

### Tobias Olofsson

#### **Tolkien and Phenomenology – on the Concepts of Recovery and Epoché**

This paper seeks to analyse the intersections between J.R.R. Tolkien's concept of *recovery* and the phenomenological concept of *epoché*. Recovery, Tolkien wrote, is the process of seeing things afresh after having encountered them in uncommon settings. This concept is, I argue, closely related to the phenomenological concept of epoché, or the placing within brackets all pre-knowledge and pre-judice that hinder a direct viewing of the empirical data. Placing these two concepts side by side to analyse them should enable us to gain further understanding of the highly complex concept of epoché as well of Tolkien's concept of recovery.

*Tobias Olofsson is an avid Tolkien fan who received his master's degree from Stockholm University in 2013. Majoring in sociology, Olofsson wrote his master's thesis on the formation of taste and the social mechanisms behind music consumption patterns.*



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