

Constance G. J. Wagner

Sacramentum Midgard: Frodo as Sacrament to Middle-earth

Drawing on the meditations of Jesuit scholar Karl Rahner in his defining work *Sacramentum Mundi* (i.e., *Sacrament to the World*), this paper explores the ways that “the best Hobbit in the Shire,” Frodo Baggins, becomes a channel for the divinely given grace needed to accomplish the Quest. Through his willingness to bear the Ring despite the danger, Frodo demonstrates both his inherent nobility *and* his free will, as no one, Rahner states, is ever forced to accept the challenges sent by Providence.

Thus, in taking on the burdens of the Ring, Frodo becomes as a clear light that guides others (be they Hobbits, Men, or Elves) to become their own best selves. This light, herein discussed as the different types of grace identified by Rahner, is examined and illustrated with moments drawn from Frodo’s physical – and spiritual – journey along the roads of Middle-earth.

Constance G.J. Wagner, writer, poet, and Tolkien scholar, has spoken regularly on all things Middle-earth at both academic and fan-friendly events nationally and internationally since 2005. Her book The War Within: Frodo as Sacrificial Hero is scheduled for release by Oloris Publishing in 2015.

