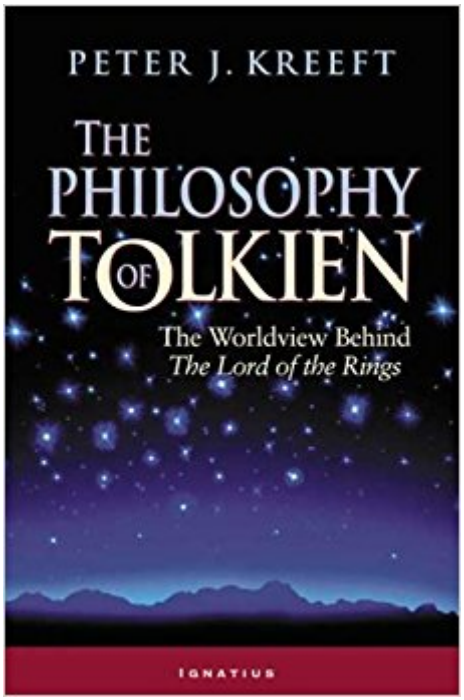
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The Philosophy Of Tolkien: The Worldview Behind The Lord Of The Rings



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Synopsis

While nothing can equal or replace the adventure in reading Tolkien’s masterwork, The Lord of the Rings, Peter Kreeft says that the journey into its underlying philosophy can be another exhilarating adventure. Thus, Kreeft takes the reader on a voyage of discovery into the philosophical bones of Middle earth. He organizes the philosophical themes in The Lord of the Rings into 50 categories, accompanied by over 1,000 references to the text of Lord. Since many of the great questions of philosophy are included in the 50-theme outline, this book can also be read as an engaging introduction to philosophy. For each of the philosophical topics in Lord, Kreeft presents tools by which they can be understood. Illustrated.

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Customer Reviews

"Peter Kreeft writes so well! He is a master of profundity and succinctness, an author with an uncanny ability to plumb the philosophical depths without ever losing the clarity required to illumine those depths to the average reader. What a joy to see his acrobatic mind capering with philosophical delight in the presence of elves, hobbits, men, dwarves and angels. This book is Kreeftcraft at its best." ---Joseph Pearce,Ã Â Author,Ã Â Tolkien: Man and Myth"Kreeft shows how Tolkien gives a very convincing myth or vision which makes sense of reality and gives arguments for them. This is an exciting and insightful book." ---Richard Purtill,Ã Â Author,J.R.R. Tolkien: Myth, Morality, and Religion

Peter Kreeft, Ph.D., Professor of Philosophy at Boston College, is one of the most respected Christian authors of our time. His many bestselling books cover a vast array of topics in spirituality, theology, and philosophy. They include How to Be Holy, Practical Theology, Back to Virtue, Because God Is Real, You Can Understand the Bible, Angels and Demons, Heaven: The Heart's Deepest Longing, and A Summa of the Summa.

I wasnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t planning on reviewing this one, but had so many requests for my thoughts on it that I figured I might as well put pen to paper. I read this as part of my research for the next book IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢m working on and also because IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢m a Tolkienphile. With that in mind, The Philosophy of Tolkien was the most enjoyable book IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve read in a very long time and should be required reading for anyone who loves Tolkien. Kreeft opens the wardrobe to Middle-earth. I feel like I know Tolkien and Middle-earth better after reading this. ThatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a feat considering how many times IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve read TolkienÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s stories. On the other hand, I shouldnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t be surprised because ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The Lord of the Rings is a deep mine with many precious gems,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• Kreeft says, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“deep enough for many others to plumb to their heartsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ contentÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• (20).The format is straightforward. Kreeft discusses the big questions of philosophy with TolkienÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s point of view in his line of site. Each assertion is backed up by quotations from The Lord of the Rings, his other writings (regularly his Letters and The Silmarillion), and usually C. S. Lewis.I would normally point you to some of my favorite sections at this point, but I have underlines, notes, marginalia, and the like on almost every page. ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a repository of wisdom on Tolkien. I will mention I enjoyed how Kreeft shows how poorly the critics of Tolkien (who canÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t stand that The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings are beloved classics and canÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t stand The Lord of the Rings was voted book of the Millennium and Tolkien the most influential authors of the 20th century) understand him or his work. They cannot wrap their minds around someone who holds to a Christian worldview during a time where modernism and then postmodernism were infecting all of literature. ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s like trying to explain the intricacies of delicate and delicious coffee to someone who has no taste buds. TheyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢re just as happy with Folgers instant coffee than a single source, shade grown, hand picked coffee bean roasted to perfection.I must give credit where credit is due. Nate Claiborne recommended this book to me. I wouldnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t have read it without his thumbs up. IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve read a lot of Tolkien criticism and have been left disappointed with most of it. Kreeft doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t disappoint.

For some years now, it has been my intention to introduce myself to Peter Kreeft. Allow this book to be your introduction as well. What a gifted thinker!

Prof. Kreeft provides an absolutely delightful and well-structured guide to the ideas and beliefs underpinning Tolkien's work. In his introduction he suggests that his book, unlike LOTR, will be somehow less enjoyable, yet relevant. I would beg to disagree. "The Philosophy of Tolkien" is merely a pleasure of a different kind. LOTR brings us into a mythological world where we can quickly lose ourselves to the richness and texture. By contrast, Prof. Kreeft's book is like wandering through a beautifully ordered museum focused on a single artist -- in this case J.R.R. Tolkien. The author shows connections and threads, ideas and motivations.After wandering this museum, at least this one Philistine came away with a much clearer understanding of why Tolkien's work has touched me at such a deep level. My first reading was of a paperback copy given by my grandmother when I was 11. Now, at 50, I cannot count the number of copies that I've ploughed through or given to friends. Prof. Kreeft clearly explains my "obsession" and the deep human needs that have driven it.Another delight of this must-read-over-and-over book is the author's weaving of other writers to explain, elucidate, and extend Tolkien's ideas. Especially pleasurable for me is that Prof. Kreeft draws from books that I have read -- by Lewis, Dostoyevsky, Tolstoy, and others -- as well as from books that an engineer-turned-MBA would have never gone near. My must-read list has grown dramatically.In short, this is a magical book, a door to learning about ourselves. I couldn't put it down.

Well written and interesting even though I occasionally disagreed with it.

This was an excellent book. I have to be honest, I've never read the Lord of the Rings but have read numerous books by Peter Kreeft. He is superb at taking a difficult subject matter and making it easy to understand. I was aware beforehand that Tolkien was a adamant Catholic, but Kreeft dug deeper and revealed much behind the surface. Being a Catholic myself maybe i have a greater appreciation for Kreeft and Tolkien but anyone with a love for Tolkien's work will be instantly hooked. I highly recommend Kreeft's other books. He is a great author and one of the preeminent christian apologists of our time.

Professor Kreeft is a thinker of sublimely beautiful thoughts expressed in a style uniquely his own,

words one wishes to savor at length before moving on to the next. A lover of God and of His written Word, and a lover of man made in God's image. I was truly blessed to discover this author, who belongs in the same pantheon of writers that he extols (C.S. Lewis, Tolkien, Dostoevsky, Pascal, Chesterton, et al).

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