to LETSE.....that is: 'Leave it to Someone Else'. So much of this seems to have occurred lately that I think the word is needed. But now, without any reproaches - please in future, less of LETSE and more of D.I.Y.!

((Hartley here - if you're interested you should borrow a copy of Fancyclopedia which lists all fanslang, though it is a little out of date now. Fandom is a vast subculture, I doubt if most fans realise just how large it is))



Q.