

Creative Presentations

Saturday

9:00 - 9:30 am

Plenary Session Room

Wonder and Healing: Exploring the Land of Lórien
Emily Austin

In *The Fellowship of the Ring*, the chapters focused on Lothlórien explore both pain and healing. After enduring physical hurts and emotional trauma, Frodo and his companions take a certain measure of comfort from the various wonders they encounter, from the mystery of Mirrormere and the cleansing nature of Nimrodel, to the ancient memory of Cerin Amroth and Galadriel's wise gifts. In Lórien the Fellowship finds rest and respite from worry, which enables them to experience their grief in a way that promotes eventual healing. Indeed, Tolkien seems to portray wonder as a component of healing. Each of the awe-inspiring encounters in these chapters makes use of repeated images that cause the characters to marvel at their beauty and mystery. These images include moving, musical water, shining stars and jewels, and white flame—all pure and powerful natural elements. These natural images often hint at deeper supernatural powers working through or alongside them. Tolkien's portrayal of Lórien leaves us, the readers, feeling just as amazed as the characters experiencing it in the story.

I have been exploring these passages in the medium of watercolor painting, attempting to visually evoke the feelings of wonder and awe Tolkien describes. This presentation will display my completed works along with some of the smaller studies I create during the planning process. I will talk about the different stages I follow when creating art, from reading and research to executing a final piece, and reflect on how words and visuals can interact with and enhance one another.

Breakout Room 1

The LOTRO Epic Story in Alliterative Verse
David Raley

One of the features of The Lord of the Rings Online (LOTRO) is the epic story. This story runs parallel and occasionally interacts with the story from the novels. This presentation covers the first two volumes of the epic story.

- Volume 1 consists of 15 books telling of our adventures in Eriador. This presentation also includes introductory material for the race of man.
- Volume 2 consists of nine books telling of our adventures in Moria. This presentation also includes a prologue set in the days of Durin VI.

This presentation includes two forms of alliterative verse. For the main body, the poem follows the standard four lifts-per-line format. For the final stanza of each book, the format switches to *ljóðaháttir* (i.e., a 4/3 format). The sample below covers the tutorial section of the epic story.

The Blackwold brigands brought me to a cell
'Til Amdir's sword swung and killed them.
Then we freed two hobbits that were held by the thugs
But Amdir fell to a festering blow.

We now were free to fly from the jail
And plot a path to Archet.
Yet danger pursued in deadly strides
For ruin was ready to strike.

9:30-10:00

Plenary Session Room

The Door Called Death
Kay Ben-Avraham

"The Door Called Death" is a fairy tale of a young man on a journey to find the Summer Mountain, where the god dwells. He fears to journey and demands that his elders, despite their protestations, provide him with a map, which he then encases in stone and carries with him. Yet the map fails him, and he must in the end abandon it and submit to unknowing, with the aid of a strange, numinous companion who summons for him the Door Called Death.

Breakout Room 1

The Boy Who Didn't Know How to Recognize a King
Mark Painter

My story entitled "The Boy Who Didn't Know How to Recognize a King" is due to be published in the Spring 2018 issue of *Alliterate*, the magazine of literary genre fiction. The story is based on a traditional Cambodian folk tale, "The King and the Buffalo Boy." The story will have been released online by the time of this presentation. I will read some of my story and speak about Cambodian folklore, leaving some time for discussion.