

Original Paper

An Analysis on the Heroism in The Lord of The Rings

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Abstract

The ring is the symbol of evil and war, and it also symbolizes greed, desire and power in The Lord of The Rings. Frodo and his companions went through many difficulties on their way to Mount Doom and accomplished their task. No matter how powerful the evil forces are in the world, they can never defeat loyalty, courage and kindness. This article focuses on heroism in four parts: the background in which heroism born, the condition under which heroism arises, tragic heroism and individualistic heroism.

Keywords

Human desire, Temptation of power, Practical significance, Values

1. Introduction

At the beginning of the story, it describes the origin of the ring and the formation of the Fellowship of The Rings. The second part tells two stories: one is about Frodo and Sam's assignment, and the other is the assignment of the Fellowship of The Rings which led by Aragon and Gandalf. With the ring as the main line, the purpose of fighting against Sauron to save the world is clear and integrated.

The Lord of the Rings which was a very different one succeeded in perfect configuration of the characters, and most importantly it has profound and great themes singing praise of the people's chivalrous fighting for justice. The work focused on the real essence of humanity: good, evil, and neutral.

A ring connects humans all over the world, and the human being's purpose is to destroy the ring. Among them, there is a hidden opposition between human firm beliefs and desires, which is full of sadness, avarice, temptation, courage, friendship and loyalty.

The theme of the Lord of the rings reflects the world outlook of the western world. Whether it is loyal friendship, deep love or fearless sacrifice, these virtues form a joint force in essence to fight against the evil forces in the world.

The story also contains a lot of feelings of humanistic care and natural care, such as the awareness of environmental protection throughout. In fact, the Lord of the rings itself conveys such a belief: as long

as you hold an immortal lamp of hope in your heart and distinguish between reason and justice, miracles will come true.

One ring leads all the rings, and all the rings are in the net; One ring imprisons all the rings. It's full of darkness. The land of Mordor is dark. The beginning sentences in the Lord of the Rings serves as the clue throughout the whole work.

2. The Background in Which Heroism Was Born

In the story, the Middle-earth symbolized the culture of agricultural civilization. It had simple rural life, pure and friendly relationships between people. However, the dark age under the rule of Sauron represented the modern industrial civilization. Large scale deforestation to forge steel, the construction of factories, industrial assembly lines and so on. Everything was all around the interests. When the difference between the two is projected into the real society, the metaphorical meaning is more obvious. The alliance of Middle-earth was still fighting against Sauron's army with bows, arrows and spears. However, Sauron's army had begun to use more advanced siege weapon, gunpowder and other kinds of weapon. Although it was still in the age of cold weapons, Sauron's factory, which was located in the Mount Doom volcano produced some kinds of advanced weapon day and night, indicated the arrival of the industrial era. On the contrary, the Hobbits in Middle-earth revered and loved nature, and the elves made friends with nature and regarded it as partners. However, Sauron did not hesitate to grab resources and wealth from nature. A lot of ancient forests were cut down for smelting, leaving only bare stumps. And this scene had appeared in the countries with rapid development of industrialization in the real world since last century. To a certain extent, human beings became the master of the world. The Lord of The Rings shows people's yearning for the agricultural civilization. The evidence is that the author always describes the place where the elves live as heaven, which represents the ultimate state of agricultural civilization. But at the same time, it can be clearly realized that the change of the times and the irreversibility of industrialization, so even if the alliance which symbolizes the agricultural civilization finally defeated the industrial civilization represented by Sauron, Middle-earth could not return to its original appearance. The land of Middle-earth was polluted and can no longer be retrieved. The elves began to move westward to Aman which is recognized as Undying Lands. However, I think that the choice symbolizes a passive escape. But there were still a lot of people and some other creatures in Middle-earth chose to stay and accept the world that had already been destroyed. They believed that the darkness would over and a new era was coming. But it will be an era of industrialization.

3. The Conditions under Which Heroism Arose

Just as read in the book, "These nine rings... These nine rings are given to the kings of mankind... Because their hearts are the most vulnerable to bewitchment..." The ring had been tempting and corrupting people's souls, making people crazy for it and forsaking their principles. It symbolized the

infinite desire and evil of human beings. People can do anything for power and money, even if they lose their pure soul. And at the moment when Frodo was standing on Mount Mordor, he was bewitched by the evil of the ring. His convictions were no longer firm and wanted to have the ring, but Gollum, who was also bewitched by the ring, fell into the magma with the ring because he was fighting with Frodo for the ring. Finally, the ring was destroyed.

The human mind is fragile, which makes it easy for us to be seduced and degenerated. On the one hand, the ability of the ring is external and has the power to rule the world; On the other hand, it is also internal, just like the magnifier in human inner world. Although this story takes place in an illusory world, the concept of the ring of power began to appear as early as the emergence of civilization. When people have a little power and get some benefits from it, then they will have the desire to get more power, and finally they will be out of control. In the end, human beings have not overcome the temptation of desire and evil. But it is true that human beings cannot abandon the selfish desire in nature, because it is an important chip in the development of human society. With this kind of selfish desire, human society will launch changes again and again, so as to create a more suitable world for their own survival. If human beings had learned to be satisfied and selfless from the very beginning, they would not have developed to this day, or they would still stay in primitive society.

At the beginning, when the son of the King of Mankind, Isidor, accidentally got the ring, he stood in the crater of the volcano. That is to say, he only needed to move forward a few steps that he could eliminate the dark forces all over the world. However, the ring began to bewitch him. He took the ring and said to his former friend, Elrond, "it's mine! No one can take it!" So the ring was preserved and their alliance collapsed. As a leader of the alliance, Isidor's father was killed by Sauron. He was supposed to destroy the ring and fight against the dark forces. However, at the moment of victory, the weakness of his human nature was exposed, and he wavered in the face of the absolute power brought by the ring. Because of its supernatural power, the ring could bring a kind of power that could break through all restrictions and meet all the needs. At that time, the restriction of morality, as the last restriction, also failed. Because the ring can break through the restrictions of morality - everything comes from the irresistible yearning for absolute power in human nature. People can hardly resist the yearning for absolute ability, so they can't control themselves. After having absolute ability, they are still limited in the scope of morality, because what they desire is not to be constrained. Morality must be the last constraint at this time. This work shows that in the process of pursuing stronger power, people's moral values are weakened and replaced by the yearning for power and the desire for possession, which are the reactions of human instinct. Human instinct conquers morality.

Isidor's choice indicated the weakness of human nature and ruined the era. So, morality comes with it. When morality was first shaped, I believe, it was to suppress some weaknesses in human nature, such as jealousy, such as desire for control, such as greed. Human beings began to establish moral values, trying to suppress the weakness of human nature through the universal acceptance and acquiescence of moral sense. However, from the beginning when morality was established, it was always challenged by

human beings. The power of human nature is so powerful that moral restrictions are constantly challenged.

The Lord of The Rings also shows the truth that people could hardly overcome the weakness of human nature, even in the face of strong moral restrictions. Just like the honest and kind hobbit, Frodo who felt at peace with the world and he maintained his original pure character. However, he was inevitably tempted by the ring. When he stood in the crater, he changed his mind. He refused to destroyed the ring and he chose to take the ring with him. At the same time, Gollum suddenly appeared, robbed the ring from Frodo, and finally fell into the abyss of Mount Doom with the ring, so the ring was finally destroyed. The ring came from desire, and it was also destroyed by desire. And Frodo's choice was the same as that of Isidor thousands of years ago. His firm inner world collapsed at the last moment. He chose the power and his inner desire. Even as Frodo, no matter how pure his nature was, would inevitably be polluted by the ring. The perfect personality no longer exists, and the moral restriction collapses. But in the end, Frodo's friend, Sam, moved Frodo with his sincere and kind heart and great friendship, and finally saved him from regret and despair. Can it be regarded as a redemption of human nature that morality returns at the last moment and guides people to find themselves? And we can learn from The Lord of The Rings that human desire cannot be overcome and moral restraint is limited. But even so, human beings will return to morality at some time.

As everything in the world has defects, no one is perfect. In the spiritual journey towards the elimination of evil, evil is also produced in one's own heart. It can also be said that evil is in the deep heart of people - it is the ring that drives it out.

4. Tragic Heroism

Among the Lords of the rings, one of the most important is the Fellowship of The Ring. Boromir was the only one in the Fellowship of The Rings who didn't make it to the finish line. He loved his country and people so much that when he was helpless in the face of the harsh reality, he suddenly learnt that the existence of the legendary powerful ring could save his country and people. The idea made him feel that there was still a light in the dark and they still had hope. As early as the beginning of the ring protection, Boromir proposed that this is an almost impossible task. They would fight against the whole dark army of Sauron with their own weak strength, and they were doomed to fail. However, at the critical moment, a seemingly extremely small figure came forward, a little Hobbit named Frodo. He finally led the Fellowship of The Ring to overcome many obstacles and reached Mount Doom to complete this impossible task. But on the way to Mount Doom, Boromir was bewitched by the ring and wanted to use it to fight against the enemy. He tried to grab the ring from Frodo. But in the face of the enemies, he was desperate to protect Frodo, and finally died.

Unlike Boromir, Gollum is a truly tragic figure whose quiet and peaceful life was completely subverted by the ring. He killed his best friend and was rejected by his relatives. Under the influence of the ring, he had to go to the deepest corner of the mountain, forgetting the sun, the bread, the softness of the

grass, the taste of the food, and even himself. In addition to his precious ring, he gave up everything. And for his precious ring, he forgot everything. His life is so tragic that he can finally melt in the lava of Mount Doom with the ring, which can be regarded as a kind of luck. Gollum's life was tragic. But obviously, he is not a tragic hero.

There seems to be no lack of tragic heroes in western history and culture. From Prometheus to Agamemnon, then to Othello, Jeremiah and John Christopher. The reason why tragic heroes are tragic is that they almost fight with the belief that they will lose, and the reason why they become heroes is that the reason why they fight comes from their own belief. In any case, this kind of tragic heroes are praised and eulogized by people in all ages, because they have completed the things that others subconsciously want to do but cannot complete. Who doesn't want to die for the ideal? Who doesn't want to fight for honor? But that's a price to pay, probably time, probably life, so most people choose to give up. But the reason why people become people lies in constantly surpassing themselves. The significance of tragic heroism, as Karl Theodor Jaspers said, is to transcend reality and rise to the spiritual level. In this materialistic era, where are the real tragic heroes? If they disappear, can human beings transcend themselves again and again?

5. Individualistic Heroism

Frodo, an ordinary hobbit, shouldered the responsibility of taking the ring to Mount Doom. He was even dying from the ring, relying on Sam, his good brother, to carry forward. In the process of escorting the ring, Frodo experienced countless mental and physical torture before he made it to the Mount Doom. Although, at the last moment, he changed his mind, he finally completed his mission.

Unlike many of the protagonists, Frodo is not the chosen one. Harry Potter is Voldemort's Horcrux, so he must bear the important responsibility on the road of defeating Voldemort. But Frodo just because Gandalf couldn't touch the ring, so Gandalf asked him to take the ring to the hotel first. Later, because of the accident happened on the way, Gandalf was trapped. Frodo arrived at Rivendell with the ring. In fact, his responsibility was over by Rivendell. He also said that he was ready to go home. But at the meeting presided over by the Elrond, everyone was quarreling about going to Mordor to destroy the ring. At this time, Frodo chose to take the responsibility to take the ring to the Mount Doom. But why did he take the responsibility? Because no one wanted to do this, and because he saw the burned Hobbiton in Galadriel's mirror, and also because he believed that there was still beauty and hope in the world. He chose to shoulder the responsibility and stuck to it. He also went through a lot of struggles, a lot of pain. He also thought about giving up, but finally he made it. Every time he thought of what Gandalf had said to him, "Everyone thinks that when they are in trouble, but we can't decide our own destiny. You can only decide what to do in the time you have."

Everyone will be afraid; everyone will hope not to take responsibility. You just have to make a choice in the time you have. As the man with the ring, Frodo suffered a lot along the way, but sometimes you only see his weakness and ignore his courage to take responsibility. In my opinion, he had experienced

torture and growth along the way, and he also changed a lot from a carefree little Hobbit to a brave man.

Besides, Sam is also a hero. He was by Frodo's side and worked with him on this difficult task. He didn't have any other greedy intention. Just because Gandalf said to him, "Don't you lose him, Samwise Gamgee." Then he followed Frodo to the end. Frodo thought he would bring death to his companions when he and his partners were attacked by the powerful ORCS under the wizard Saruman. So, he resolutely decided to set out the journey by himself. When he rowed his boat into the river, Sam found him. Sam, regardless of his inability to swim, insisted on rushing into the water to accompany Frodo. Under the guide of Gollum, Sam found out that Gollum was unfaithful. But he was framed by Gollum and abandoned by Frodo. However, Sam did not leave his Frodo. At the critical moment, he came forward again and rescued Frodo from the poisonous spider. When Frodo was captured, it was he who saved Frodo. As they approached the Mount Doom, it was he who carried forward Frodo who had fainted. When Frodo wanted to give up, it was he who made Frodo firm in his determination to continue to complete the task.

Sam said to Frodo, "Folk in those stories had lots of chances of turning back, but they didn't. They kept going because they were holding on to something. That there's some good in this world, Mr. Frodo. And it's worth fighting for." Samwise Gamgee, as his name indicates, is very intelligent. What he conveyed was not only a sonorous answer to Frodo when he was confused, but also a kind of theme of the Trilogy - sense of mission. With the great mission of destroying the ring and saving the world, the Fellowship of The Rings finally helped Frodo to destroy the ring and destroyed the source of all the evil. Sam is always on the way to his goal, and he is a real hero.

And their journey was able to let us know how much we love this imperfect world. We are willing to coexist with it with scars all over our bodies. We are supposed to know that we are lonely. No one understands our pain and burden. However, there are always people who are willing to support us.

6. Reflection and Conclusion

The Lord of the rings is full of the heroic spirit of the knights in the Middle Ages. It not only shows a middle earth world where people, elves and dwarves live together, but also tells stories that are filled with love and trust, fear and confusion, betrayal and doubt. There is a deeper exploration of human nature, and also a reflection of their own internal. And above the free imagination is the persistent exploration of hope and dream. This is an epic story that is unfolding slowly around the ring. Heroes create the times, the times produce their heroes. The story follows Frodo as he attempted to destroy a magic ring of such evil that it corrupts every person who cannot resist the temptation to use its power. They were heroes who saved the whole world.

There is a latent force in people's heart, which is big and small. This power is human emotion. In our daily life, this power is hidden in our hearts. Only when we are in a desperate situation can we burst out infinite power.

The Lord of The Rings reflects black and white, beauty and ugliness. Evil intends to suppress justice, and finally justice defeats evil. The story is full of many important things. Under such a significant theme framework, we can friendship, love, family, unity, courage, kindness, loyalty, responsibility, commitment, sacrifice from the work. Only when people have these inner powers can they exert their incomparable power in any danger and be their own heroes.

The hero is a hero because he knows that where there is good, there is evil, and evil can never be completely purified, but he is still not afraid of evil and has the courage to overcome evil. Every day in this world, we are supposed to move forward a little bit, better than ourselves in the past. We can get the peace and beauty from our journey in the world. And we should become our own heroes when we want to keep the world pure and warm.

It was a great time, and the distinction between good and evil was as clear as black and white, like a duel between two gladiators. Simple justice and classical heroism are the most critical factors. Just like The Lord of The Ring, Frodo and his partners are the heroes who saved the world from darkness and evil. If the hero does not die, the legend will continue. The greatest heroism is keeping firm faith in justice.

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