

Ed Powell

So How Do You Pronounce “Thrain” Anyway?

Sparked by a question about how Thorin’s father’s name is pronounced, The Tolkien Professor discussed the issue in a July 6, 2014 podcast episode. I wanted to go further and delve both into the possible rationales for pronouncing “Thrain” in multiple ways and how the Mythgard community did indeed pronounce the name themselves. This paper discusses the pronunciation issue from a first principles perspective, based on the evidence culled from the relevant texts, including *The Hobbit*, *The History of the Hobbit*, *The Lord of the Rings*, and *The History of Middle-earth*, and basic linguistic analysis. I then present the results of a poll of Tolkien enthusiasts promoted through social media.

Dr. Ed Powell has a BS in Physics from Carnegie Mellon University, and an MA and PhD in Astrophysics with a concentration in Plasma Physics and Controlled Thermonuclear Fusion from Princeton University. He works in the defense software industry concentrating on large-scale system interoperability, and lives his wife Sharon and his two European Burmese cats, Aristotle and Alexander, in Fairfax, Virginia. Ed and Sharon enjoy reading together, auditing Mythgard classes, pampering the kitties, and traveling when they get the chance.



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