

David Gray

Of the Sun and Moon and the Hiding of Valinor

112 – And they mourned not more for the death of the Trees than for the marring of Fëanor: of the works of Melkor one of the most evil.

The Two Trees have passed out of this world, and we will never see their like again. But to the Valar this evil is comparable with evil passing into Feanor, possibly because Feanor is capable of causing so much more evil.

113 – But when at last the Valar learned that the Noldor had indeed passed out of Aman and were come back into Middle-earth, they arose and began to set forth in deeds those counsels which they had taken in thought for the redress of the evils of Melkor.

Two implications, second is that the Valar have not been rushed into any actions but merely do what they had already intended, first is that the Valar do not actually do anything until the Noldor are at risk; they seem to have little care for the elves who did not come to Valinor, nor for the soon to be Men.

114 - ...for the Sun was set as a sign for the awakening of Men and the waning of the Elves, but the Moon cherishes their memory.

The coming of the Sun, the brighter and more powerful of the new lights, is a sign of Men. Is it any surprise that Elves and Men were not the best of friends?

115 – Now Varda purposed that the two vessels should journey in Ilmen and ever be aloft, but not together; each should pass from Valinor into the east and return... Varda changed her counsel, and allowed a time wherein the world should still have shadow and half-light.

This is truly amazing, but mostly brushed over. Originally the Sun rose in the West, as did the Moon. Varda only changed this pattern at the request of other Valar.

117 – But seeing the assault upon Tilion the Valar were in doubt, fearing what the malice and cunning of Morgoth might yet contrive against them.

The Valar do not wish to bring tumult and ruin to Middle-earth, so instead of bringing the fight to Morgoth or letting him run rough-shod over them, the Valar fortify their land, raising mountains for defense.