Heaven and Other Perilous Realms

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Artists and Illustrations Included in This Record
First Artist
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Second Artist
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Abstract
Examines the ways the short story “Leaf by Niggle” differs from other works by Tolkien: primarily because it is a more obvious allegory, but also because of the clear way the allegory is worked out morally, aesthetically, and religiously. Considers the story as “midway between the essay [OFS] where Tolkien talks about his work, and most of his other fiction and poetry, where he simply gets on with it.”

Recommended Citation

Question: "What are the heavenly places/realms?". Answer: The phrase “heavenly places” or “heavenly realms” is used several times in the book of Ephesians (1:3, 20; 2:6; 3:10; 6:12). This phrase is translated from the Greek word epouranios, meaning “the sphere of spiritual activities.” “Heavenly realms” can refer to both angelic and demonic activity. Ephesians 1:20 says that God “raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.” But Ephesians 6:12 speaks of evil forces in the same realm: “Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against . Other creatures are like other realms with which Man has broken off relations, and sees now only from the outside at a distance, being at war with them, or on the terms of an uneasy armistice. There are a few men who are privileged to travel abroad a little; others must be content with travellers’ tales. Even about frogs. In speaking of that rather odd but widespread fairy-story The Frog-King Max Müller asked in his prim way: ‘How came such a story ever to be invented?’ Tales from the Perilous Realm is an anthology of some of the lesser-known writings of J. R. R. Tolkien. It was published in 1997 by HarperCollins without illustrations, and republished in an enlarged edition in 2008, with illustrations by Alan Lee. Lee has painted cover-art for several of Tolkien's other works. The 2008 edition also has an introductory essay by literary scholar Thomas Shippey. In 2010 HarperCollins published Tales from the Perilous Realm as an audiobook read by actor, Derek Jacobi.