



Frodo and Faramir: Mirrors of Chivalry

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Abstract:

In discussion of Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*, much is often made of Frodo's knightly qualities as Ringbearer (and so burdened by the Quest) and also those displayed by Faramir, second son of Denethor, Ruling Steward of Gondor. In my paper *Frodo and Faramir: Mirrors of Chivalry*, I take that observation to a deeper level by illustrating the chivalric qualities of both characters as required of a knight of the realm according to Geoffroi de Charny, a knight of France during the Hundred Years' War. *A Knight's Own Book of Chivalry*, a handbook for working warriors written by Charny for France's Company of the Star, reveals what every good knight must know and do. This paper shows how both Frodo and Faramir reflect that, becoming in essence "mirrors of chivalry" – and kindred souls. My defense is illustrated with examples drawn from both the epic novel and the celebrated films, in addition to citing Charny's guidebook for chivalric behavior as framework for the discussion.

The full-text of this paper is available in *Silver Leaves*, Issue 5: "The Hobbit" (2013): 52-55. For more information: <http://olorispublishing.mymiddleearth.com/bookshop/silver-leaves-journal/silver-leaves-issue-5/>.

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