



Augustinian and Boethian Insights into Tolkien's Shaping of Middle-earth

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Among the thinkers who contributed to the intellectual character of the medieval period are Augustine of Hippo (354-430) and Boethius (ca. 480-524 or 525). Some Tolkien scholars have already pondered upon the possible influence of these two philosophers and theologians on the writings of the medievalist and Christian professor J.R.R. Tolkien. This paper follows their lead and tries to identify further medieval undertones in the history of Middle-earth by placing particular emphasis on the much debated issues of predestination, prescience and free will. Among the possible pointers taken into account are visions, dreams, prophecies and even etymological references. They are examined with a view to shedding light on these essential issues which generations of thinkers have been grappling with and not surprisingly, still are.

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