

Cunningly Devised Fables

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St. Paul to Timothy (*1 Tim. 1:4*) charges the young Bishop not “to give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which furnish questions rather than the edification of God which is Faith.” This text exactly applies to the works of J. R. R. Tolkien which contain fables and endless genealogies in the tradition of the ancient Gnostics.

Then there is the general warning of St. Paul to the same Timothy (*2 Tim. 4:4*) about the Last Days when “there shall be a time when men will not endure sound doctrine but, according to their own desires, will heap to themselves teachers having itching ears and will indeed turn away their hearing from the Truth ... unto fables.” This text applies most strikingly to the lies of modern science, specifically the lie of heliocentric/a-centric cosmology and the lie of cosmic-terrestrial and human evolution as well as to all the fantasy-fiction built thereon.

Finally, there is the dogmatic assertion of St. Peter (*2 Peter 1:16*) wherein he declares and defines that “we have not, by following artificial or cunningly devised fables, made known to you the power and presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eye witnesses of His Greatness...”

In these texts, the Apostles place the Holy Scriptures and the teachings of the Church in stark contrast with the “cunningly devised fables” and fantasies that would weaken, dilute and eventually destroy the Truths of divine Faith in the minds and hearts of the once-faithful.

The flourishing of fantasy-fiction today, of which the works of J. R. R. Tolkien, C. S. Lewis and J. K. Rowling are the fully ripened fruits of a long line of such literature, manifest the literary expressions of the scientific fables going back to that crucial time of conflict – the Galileo case.

Fantasy today is much more and has progressed far beyond that of Alice’s *Wonderland* and Dorothy’s *Oz*. It has become so intrinsically linked with the doctrines of modern science that it is just over the nearest edge of the horizon of reality in the minds of those who write it and read it. Even Tolkien’s *Middle Earth*, growing out of his *Silmarillion*, is considered by many to accommodate the long ages of cosmic evolutionism. His tales are the myths of a revived

paganism. Though not nearly so sophisticated in their scientific themes, the *tales* of Tolkien form the mythological back-drop of the technological wonders of our day. His reaction against modern industrial-technological progress provides an escape, the flip-side of the coin of modern science fiction and its relationships with technological advance. Both Tolkien's stories and the most avant-garde science fiction belong to the immense complex of meaning that is today's Neo-Paganism. The increasingly vast and all-inclusive artificial world that we live in and are forced, willy nilly, to depend upon, is but the counter-part of Tolkien's false *Middle Earth*. (see this writer's *Fairyland is Hell ...* and *The Real Middle Earth*.)

Visionaries with minds paganized by mythology and the lies of modern science foist upon us their desires for a better world and their convictions of how to bring it about. Some project it into the future, based on the promises and predictions of scientists. Others recall an ideal past, a mythological world of natural goodness free from modern industrial pollution and technology. But all of these fantasy worlds implicitly deny Original Sin and its consequences and thereby constitute an attack on the Traditional Faith of Catholics.

None of this literature is based on the Word of God revealing, on the Holy Scriptures, on the parables of Our Lord or on the teachings of His Church. This fact should give us pause and even engender alarm. For it bespeaks in us an ignorance, willing or unwilling, of those truths necessary for salvation if we can enjoy these cunningly devised fables with equanimity. Such literature proposes to the minds of children, youth and adults those heroes who have no knowledge at all of Our Lord Jesus Christ as the one and only Savior of the world and of every human soul. Heroes like Frodo and Sam and the children of Narnia have no knowledge of Our Lord, of His Eucharistic Presence, of His Most Holy Mother, and of the necessity of His Church for their salvation.

How, then, can they fail to do immense harm to the minds and hearts of both children and adults today? At best it will produce a fatal split between Faith and reason, between Faith and life, ending in the subjugation of Faith to the sciences and technology, just as Pope St. Pius X predicted in his landmark encyclical *Pascendi*.