

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?—an investigation on what really happened to the members of the Fellowship of the Ring at the beginning of the Fourth Age.

The Fellowship of the Ring, consisting of: Frodo, Sam, Merry, Pippin, Legolas, Gimli, Boromir, Aragorn, and Gandalf brought about the destruction of the One Ring and the fall of Sauron. They set aside racial differences, and fought for the peace and prosperity of all. Well, after the War of the Ring and the crowning of Aragorn as King of Gondor, they went their separate ways. Our investigation team has gone all over Middle Earth to find out where are they now.

**Frodo:** Only a day after setting sail for the West, he and Gandalf returned. Frodo was in search of another adventure. He was not satisfied with the little to no fame he received in the Shire for his efforts with the One Ring. His search for an adventure, however, was to no avail. He eventually settled down and married. Now he lives quieter days, and has begun a family. In S.R. 1427, Frodo opened a shoe parlor hoping to modernize the Shire. However, the business is failing. Apparently his only customers are members of Sam's family who feel they owe it to Uncle Frodo to be supportive. Yes, Sam is still looking out for his best friend!

**Legolas:** Being born of a respectable and conservative family in Mirkwood, Legolas had always lived a life of predictability and decency. After the Fellowship Days, however, he experienced fame and following that he was unfamiliar with, and didn't know how to handle. He was invited to all the hot spots and parties of Middle Earth. Suddenly, he was getting attention from women and elf maids in every land. It was at this time he also began experimenting with drugs and alcohol. It started off as a social occurrence but quickly became an addiction. He could be seen in bars with three gorgeous girls on each arm and pints lined up. A friend said in an interview back in S.R. 1423, "He is simply losing his motivation." Alcohol, drugs, and women had become the priority in Legolas' life, and ultimately his downfall. Last autumn, at a Rohan nightclub, Legolas was arrested for possession of cocaine and is now going through rehabilitation at the Butterbur Rehabilitation Clinic just outside of Bree.

**Gandalf:** After Gandalf's tremendous efforts to preserve Middle Earth and maintain peace amongst its different peoples, he decided to take a long and much deserved rest. In payment (long over due) for his help with their travels to the Lonely Mountain, the Dwarves built him an extraordinary home with jeweled furniture and mithril curtains. However, just a few years later Gandalf acquired Alzheimer's disease, and after his long years of solitude, must now be looked after by a nursemaid. It is said that when he first encounters people he thinks everyone is a Balrog. There have been a few tragic incidents (like when he set his neighbor on fire) that have made the papers. Despite these sad events, his friends say he is in good health and living to a ripe, ancient age.

**Aragorn:** After crowned King Elessar, Aragorn has been the pride of Gondor and the talk of Middle Earth. He has proven to be a just and wise King. His two landmark projects were the legalizing of herb for those eighteen and older, and the push for education in Elvish tongue and literacy. He was named 'Sexiest Man of the Year' by Middle Earth Magazine in the year 1425 S.R. Shortly after, he denied allegations that

prior to his marriage with Queen Arwen, she was having an affair with his close friend, Halbarad of the Dunedain.

**Gimli:** Little is known about Gimli's whereabouts. In the year 1423 S.R. his good friend Legolas said in a press conference that, "he needs to get in touch with his inner self." Some say that shortly after being seen roaming the Forest of Fangorn, he went to the sea to face his fears and sailed away in a great boat. Friends think he is now lost at sea, as he was never heard from in Middle Earth again.

**Boromir:** Boromir was lost to the Fellowship when he died just over the slopes of Amon Lhaw. Although he is gone, King Elessar makes sure his memory lives on in what he proclaimed as 'Boromir Day,' on the day of his death, the 26<sup>th</sup> of February. This is a holiday of games, feasts, and lots of horn blowing.

**Sam:** Sam is what critics call the success story of the Fellowship. He married and had many children. His fame spread all across the Shire, and he was Mayor for seven straight terms. Through all their years, Sam remained a faithful friend to Frodo, and always stood up for him and his 'silly shoes.'

**Merry and Pippin:** After returning to the Shire, there was much media speculation that Merry and Pippin shared a love relationship. Both denied these charges, and remained the best of friends. In S.R. 1431, ten years after the controversy, they severed their ties and are said to not have spoken to one another since. Their separation is a mystery much like that of the famous minstrels of Gondor, Simon and Garfunkel. Some say a homosexual relationship did actually take place and the couple simply broke up. Others say Merry felt that Pippin was finally cramping his style, and he no longer desired to always have his name connected with Pippin's. Nevertheless, neither will answer to inquiry on the subject. Today they live on separate sides of the Shire. Merry runs a little pawnshop, and Pippin struggles as a professional juggler. Neither have married or had any children.