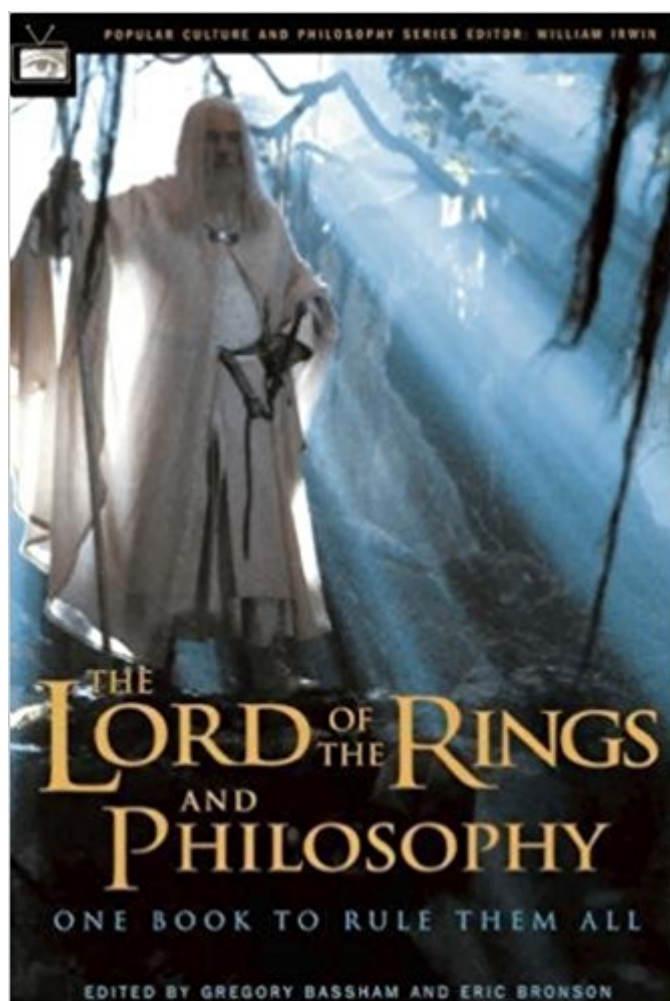


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# The Lord Of The Rings And Philosophy: One Book To Rule Them All (Popular Culture And Philosophy)



## Synopsis

The Lord of the Rings is intended to be applicable to the real world of relationships, religion, pleasure, pain, and politics. Tolkien himself said that his grand tale of wizards, orcs, hobbits, and elves was aimed at truth and good morals in the actual world. Analysis of the popular appeal of The Lord of the Rings (on websites and elsewhere) shows that Tolkien fans are hungry for discussion of the urgent moral and cosmological issues arising out of this fantastic epic story. Can political power be wielded for good, or must it always corrupt? Does technology destroy the truly human? Is it morally wrong to give up hope? Can we find meaning in chance events? In The Lord of the Rings and Philosophy, seventeen young philosophy professors, all of them ardent Tolkien fans and most of them contributors to the four earlier volumes in the Popular Culture and Philosophy series, address some of these important issues and show how clues to their solutions may be found in the imaginary world of Middle-earth. The book is divided into five sections, concerned with Power and the Ring, the Quest for Happiness, Good and Evil in Middle-earth, Time and Mortality, and the Relevance

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

General reader will find much to think about...would also be useful for students of Tolkien and in undergraduate teaching. -- Science Fiction Research Association, #271, Jan-Feb-Mar 2005

The Lord of the Rings and Philosophy is a interesting book which seems to come at the problem from two directions. One direction is to examine the books, trying to understand the ideas and reasoning of the different characters by taking examples from the history of philosophy and the great thinkers of philosophy. The other way seems to be to take philosophy and explain certain ideas, for example from early Greek thinkers, by using characters and events from the books as examples. In other words half the book is trying to explore the world of Middle-earth using philosophy as a road map while the other half the book explores our world of thought and ideas using understandable examples both adults, and some children, will know from Middle-earth. That IS the point of the series - using popular culture to help examine, explain and explore thought. Questions about ethics, what does it mean to be good, why BE good, would you WISH to live forever, and is technology evil are all examined. Some of the answers ARE interesting and also add, I think, to Tolkien's works. The thing is I think if you are into the Lord of the Rings, either the books or the movies, you may have already gone over many of these questions in your mind. So you may find the book boring or, at least, somewhat limited in scope. There are no real surprises. A good book to read during a snow storm in front of the fireplace IF you have no other new books around. Of course, I would suggest getting *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* if you don't already have it.

"The Lord of the Rings and Philosophy: One Book to Rule Them All" by Gregory Bassham is a surprising survey of philosophical concepts. Metaphysics, Epistemology and especially Ethics; based on and using characterizations, scenarios, issues and examples from the Lord of the Rings. It allows a refresher of some of the philosophic concepts previously learned or for new students of Philosophy an enjoyable juxtaposition of those concepts in a great piece of literature.

Like all the "and Philosophy" books, this is a great read. I couldn't put it down.

I have read and reread the Lord of the Rings for many years and always enjoy it. Adding the philosophical insights was really interesting and opened up a new way to enjoy the books.

Haven't read all of this book but I am tempted to. It is actually a gift and I hate to give it away.

Makes you really think, I love it.

Came in a timely matter. Lovely condition. Everything I would hope it would be and more

Some of the essays offer real insight into LOTR; others seem to be using LOTR as a convenient peg on which to hang the authors' special interest. However, all show that LOTR is a work of more substance than many would give it credit for.

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