

CONTENTS

PREFACE	ix
FOREWORD	xiii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	xix
1 A Question of Mythology	1
2 The Myth as Literature	15
3 The Music of Ilúvatar: Tolkien and the Major Mythic Themes	37
4 Wheels within Wheels: The Submyth and Reality	65
5 The Eternal Conflict: Good and Evil in Middle-earth	83
6 The Tragic Hero	107
7 The Quest Hero	123
8 The Importance of Being Eärendil	143
9 Tree and Leaf: The Idiom of Nature	161
10 A Fanfare for the Common Hobbit	175
NOTES	199
INDEX	211