

# **An Analysis Of The Importance Of Fellowship Depicted In J.R.R Tolkien's Novel "The Lord Of The Rings Part I"**

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## *Abstract*

*Film Lord Of The Rings adalah salah satu film yang sangat terkenal. Penulis tertarik melakukan riset terhadap novel Lord Of The Rings Part I yang ditulis oleh Jhon Reuvel Ronald Tolkien. Riset ini adalah hasil penjelasan penulis tentang persahabatan dalam novel tersebut. Beberapa aspek yang tercantum di dalam penelitian ini adalah tentang biography penulis dan karya sastranya. Riset ini menggunakan riset kepustakaan (library research).*

*Keywords: A friend as a helper, a friend as councillor and a friend as a supporter.*

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General Remark**

Nobody can live completely isolated life. Life becomes empty and sad without other people. Everybody needs a fellow (friend) in his or her life. Friends are part of human needs that can not be avoided. According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, friends is defined as a person you know well and regard with affection and trust. Some people say that friendship is God's way of loving people through someone else. Friendship naturally appears in life for those who appreciate it and it can unite two or more people who have different background. Thus, friendship in this world is very important to make this world be peaceful.

In this research, it will be described in detail the importance of a friend found in J.J.R. Tolkien **The Lord Of The Rings , part 1**. In the novel, it is described that macig ring must be destroyed because it spreads disaster and calamities for human beings. The way how Frodo and his friends, who are always hand in hand to overcome any difficulties , to destroy the ring is very interesting and will be described in this study.

### **1.2 Reasons For Choosing the Topic**

There are several reasons why this topic has been chosen as the subject matter of the analysis. They are as follows:

1. The friendship among the characters depicted in the novel are very impressive and can be of much use for the readers as a mirror of their life.
2. Friendship can make other people think and behave in wise manner so that they can make other people happy and hopeful.
3. Friendship can make this world be peaceful.
4. Above all it can not be denied that everyone must have friends because human being as a social creature can not live alone.

### **1.3. Purpose of the Study**

There are several purpose of writing this study:

1. To give more information about the importance of a friend in this life.
2. To indicate that friendship found in this novel can be made as a moral lesson for the readers.
3. To remind the readers that life without friend is impossible.

4. To show that friendship can change personality and morality either to be better or worse.

#### 1.4 Scope of the Study

In order to reach the accuracy of this research writing, the analysis is limited. Therefore, the writer focuses her analysis on the importance of a friend. The discussion covers the importance of a friend as a helper, as a concellor and as a supporter. Other functions of a friend which are not found in the novel will not included in this research.

#### 1.5 Method of the Study

Since this research deals with analysis of the novel, then the library research deals with reading a literary book and analysing the book with the specific purpose of the analysis. It is also carried out by referring to related literature on the subject matter.

The data are collected from reference such as books, newspapers, internet and other materials. However, the main data are taken from the novel itself.

## II. A Biography of the Author and His Literary works

### 2.1 J.J.R Tolkien's Biography

John Ronald Reuel Tolkien is very talented writer, he is famous for having created such a literary genre as fantasy. All his books are real masterpiece, many having read them once and want to read them again and again. Warm-hearted and exciting adventure stories, involving people, elves, dwarves, orcs, goblins and wizards and of course hobbits are in Tolkien's accounts. He knew many ancient new modern language. Thus, a new world-Middle-earth, along with its geography, its history and several languages appeared. The story of this world goes into the depth of millenium and stretches four epochs starting from the act of creation.

J.R.R Tolkiens was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1892 at Bloemfontein in the Orange Free State. When he was four years old his mother , Marry Suffieldand his younger brother Hilary went to England. At that time his father was ill and soon died of rheumatic fever. After his father's death his family lived at Sarehole, on the soth-eastern edge of Birmingham. Ronald spent his childhood there and later scene from this area would be depicted in his pictures and writings.

Another tragic events occured when J.R.R.Tolkiens was 12 years, it was the death of his mother because of diabetes. He and his brother Hillary become wards of a priest at the Birmingham Oratory. The boys attended King Edward's school in Birmingham. At school Ronald was interested in classic as well as Anglo-Saxon and Middle English. At that time he began to develope his linguistic talent by creating his own language grammar and history. Not suprisingly Tolkiens was the first in English Language and Literature at Exeter College.

J.R.R Tolkiens married to Edith Brath. He was commisioned in the Lancashire Fusiliers and participated in the battle of the Somme because of he got married when he still studied at the college. After the war he obtained a post on the New English Dictionary and he began to write the mythological and legendary cycle which he originally called *The Book of the Lost Tales* but which eventually become known as *The Silmarillion*.

Later Tolkiens was appointed as reader in the English Language at the University of Leeds. Among the students he was famous for his strong and popular teaching. Then Professor Tolkiens was elected to continue work at Oxford, as Professor of Anglo-Saxon. He taught Anglo-Saxon and English right up until his retirement in 1959. Tolkiens had been one of the most gifted and clever philologists.

By that time the Tolkien's family consisted of four children (three sons and a daughter) and

more than anything father liked to tell his children about mythical beings-elves, hobbit, etc, at first such stories were simply fairy tales, and the first book which made him famous worldwide, the *Hobbit* (published in 1937) was written in the genre of fairy tale. The book was huge success and the public demanded a sequel. Thus *the Lord of the Rings* become a popular trilogy.

Having retired, Tolkien and his wife lived in the Headington area of Oxford, then moved to Bournemouth. His wife died in 1971 and after that Tolkien decided to return to Oxford. He was diagnose having a bleeding gastric ulcer, and despite some reassuring reports died on September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1973, aged 81. Tolkiens and his wife are buried together in a single grave in the Catholic section of Wolvercote in the northern suburbs of Oxford.

## 2.2 His Literary Works

### A. Novels

1. Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
2. The Hobbit : or There and Back Again
3. The Lord of the Rings
4. The Adventure of Tom Bombadil
5. Letters From Father Christmasts
6. The silmarillion
7. Mr. Bliss
8. The Book of Lost Tales, Part I
9. The Book of Lost Tales Part II
10. The Lays of Beleriand
11. The Shapping of Middle Earth
12. The Lost Road and Other Writing
13. The Return of the Shadow
14. The Teason of Isengard

15. The War of the Ring
16. Sauron Defetead
17. Morgoth's Ring
18. The war of the Jewels
19. The Peoples of Middle Earth
20. Roverandom

### B. Short Story

1. Leaf by Niggle

### C. Verse

1. Sir Orfeo
2. Tree and Leaf
3. Fin and Hengest
4. Poems
5. Qenyaqetsa

### D. Essay

1. The Monster and the Critics 1954

### E. Others

1. A Middle English Vocabulary 1977
2. Sngs for the Philologists 1982
3. Ancrene Wisse: The English Text of the Ancrene Riwe 1984
4. Pictures by J.J.R.Tolkien 1985
5. The Old English 'Exodus' 1986
6. I Lam na . Goldrrin: Grammar and Lexicon of the Gnomish Tongue 1987
7. Osan we-kenta; Enquiry into the Communication of Thought 1988

### III. Summary and Characters of the Novel

#### 3.1 Summary of the Novel

The fellowship of *the Ring* is the first book in *The Lord of The Rings Trilogy*. This story is set in the world of Tolkien's invention, known as Middle Earth. A specter of evil is looming over Middle Earth as the dark Lord, Sauron, seeks to consolidate his already immense power, by reclaiming the One Ring that he has lost. Most of his power is held in his ring. With this power, he can enslave Middle Earth and unleash an incredible evil with little opposition. In the story of the Hobbit, a hobbit called Bilbo Baggins has stolen the ring from a hideous creature called Gollum. Somehow, this ring ends up with Frodo Baggins, Bilbo's nephew and all a sudden, Frodo is at the center of this epic drama involving the ring that he knows very little about.

The wizard, Gandlaf, warns Frodo that he should leave the shire and keep the ring out of Sauroon's hand. They meet a fellow named Tom Bombadil who helps them get out of trouble when they are facing the Nine Black Readers. Later, they meet Aragorn and they continue safely to the country of the elves. Frodo recuperates from a wound and he is healed by Elrond. At the Council of Elrond it is decided that the ring must be destroyed at the Cracks of Doom. This is many miles away, deep inside the evil lands of Mordor. The fellowship of the rings is established, including nine individuals in all.

Gandalf meets his end on the Bridge of Khazad-dum, attempting to defend the company from the evil Balrog. The group must continue without him, heading south, into Lorien a forest of elves. Here the Lady Galadriel offers comfort and security for the time. Frodo grows in knowledge and maturity and he becomes more resolved to fulfill his mission. His resolve is further tested when Boromir tries to steal the ring from him. In the end, Frodo knows that he must fulfill his duty but he does not want to solicit their opinions

for he knows that they will change his mind. In the end, Frodo continues the alone, but Sam soon finds him and refuses to do anything other than accompany him, heading towards the evil land of Mordor.

#### 3.2 Character of the Novel

##### A. Gandlaf

He is the protagonist of the novel. Of the five great wizards in Middle Earth, there is only one wizard who is greater than Gandlaf. This Saruman, who unfortunately has turned into the evil side. In his spare time, Gandlaf makes fireworks for the Hobbits but he reveals his powers as a true wizard. He helps the company and leads them through the caves of Moria, but he is brought down and dies in the bottomless chasm.

##### B. Frodo Baggins

Frodo is one of the main characters of the novel. He has inherited one ring from his uncle, Bilbo Baggins. Frodo is a hobbit, and has timid and domestic personality. He is really ill-suited for the difficult journey ahead. He has quite an appetite for food, drink, song and for most of the Fellowship of the ring, Frodo relies upon the help of his friends, Gandalf and Sam Gamgee.

##### C. Sauron

Sauron never makes an appearance in the novel but his power is certainly felt. He is known as the Dark Lord and he is the major villain in the novel. Morgoth was the first Great Enemy of human beings and Sauron has replaced him, reviving the ancient evil capital of Mordor. Now, he seeks the One Ring so that he can consolidate his power and rule over all.

##### D. Strider/ Aragorn

He meets the hobbits in a pub and with Gandalf's approval, he looks after the group and helps to protect them. Aragorn is the heir

of Isildur and he belongs to the race of the men of Numenor. He helps to keep the group, after Gandalf dies.

#### E. Sam Gamgee

Sam proves to be Frodo's closest friend, accompanying him on his quest and refusing to leave his side even when all of the others left him.

#### F. Bilbo Baggins

The hero of an earlier novel. He is a hobbit. Bilbo is the uncle of Frodo. He gives Frodo the One Ring that causes all of these troubles.

#### G. Elrond Halfelven

The master of Rivendell, the last homely house. He has medicinal powers and he is able to heal Frodo after he is attacked and wounded in the shoulder.

#### H. Boromir

A man from Minas Tirith, city of Gondor in the south. His excessively martial spirit drives him to attack Frodo, in an attempt to wrest the ring from him. He repents afterwards, but the fellowship has been broken.

#### I. Legolas

An elf from Mirkwood, he is masterful with a bow. He is a member of the Fellowship and when the group is attacked by an immense shadowy figure, he successfully shoots it down.

#### J. Gimli

A dwarf, the son of Gimli (one of Bilbo's associates in the Hobbit) who is a member of the fellowship.

#### K. Gollum

One of the villains of the novel. He is a hideous creature who appears in the Hobbit (Bilbo steals the ring from him). In this novel,

Gollum spies on the fellowship and alerts Sauron's forces to the group's whereabouts.

#### L. Galadriel

A queen of the elves who lives in Lothlórien. Her mirror enables Frodo to see the evil eye of Sauron. Galadriel owns one of the Rings, but she is willing to give up her magical powers if this is necessary for Sauron to be defeated.

### IV. An analysis of the Importance of a Fellowship Depicted in the Novel

Fellowship of friendship is something that has an extraordinary power. It can consequently give enormous influence to the people. The hard work can be solved easily due to friendship. It means that the existence of a friend is inevitably needed and constitutes part of human needs.

In the following, it will be analyzed in detail the importance of a friend depicted in J.R.R. Tolkien's Novel entitled The Lord of The Rings part I.

#### 4.1 As a helper

Helper is a person who wants to do part of the work of another person, make it easier for somebody to do something. Something a helper expects to get repayment of services for his or her helping however some people do not expect to get repayment from someone that has helped them. A helper of this kind usually expects to get happiness from person he or she has helped.

In the novel The Lord of The Rings part 1 written by J.R.R. Tolkien, it is clearly depicted that a helper is really needed. Gandalf, who is the protagonist, who is the protagonist of the novel always helps his friends. He loves his friends very much. According to Gandalf, friends are the most important thing in this life so that he always puts friendship over everything. He is always ready to extend his hand to his friends to overcome any burdens that his friends encounter.

“the decision lies with you. But I will always help you. He laid his hands on Frodo’s shoulder. It will help you beat this burden, as long as it is yours to beat .”(Tolkien, 1954:81)

From the quotation above it can be seen that Gandalf always offers helps to his friends to solve any problems. He is a true helper for Frodo, his close friend when Gandalf can not accompany Frodo in Frodo’s journey to finish his mission to destroy the magic ring, Gandalf does not let Frodo alone. He looks for someone that can accompany Frodo to finish his mission. It can be seen in the following quotation:

“But I don’t think you need go alone. Not if you know anyone you can trust, and who would be willing to go by your side-and that you would be willing to take into unknown perils.  
.....  
.....Get up, Sam! Said Gandalf. You shall go away with Frodo! ‘me sir! ‘cried Sam! Hooray !he shouted (Tolkiens: 1954:84-85)

From the quotation above, it can be seen that Gandalf does not want Frodo to go alone to finish his mission. He thinks that he is responsible for the safety of his close friend. It is a reason why he can try to find someone that can help Frodo as he has another important duty, can not accompany him. Eventually Gandalf can find the right man to accompany Frodo to finish his mission. He is Sam Gamgee, Frodo’s neighbour to destroy the ring. Sam Gamgee is also happy to get the duty. He welcomes that duty happily and ready to accompany Frodo to Mordor, a place to destroy the ring forever. Eventually Frodo and Sam go together to Mordor with Gandalf’s blessing.

#### 4.2 As a Councillor

A councillor is a person who gives advice to someone who needs it. A councillor is like a psychologist, parent or a close friend. A councillor is needed to solve the problem of the people. A friend can function as a councillor to his friends. A good friend can not see his or her friend in trouble and miserable condition. He will make efforts to give a good advice and solve any problems faced by his or her friends.

In this novel, Gandalf as a good friend, can function as a councillor. He always gives advice and suggestion to his close friends, Frodo and Bilbo. When Bilbo has a problem and in miserable condition, Gandalf is always there to advise him. It can be seen in the following quotation.

“Of course, my dear Bilbo, ‘said Gandalf. ‘if you had really started this affair, you might be expected to finish it.  
.....  
..... if you need my advice any longer, I should say that your part is ended, unless as a recorder. Finish your book, and leave the ending unaltered! There is still hope for it. But get ready to write a sequel, when they come back.’ Bilbo laughed. ‘I have never known you give me pleasant advice before,’ he said. ‘As all your unpleasant advice has been good, I wonder if this advice is not bad.’” (Tolkiens, 1954:34)

Based on the quotation above, it can be seen that Bilbo feels guilty because he has risen a big trouble that can threaten the persevering life of human beings in the world. He does not realize that the magic ring that he has stolen from Gollum can make the other people misfortunate. Therefore, he wishes to solve his problem by himself. Gandalf who feels touched with Bilbo’s attitude, gives advice to him not to think too much about his problem. Instead, he suggests to Bilbo to continue his writing project, and let him solve the problem.

After getting the advice from Gandalf, Bilbo is calm. He realizes that he can not overcome the problem by himself because he is too old to settle the problem. He does not have strength and luck left to deal with the ring.

Then Bilbo takes over the ring to Gandalf. Gandalf who can not keep and destroy the ring by himself because he has a very important duty that he must do himself. Therefore he decides to give the ring to Frodo. Frodo who never knows that the ring is very dangerous, takes it happily. When Frodo wants to use the magic ring. Gandalf advises him to be careful to the ring. It can be seen in the following quotation.

“I nearly tried on Bilbo’s ring. I longed to disappear. Don’t do that! Said Gandalf,’ Do be careful of the ring , Frodo!

.....  
.....if you take my advice you will use it very seldom, or not at all. At least I beg you not to use it in any way that will cause talk or rouse suspicion. I say again: keep it safe and keep it secret.!” (Tolkiens, 1954:53)

From the quotation above, it can be seen that Gandalf gives advice that Frodo should be careful of the ring. He even suggests he ring him not to use to the ring because he knows well than the ring is very dangerous. The ring has bad influence to those who use it. The ring will influence to anyone that uses it to do crime and evil. Frodo trusts Gandalf advice and accepts the advise for his safety. After Frodo realize that the ring is so dangerous, Frodo wants to destroy the ring forever. However he does not know how to destroyed it. The rings can not be destroyed with anything. Gandalf tells that Frodo must bring it to Mordor, a place where the ring can be destroyed. However, Frodo does not know the way to get the place. Gandalf suggests to Frodo to go to east way, it

is Rivendell. It can be seen in the following quotation.

“ If you want my advice, make for Rivendell. That journey should not prove to perilous, through the road is less easy then it was, and it will grow worse as the years fails.” (Tolkien, 1954:87)

From the quotation above, it can be seen that Gandalf advises Frodo to go to Rivendell because he knows that it is the safe way for Frodo to get Mordor. Besides, Rivendell is a place where elves dwell in place. He believes that they can protect Frodo and Sam from Orcs, kind of Satan. Frodo accepts Gandalf’s advice and then Frodo and Sam begin his journey to Rivendell.

#### 4.3 As a Supporter

Supporter is a person who gives supports to someone else, team, political party, etc. Support can be divided into two, they are: moral and spiritual supports. Every human being needs support from someone else to live a life. The supporter can be from family, society and friends. The rule of a friend as a supporter is very important in this life. As a supporter, a friend should gives his or her support which can bring good effect and add spirit to his or her friends. It can be seen in the following quotation;

“ ‘Yes,’ said Bilbo. ‘I am very fond indeed of it, and of all the dear old Shire; but I think I need a holiday’. ‘ You mean to go to on with you plan then?’ ‘ I do. I made up my mind months ago, and I haven’t changed it’. ‘Very well. It is no good saying any more. Stick to your plan – your whole plan, mind – and I hope it will turn out for the best, for you, and allos us’. ‘ I hope so. Anyway I mean to enjoy myself on Thursday, and have my little joke’. (Tolkien, 1954:33)

From the quotation above, it can be seen that Gandalf supports what has been decided by

Bilbo as long as the decision gives advantage to himself and other people around him. Then, when Frodo needs Gandalf's support to approve his words and make sure people around him to follow his words, Gandalf, with all his heart, gives his support. It can be seen in the following quotation;

“ I wish I was back there,’ he said. But how can I return without shame-unless there is indeed no other way, and we are already defeated?’. ‘you are right, Frodo,’ said Gandalf :’to go back is to admit defeat, and face worse defeat to come. If we go back now, then the ring must remain there; we shall not be able to set out again. Then sooner or later Rivendell will be besieged, and after a brief and bitter time it will be destroyed. The ring wraiths are deadly enemies, the power and terror they would possess if the ruling ring was on their master’s hand again’.’then we must go on, if there is a way,’said Frodo with a sigh. Sam sank back into gloom.’there is a way that we may attempt,’said Gandalf. (Tolkien, 1954:387)

From the quotation above, it can be seen that Gandalf supports to what Frodo has decided is true and of much use for them. Gandalf hopes that his support can raise up Frodo’s spirit to continue their journey. In their journey, they must be hand in hand to overcome any difficulties, to destroy the ring in the Mordor, the place where the ring comes from.

## V. Conclusion and Suggestions

### 5.1 Conclusion

After analysing the topic , the writer comes to conclusion as follows:

1. Friend can function as a helper, as a councillor and as supporter.
2. Friendship can grow due to the similarity of the suffering being undergone.
3. Friendship can make this world peaceful.
4. Friendship can make someone hopeful.
5. Gandalf really cares about his friends. He will do anything to help his friends because he believes that friend is the most valuable thing for him.

### 4.2 Suggestion

After making an analysis toward the subject matter above, the writer would like to suggest matter above, the would like to suggest to her readers as follows:

1. It is suggested that the readers make a friendship wherever they are because as a human being, people can not live alone in this world. Besides, friendship can make this world.
2. It is suggested that

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