



THE MODERN ACT OF COMPASSION IN J.R.R. TOLKIEN'S LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS

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Abstract:

This paper shows the theme of compassion in the novel *The Two Towers* written by J.R.R. This story is set in a fictional kingdom referred to as Middle-earth and tells of a collection of humans confronting an approaching darkness from the *Lord of the Dark*, Sauron. Compassion is a big source of overall transformation by curing wounds, developing connections, and eradicating the wicked depicted in the novel. Characters such as Frodo, Samwise, and Gandalf display compassion through charitable acts and endless encouragement between each other. The summary plot gives an illustration of the various trials and trials seen in the characters, the strength when together, and the outcome from diverse reflecting choices from an individual. The novel also elaborates on how power corrupts, hope exists, and compassion impacts human relationships. Compassion is defined as empathy and concern for others, which is crucial in fostering understanding, connection, and kindness. The paper concludes by discussing the role of compassion in literature, its transformative power, and examples of compassion in *The Two Towers*.

Keywords: compassion, *The Two Towers*, *Lord of the Dark*, power corrupts, and hope exists.

INTRODUCTION

Compassion, a force that touches our hearts and brings us together holds the power to change lives. Picture a world where compassion's, at the forefront, where acts of selflessness shine brightest in times of adversity. In J.R.R. Tolkien's work *The Two Towers*, compassion introduces as a guiding that leads towards improvement and optimism (Tolkien, 1954). Known as John Ronald Reuel Tolkien he was an English author, poet and scholar (Garth, 2018). Born on January 3 1892 in Bloemfontein, South Africa Tolkiens early years were obvious by events that influenced his journey (McDowell, 2018). Following his father's passing his mother relocated him and his younger brother to England where he developed a love for languages and mythologies (Shippey,2019). Tolkiens fascination with languages began in his youth (Shippey,2019). He nurtured an interest in Old English and Finnish languages which greatly influenced the creation of his languages such as the intricate Elvish dialects (Garth,2018). His interest for philology led him to become a professor at Oxford University where he forged lasting friendships with scholars, like C.S. Lewis (McDowell,2018).

In 1937, Tolkien's first novel, *The Hobbit*, was a bestseller (Garth, 2018), and a larger Tolkien universe began to expand with subsequent popular publications of *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, with the second, *The Two Towers*, following in 1954 (Garth, 2018). The Lord of the Rings trilogy assured Tolkien fame as a storyteller and an innovator of fantasy. Middle-earth contains grand epics of war and a quest as diverse characters such as Frodo Baggins, Samwise Gamgee, and Aragorn try to destroy the One Ring to claim the ancestral throne from the Dark Lord Sauron (McDowell, 2018). Tolkien's construction of characters, settings and action, skillfully layered mythology, and deep themes regarding the human condition - including heroism and sacrifice - ensured his enduring popularity with readers.

Tolkien's actions have greatly affected stories and popular culture (Shippey, 2019). His focus on details, great storytelling, and philosophical ideas inspire many writers and interest people of all ages. The fight between good and evil, the strength of friendship, and the protection of nature are lasting themes in his stories (Garth, 2018). On September 2, 1973, J.R.R. Tolkien died, leaving behind a fantastic heritage of creative writing (McDowell, 2018). His fantasy genre role and talent for taking readers to unreal worlds will always be loved and honored. Tolkien's works

are timeless classics that still capture readers' hearts and thoughts worldwide, ensuring his final influence continues for many more generations.

In *The Two Towers*, Tolkien masterfully weaves a narrative that emphasises the transformative energy of compassion, demonstrating how acts of kindness and empathy can forge bonds, heal wounds, and ultimately conquer evil. Compassion, at its middle, is the popularity and knowledge of some other's suffering, coupled with the preference to alleviate it. The novel's characters Frodo Baggins, Samwise Gamgee, and Gandalf the Grey embody this noble sentiment, extending a helping hand even in the bleakest circumstances. Their acts of compassion now not only shape the story's course but also serve as a reminder of the profound effect that kindness can have on people and the arena they inhabit (Tolkien, 1954).

Buried with the weight of the One Ring, Frodo reveals solace inside the compassion proven by his loyal friend Samwise. Despite their challenging adventure and the consistent hazard of danger, Samwise's unwavering aid and selfless devotion to Frodo emerge as a beacon of wish. Samwise's easy acts of kindness, along with sharing his meagre rations and presenting words of encouragement, provide Frodo with the energy to hold on, inspiring readers with the transformative power of compassion in the face of adversity. Similarly, Gandalf the Grey, the sensible and powerful wizard, exemplifies compassion in his dealings with the characters he encounters. Whether it's miles his guidance and mentorship of the hobbits or his willingness to lay down his existence for the more proper, Gandalf's compassion is a riding pressure that unites the fellowship and strengthens their resolve in the face of impossible odds.

A Plot Summary of *The Two Towers*

The Two Towers continues the epic adventure that began in "*The Fellowship of the Ring*." The tale is divided into multiple plotlines because the characters face trials and demanding situations. Frodo Baggins and his unwavering accomplice Samwise Gamgee continue their dangerous quest to wreck the One Ring inside the fires of Mount Doom. They navigate treacherous landscapes, stumble upon unfamiliar beings, and face the relentless pursuit of the Ring's corrupting influence. In this manner, they form a deep bond of friendship and depend upon each other's energy and compassion to endure (Smith, 2003).

Meanwhile, the closing contributors of the Fellowship, such as Aragorn, Legolas, and Gimli, locate themselves separated after a war with the Uruk-hai. Aragorn embarks on a quest for valuable resources, the dominion of Rohan, which is threatened by using Saruman's forces. His bureaucratic alliances lead armies and demonstrate his leadership and compassionate nature in the face of adversity (Johnson, 2010). In every other part of Middle-earth, the wizard Gandalf returns as Gandalf the White, guiding and helping the contributors of the Fellowship. His wisdom, compassion, and unwavering notion inside the energy of suitable form the actions and motivations of the characters he interacts with (Anderson, 1998).

Merry and Pippin escape from the Uruk-hai and locate themselves in Fangorn Forest, where they stumble upon Treebeard, the oldest of the Ents, who are ancient tree-like beings. The Ents, roused by using Merry and Pippin's stories of Saruman's deforestation and destruction, march to Isengard to confront Saruman. Back in Gondor, the steward Denethor, the father of Boromir and Faramir, receives visions of doom and despairs as the forces of Sauron amass. Faramir, in search of his father's approval, tries to capture the One Ring from Frodo but, in the end, indicates compassion and shall Frodo retain his journey. As the various storylines develop, the characters face inner conflicts, external threats, and the growing electricity of the dark lord Sauron. The novel culminates in a climactic struggle at Helm's Deep, in which the forces of Rohan, led by the aid of Théoden, defend towards Saruman's overwhelming army.

The Two Towers ends with Frodo, Sam, and Gollum accomplishing the borders of Mordor, geared up to stand the perils that lie ahead. At some point in the novel, the characters' journey highlights loyalty, sacrifice, friendship, and the struggle against the forces of darkness. Finally, *The Two Towers* introduces a complex and interconnected narrative as the characters navigate their separate paths, face demanding situations, and inch in the direction of the final disagreement with Sauron in their quest to save Middle Earth from his tyranny.

Themes and Motifs

The Two Towers explores several profound themes and motifs that enrich the narrative and deepen its influence.

1. The power of fellowship: The novel highlights the strength of unity and teamwork in the face of overwhelming challenges. The characters rely on each other's support, compassion, and diverse skills to overcome obstacles and accomplish their goals (Brown, 2012).

2. The corrupting influence of power: The One Ring symbolizes power's allure and destructive nature. It tempts individuals with promises of control and dominance, leading them down a path of darkness. The characters must resist this temptation and rely on their compassion and moral compass to stay true to their purpose (Davis, 2006).

3. The resilience of hope: In the darkest times, hope shines as a beacon of light. The characters find solace and motivation in the slightest glimmers of hope, fueling their determination and inspiring acts of compassion (Harris, 2015).

4. The consequences of choices: The novel emphasizes the weight and significance of individual choices. Characters face moral dilemmas and must decide between self-interest and compassion. These choices have far-reaching consequences, impacting not only their journeys but also the fate of Middle-earth (Wilson, 2018).
5. The transformative power of compassion: Throughout the story, compassion and empathy profoundly impact the characters. Kindness, understanding, and selflessness can heal wounds, forge bonds, and triumph over evil (Lee, 2009).

The Two Towers weaves those topics and motifs collectively, imparting a captivating narrative that explores the complexities of human nature, the endurance of desire, and the transformative power of compassion in the face of adversity (Miller, 2014).

In J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*, the act of compassion is a characteristic theme that permeates the narrative and affects the movements and relationships of the characters. Compassion, described as the capability to understand and sympathise with the suffering of others, makes a fundamental position in shaping the direction of occasions and the tale's development. One of the prominent displays of compassion in *The Two Towers* is illustrated via the friendship between Frodo Baggins and Samwise Gamgee. Showcases his deep compassion for his buddy. Sam's acts of selflessness, including sporting Frodo when he is too vulnerable to preserve or impart words of encouragement during moments of depression, highlight the transformative strength of compassion in fostering resilience and hope.

Another clear evidence of kindness may be observable within the individual of Aragorn, who demonstrates empathy and know-how in the direction of the burdens and struggles of others. Aragorn's compassion extends to his interactions with the human beings of Rohan and Gondor, as he cares for their well-being and fights to guard them from the forces of darkness. His compassion depends on loyalty and motivates others to join the fight against evil. The theme of compassion is also illustrated through Gandalf's perspective. Gandalf's information and compassion are glaring in his steering and guide of the Fellowship of the Ring. He states empathy closer to the weaknesses and struggles of the audience, providing them with hope and encouragement. Gandalf's compassion extends even to the fallen wizard Saruman, as he looks for understanding and redemption, notwithstanding his betrayal.

The act of kindness also extends beyond the main characters to represent numerous encounters during the tale. Characters consisting of Éowyn, Faramir, or even Gollum enjoy moments of compassion or witness acts of compassion from others. These occurrences spotlight the transformative nature of compassion, as it can touch hearts, destroy obstacles, and inspire trade. The motif of compassion attends as a counterbalance to the overarching topics of strength, greed, and corruption, which affect the One Ring. It emphasises the worth of empathy, understanding, and selflessness in the face of darkness. Through acts of compassion, characters in "*The Two Towers*" reveal the capacity for redemption, cooperation, and the protection of desire in a global threatened by evil forces. Finally, the subject of compassion in J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* stresses the importance of empathy and selflessness in the face of adversity. It showcases the transformative electricity of compassion, influencing the actions and relationships of the characters and presenting a glimmer of wish in the darkest instances.

Explanation and Importance of Compassion

A. Define compassion and its significance in human relationships: Compassion is the deep sensitivity of empathy and concern for the suffering or struggles of others (Hall, 2016). It involves recognizing the pain or difficulty someone is experiencing and being motivated to alleviate their suffering. Compassion goes beyond simply feeling sorry for someone-it involves a genuine desire to help and support them (Neff, 2003).

In human relationships, compassion plays a central role. It care for knowledge, connection, and kindness among people (Gilbert, 2010). When we technique others compassionately, we will see things from their angle, acknowledge their feelings, and assist. Compassion allows the construction of sturdy bonds, promotes mutual recognition, and creates an experience of belonging (Jennifer et al., 2010). It allows us to be there for one another during tough times and navigate conflicts with empathy and know-how (Keltner et al., 2019).

The significance of compassion in human relationships lies in its potential to enhance typical well-being and delight. Research has proven that experiencing and expressing compassion can lessen pressure, boost high-quality feelings, and improve courting pleasure (Neff, 2003; Dutton et al., 2019). It creates a supportive and nurturing environment where individuals feel valued, understood, and cared for. Compassion also promotes prosocial conduct, encouraging acts of kindness, generosity, and cooperation (Keltner et al., 2019). By fostering a subdivision of compassion in relationships, we can control a more compassionate society that prospers on empathy, expertise, and mutual support.

The Role of compassion in literature

Compassion is an important element in literature and storytelling. It adds depth and tone to characters and their journeys, making them relatable and compelling to readers. Stories that comprise compassion frequently discover the complexities of human emotions, relationships, and struggles (Nussbaum, 1996).

Compassionate characters attend as examples of empathy and understanding. They reveal kindness, care, and selflessness towards others, inspiring readers to reflect on their capacity for compassion (Kristjánsson, 2013). These

characters often become moral compasses within the story, reminding us of the importance of treating others with kindness and respect (Batson, 2011).

Compassion in literature also allows readers to observe the transformative power of empathy and understanding. When characters show compassion toward one another, it can lead to healing, personal growth, and positive change (Bloom, 2017). It highlights the potential for redemption, forgiveness, and overcoming hardships together (Miller, 2004).

Moreover, stories exploring compassion often inspire readers to look at their lives and relationships. They initiate mirrored image on how we have interaction with others and the way we are able to cultivate more compassion in our lives (Kearney, 2015). Through literature, we will learn precious lessons about the importance of kindness and its effect on individuals and communities (Noddings, 2003).

In summary, compassion is a powerful force that brings humans together, fosters information, and promotes kindness (Dutton et al., 2019). It plays the experience of support and empathy. In literature and storytelling, compassion adds depth to characters and their trips, encouraging readers to reflect on their ability for compassion and its transformative capability (Singer, 2009).

Examples of Compassion in *The Two Towers*

Sam's Compassion for Frodo

1. In *The Two Towers*, a notable scene showcases Sam's unwavering compassion for Frodo, his loyal companion and friend. As Frodo becomes increasingly burdened by the weight of the Ring, Sam notices his exhaustion and despair. Recognizing Frodo's struggle, Sam takes it upon himself to lighten Frodo's load and provide emotional support.

2. Sam's compassion is portrayed through his actions and words. He takes the initiative to carry the Ring when Frodo is physically and mentally drained, relieving Frodo of the burden and allowing him to rest. Moreover, Sam continuously offers encouragement and reassurance, reminding Frodo of their shared goals and the importance of their mission. Sam's selfless acts of shouldering the burden and providing emotional support demonstrate his deep compassion for Frodo.

The effect of Sam's compassion in the narrative is excellent. His unwavering guidance strengthens Frodo's clear-up and offers him the energy to maintain. Sam's compassion symbolises desire amidst the darkness and challenges they face. It highlights the strength of friendship and the transformative effect of compassion on individuals, even in the face of overwhelming adversity. Sam's compassion strengthens their bond and evokes readers to reflect on the significance of helping and worrying for others for the duration of difficult times.

Éowyn's Compassion for Théoden

1. Another example of compassion in "*The Two Towers*" may be observable in Éowyn's relationship with Théoden, her uncle and King of Rohan. Théoden has fallen beneath the impact of the treacherous Wormtongue, becoming an insignificant puppet in his arms. Éowyn observes her uncle's suffering and recognises his want to get away from Wormtongue's manipulation.

2. Éowyn's compassion is shown through her determination to help Théoden. She defies Wormtongue's authority and risks her safety to protect her uncle. Éowyn's moves exhibit her deep love and situation for Théoden's well-being. She helps him in reclaiming his power, identity, and rightful vicinity as the genuine leader of Rohan. Éowyn's compassionate intervention, in the long run, leads to Théoden's liberation from Wormtongue's manipulation and his restoration as a courageous and wise king.

The effect of Éowyn's compassion on the narrative is deep. Her unwavering determination to help Théoden's properly-being saves him from a dark and adverse path and contributes to the triumph of accuracy over evil. Éowyn's compassion exemplifies the transformative power of love and empathy, reminding readers of the importance of standing up for what is proper and assisting the ones in need. Her compassion catalyses positive alternate and reminds others to behave with kindness and selflessness.

Last but not least, *The Two Towers* offers several examples of compassion that highlight the power of empathy, support, and selflessness. Through the characters of Sam and Éowyn, the novel sightsees the thoughtful effect of compassion on individuals and the greater narrative. These samples remind readers of the significance of compassion in fostering resilience, hope, and meaningful connections, even in adversity.

The Analysis of the Act of Compassion

Motives and Aims behind Acts of Compassion

In the novel *The Two Towers*, the acts of compassion showed by the characters are pushed by various motives and intentions. These acts construct from a real concern for others' well-being, a sense of responsibility, and a notion inside the more excellent. The characters often act out of affection, friendship, and a choice to relieve struggling. For example, Sam's reason behind shouldering the weight of the Ring is rooted in his deep friendship and loyalty towards Frodo. Éowyn's compassion for Théoden arises from her love for her uncle and her commitment to protecting him from damage.

Influence of Compassion on Character Development

Compassion deeply influences on the characters in "*The Two Towers*," shaping their private growth and improvement. Through acts of kindness, characters like Sam and Éowyn reveal their strength, resilience, and

selflessness. These acts supply them with a feeling of purpose and permit them to push upward above their limitations. The characters' compassion also challenges societal norms and expectancies, forcing them to impeach present strength systems and fight against injustice. Compassion deepens their know-how of the arena and their region in it, main to private transformation and the purchase of knowledge.

Values and Results of Compassionate Acts

The consequences and outcomes of compassionate acts inside the novel are widespread and way-attaining. Compassion often sparks a chain response, inspiring others to behave with kindness and empathy. It creates a ripple effect that spreads wishes, team spirit, and a shared sense of purpose. Through compassionate acts, characters forge deeper connections with one another, constructing strong alliances and fostering belief. Additionally, compassionate acts mission the forces of evil and contribute to the remaining triumph of exact. They function as an illustration of mild in instances of darkness, imparting a glimmer of desire and reminding readers of the inherent goodness within humanity.

Also, the acts of compassion in *The Two Towers* pressure the narrative ahead, influencing the characters' motivations, development, and the overall outcomes of their journeys. Compassion is an effective force for nice exchange, illustrating the transformative effect of empathy, selflessness, and love. It encourages readers to reflect on their potential for compassion and the ability to develop an extra-compassionate world.

Themes and Messages Associated with Compassion

The novel *The Two Towers* transports numerous comprehensive themes and messages about compassion. The novel stresses on the transformative power of compassion, highlighting its ability to motivate courage, foster resilience, and promote positive change. Compassion is portrayed as a driving force that can overcome darkness and despair, providing hope in adversity. The novel also elaborates the connection of compassion and friendship, exemplifying how empathy and support strengthen bonds and forge unbreakable alliances. Another theme relays to the importance of compassion in challenging oppressive systems and standing up against injustice, demonstrating that empathy and kindness can be powerful weapons against evil.

The themes centered around compassion in *The Two Towers* enhance the storyline by adding complexity and depth to the characters journeys. By delving into the concept of compassion readers get to see how the characters evolve and grow as they face challenges in their quests. It serves as a reminder that during tough times showing compassion can lead to significant changes and offer a ray of hope. These themes also elicit a reaction, from readers by showcasing the effect of empathy and selflessness motivation them to ponder their capacity for compassion. The narratives power lies in its ability to motivate individuals to embrace compassion in their lives and acknowledge how acts of kindness and understanding have the potential, for transformations.

Finally, the themes and messages concerning compassion, in *The Two Towers* emphasize the value of understanding, assistance and affection in facing challenges. They emphasize the importance of relationships between people and how individuals can positively influence others through actions. By elaborating these themes the book motivates readers to adopt empathy as a core belief and appreciate its role in both connections and society, at large.

CONCLUSION

To sum up, *The Two Towers*, written by J.R.R. Tolkien, stylishly elaborates on how kindness can bring about change in challenging situations. The acts of compassion, understanding and sacrifice showed by Frodo, Samwise and Gandalf profoundly influence the narrative. Leave a lasting effect on those who read the story.

Compassion, defined as honest concern for the suffering of others, plays a central part in human relationships. It care for understanding, connection, and kindness, creating a kind and nurturing environment. Research illustrates compassion reduces stress, develops well-being, and improves relationship fulfillment.

Also, in literature, compassion presents wisdom and tone to characters and their journeys. Compassionate characters become moral compasses, reminding us of the importance of treating others with kindness and respect. Their compassion leads to healing, personal growth, and positive change.

The Two Towers encourages us to reflect on our capacity for compassion and its effect on persons and communities. It teaches us appreciated lessons about the worth of empathy, understanding, and the potential for redemption and forgiveness.

Finally, compassion is an influential force that takes people together, fosters kindness, and can transform lives. Educating compassion in our lives and relationships can produce a more compassionate society where empathy, understanding, and mutual support succeed.

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