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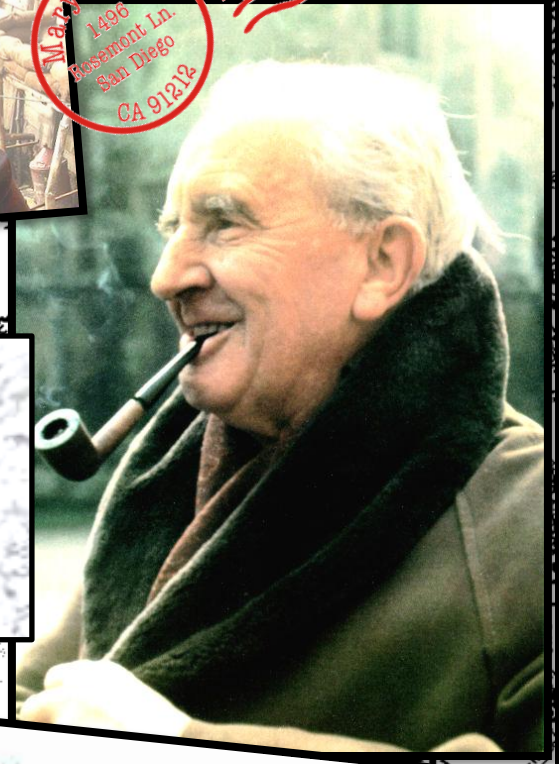
J.R.R.
Tolkien

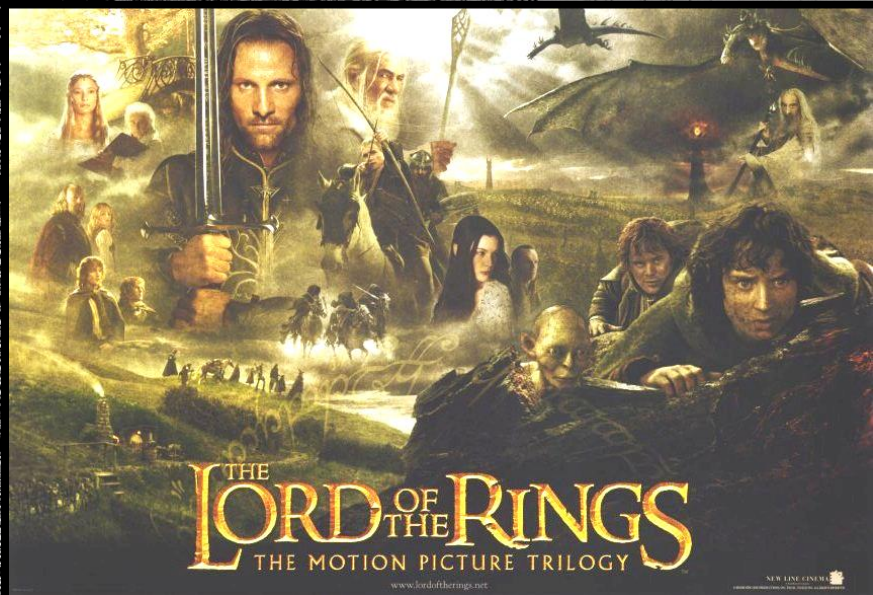


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The story of the Resurrection of Christ “produces that essential emotion: Christian Joy, which produces tears because it is qualitatively so like sorrow, because it comes from those places where Joy and Sorrow are one, reconciled, as selfishness and altruism are lost in Love.” – J.R.R. Tolkien (letter to Christopher Tolkien 7-8 November 1944)

Prior to writing his epic Christian novel, *The Lord of the Rings*, J.R.R. Tolkien served as an officer in the first World War. He fought in the Somme offensive, one of the bloodiest battles in history. He later became a Professor of English Language at Oxford where he wrote his famous first line on a blank of a student’s paper, “In a hole in the ground there lived a Hobbit.” Tolkien wrote that the *Lord of the Rings* was a religious work, a great mythic parable dealing with Hope, Joy, and grief in the face of evil and terrible adversity, reminding us to “consider your calling, brothers and sisters, not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to confound the wise, God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong. God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are.”

– 1 Corinthians 1:27



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