Contents

Foreword by Alison Milbank | xi

Toteword by Auson Milounk XI
Author's Preface xv
Acknowledgments xvii
List of Abbreviations xix
Chapter 1
Prolegomenon to the Sub-Creative Genius of Tolkien amongst His Contemporaries 3
1.1 Tolkien and the Edwardian Legacy 3
1.2 The Current Status of Tolkien Studies 8
1.3 Influences and Inspiration 10
1.4 Structure of the Book 16
Chapter 2
Creation and the Metaphysics of Music: Tolkien's Philosophy of Createdness as 'Gift' 21
2.1 Creatio Sub Specie Aeternitatis 21
2.2 The Metaphysics of Music: Tolkien's Creative Symphony 36
2.3 Creation and Fall in the <i>Ainulindalë</i> 52
2.4 Music, Vision, and Reality in Creation 62

2.5 The Thomist Revision under the Influence

of Jacques Maritain 73

viii CONTENTS

Cha	pter	3
J	P	_

The Concept of Life as 'Being and Gift' in Tolkien's Literary Corpus | 105

- 3.1. Towards a Mythology for England 105
- 3.2 Beowulf as an Anglo-Saxon Paradigm of Myth-as-Truth 114
- 3.3 Freedom's Optimistic Turn in an Anglo-Saxon World 127
- 3.4 Grace in Human Realization and Destiny 143

Chapter 4

Tolkien, Eriugena, and the Conjoining of Borrowed Traditions | 167

- 4.1 Tolkien's Neoplatonism, and the Mystical Paths of Christian Mythology 168
- 4.2 Eriugena's Defence of Freedom 189
- 4.3 Siewers' Celtic Otherworld Interpretation of Tolkien's 'Strange Beauty' 195

Chapter 5

A Diversion towards Mutability and the Possibility of Evil | 213

- 5.1 Life as Gift and Variety: Augustine's Optimistic Neoplatonism 213
- 5.2 Evil as the 'Embodiment of Non-Being' from the Perspective of Being 215
- 5.3 The Good and Grotesque as Expressions of *Omnis Natura Bonum Est* 222
- 5.4 A Critique of Augustine's 'Free Will' and 'Aesthetic'
 Theodicies 228

Chapter 6

Concluding Comments: There and Back Again | 235

Appendices

Appendix A: Michelangelo's Statues in the Accademia, Florence | 243

Appendix B: A Synopsis of *The Tale of Tinúviel: Of Beren* and Luthien | 251

CONTENTS ix

Appendix C: Three Crosses in the Churchyard of Whalley Abbey, Lancashire | 254

Appendix D: The Standard of the King of Gondor | 258

Appendix E: Iconography in the *Book of Kells* | 259

Bibliography | 263