

David Gray

Of Men

119 – At the first rising of the Sun the Younger Children of Ilúvatar awoke... but the first Sun arose in the West, and the opening eyes of Men were turned towards it, and their feet as they wandered over the Earth for the most part strayed that way.

Tolkien needs his Men to have a reason to go through horrible and rough country to get into the West... and he supplies a very good reason.

120 – To Hildórien there came no Vala to guide Men, or to summon them to dwell in Valinor; and Men have feared the Valar, rather than loved them....

Men had to find their own path, in life as different from the Elves and Valar as they are in death.

121 – The fate of Men after death, maybe, is not in the hands of the Valar, nor was all foretold in the Music of the Ainur.

“Nor was all foretold” means that Men do have free will, and that the Music was merely a map of what may happen, not what will.

122 – But in the dawn of years Elves and Men were allies and held themselves akin, and there were some among Men that learned the wisdom of the Eldar, and became great and valiant among the captains of the Noldor.

Once Men reached the West and began interacting with the Eldar they become more than they were, touching a history of the world that extends back to before their race even existed.