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SILMARILLION SUMMER  
2022 READ-ALONG



Silmarillion Summer: A Five-Part Overview of *The Silmarillion* by J.R.R. Tolkien  
Presented by the Tea with Tolkien Community

## Part Two: Of Fëanor and the Silmarils

### Chapter Six: Of Fëanor and the Unchaining of Melkor

*“Now the Three Kindreds of the Eldar were gathered at last in Valinor, and Melkor was chained.”*

As this chapter begins, the three kindreds of the Eldar are living together in Valinor. It is also in this time that the Noldor first invented letters.

#### The Coming of Fëanor

Finwë was wed to Míriel, and their son Fëanor was born. However, after the birth of Fëanor, Míriel languished and was unable to continue living. She went to Lórien to rest, and her spirit departed from her body and went to the Halls of Mandos. Finwë was grieved at the loss of his wife. Fëanor grew swiftly and was the most subtle in mind and skilled in hand of the Noldor. Fëanor devised letters that bear his name (Fëanorian letters), and was the first who discovered how to make gems. Fëanor was married to Nerdanel.

#### The Sons of Finwë

Finwë took a second wife, Indis. They had two children: **Fingolfin** and **Finarfin**. Fëanor was not pleased with his father’s marriage and had little love for his stepmother or half-brothers.

## **The Unchaining of Melkor**

After completing his three ages in prison, Melkor sued for pardon before the Valar. Manwë granted him pardon, but Melkor was required to remain inside the gates of Valmar. After a while, Melkor was allowed to leave and roam freely. Melkor hated the Eldar, and so he feigned love for them, seeking out their friendship and plotting their downfall. He specifically targeted the Noldor.

## **Chapter Seven: Of the Silmarils and the Unrest of the Noldor**

*“For Fëanor began to love the Silmarils with a greedy love, and grudged the sight of them to all save his father and his seven sons; he seldom remembered now that the light within them was not his own.”*

### **The Silmarils**

Fëanor made, in secret, the Silmarils: three jewels which contained the light of the Two Trees of Valinor. The heart of Fëanor was bound to the Silmarils, and Melkor lusted for them.

### **The Unrest of the Noldor**

Melkor conspired to destroy Fëanor and end the friendship between the Elves and the Valar. He turned the Sons of Finwë against one another, whispering lies about the Valar, men, and each other. He also convinced them to begin making weapons. The Noldor became proud, jealous, and suspicious.

Finwë summoned his kindred to discuss the unrest. Fingolfin urged his father to denounce Fëanor’s rebellious words and plans, but Fëanor accused Fingolfin of trying to usurp him. Fëanor drew his sword upon his half-brother, and with that, the Unrest of the Noldor was no longer hidden.

### **The Exile of Fëanor**

The Valar brought Fëanor before the Ring of Doom, and he was sentenced to 12 years in exile. Fëanor left Tirion, and the Silmarils were locked away. After a time, Melkor came to Fëanor and offered to help him — in a thinly veiled attempt to gain the Silmarils. However, Fëanor refused him, and Melkor fled. The Valar searched but were unable to find him.

## Chapter Eight: Of the Darkening of Valinor

*“So the great darkness fell upon Valinor... The Light failed; but the Darkness that followed was more than loss of light. In that hour was made a Darkness that seemed not lack but a thing with being of its own: for it was indeed made by malice out of Light, and it had power to pierce the eye, and to enter heart and mind, and strangle the very will.”*

Melkor secretly passed into the south hiding in the region of **Avathar** where Ungoliant dwelt. Ungoliant agreed to help Melkor after he promised to give her “whatsoever her lust may demand”. Melkor and Ungoliant came secretly closer and closer towards the Light of the Two Trees. Because it was a time of festival, the Valar, Maiar, and most of the Eldar were gathered upon Taniquetil. Even Fëanor came, at the bidding of Manwë.

### The Death of the Trees

Melkor and Ungoliant came, and they smote and killed the Two Trees of Valinor. A great darkness fell upon Valinor. Manwë perceived that this was done by Melkor and thus began a great pursuit, but the hosts of the Valar could not find him.

## Chapter Nine: Of the Flight of the Noldor

The Valar asked Fëanor to give them the Silmarils so they could heal the Trees. However, Fëanor refused. Shortly after, messengers came from Formenos with news that Melkor had killed Finwë and stolen the Silmarils. Fëanor cursed Melkor, naming him **Morgoth, the Black Foe of the World**. After this, Fëanor ran and disappeared into the night.

All grieved for the loss of Finwë and the Silmarils and the light of the Trees of Valinor. Meanwhile, Morgoth and Ungoliant came to the wastes of Araman.

Ungoliant demanded more from Morgoth, attempting to take even the Silmarils. At this, Morgoth cried aloud, and the Balrogs came to his aid. Ungoliant fled. Morgoth forged for himself an iron crown in which he placed the Silmarils, and his power grew in the North.

## **The Oath of Fëanor**

Fëanor came back to Tirion, against his banishment, and began a great speech before the Noldor. In this speech he claimed kingship of the Noldor and urged them to leave Valinor and take dominion of Middle-earth before the coming of Men. Fëanor had believed the lies of Morgoth: that the Valar held the Eldar captive in Valinor so that Men might rule Middle-earth. He then swore an oath to reclaim the Silmarils at any cost, and his sons joined him in this. Galadriel swore no oath but did go to Middle-earth with her family.

The greater part of the Noldor agreed to leave Aman, but not all agreed to take Fëanor as their king. Many preferred Fingolfin for king, so two divided hosts departed. Before they could leave, a messenger from Manwë came and urged them not to go. Fëanor laughed and brushed off this warning.

## **The Kinslaying at Alqualondë**

Fëanor tried to persuade the Teleri to join them, but they would not join Fëanor, nor would they aid him. Fëanor tried to take the ships of the Teleri by force, but they withstood him, and a bitter battle followed. This was called the **Kinslaying of Alqualondë** (the first kinslaying). The Noldor took the ships and continued.

## **The Doom of Mandos**

The Noldor were met by a figure who cursed those who would not stay or seek the pardon of the Valar, but Fëanor was not dissuaded. The Doom of Mandos was pronounced upon them: “Ye have spilled the blood of your kindred unrighteously and have stained the land of Aman. For blood ye shall render blood, and beyond Aman ye shall dwell in Death's shadow.”

Finarfin forsook the march at this time; he turned back and received the pardon of the Valar. He ruled the remaining Noldor in the Blessed Realm.

## **The Betrayal of Fëanor**

Fëanor abandoned Fingolfin in Araman, bringing with him only those he deemed worthy, and set foot in Middle-earth. The host of Fingolfin was left in Araman and had no choice but to endure the Helcaraxë, the hills of ice.

## Chapter Ten: Of the Sindar

*“But of bliss and glad life there is little to be said, before it ends: as works fair and wonderful, while still they endure for eyes to see, are their own record, and only when they are in peril or broken for ever do they pass into song.”*

### The Birth of Lúthien

Elu Thingol and Melian were king and queen of all the elves in Beleriand. These elves were called the Sindar, the Grey-elves of star-lit Beleriand. **At the end of the first age of Melkor's captivity**, Melian gave birth to Lúthien. During the second age of Melkor's captivity, the Dwarves came into Beleriand.

### The Coming of the Dwarves

The Dwarves named themselves the **Khazâd**, but the Sindar called them the **Naugrim** (“the stunted people”) and **Gonnhirrim** (“Masters of Stone”). The Dwarves delved great halls and mansions for themselves, and the greatest of these was Khazad-dûm, later called Moria.

The elves were amazed to see the Dwarves, but they could not understand each other at first. The dwarves were eager to learn the Elvish speech but reluctant to teach their own. The friendship between Elves and Dwarves was always a bit tense; however, in those days they were willing to work together and coexist for the most part.

### The Quiet Return of Shadow

Melian knew the Peace of Arda would not last, so she and Thingol commissioned the Dwarves to build and fortify **Menegroth**, the Thousand Caves. As the third age of Melkor's captivity drew on, evil creatures came into Beleriand. Thingol commissioned the Dwarves to make weapons. Denethor, son of Lenwë, came to dwell in Ossiriand with his kindred.

### Morgoth Returns to Middle-earth

When Melkor slew the trees and came back to Middle-earth, Ungoliant went to the region named Ered Gorgoroth, the Mountains of Terror. Morgoth returned to Angband and grew in strength.

Morgoth's forces assailed King Thingol but, with the aid of the Naugrim and the hosts of Denethor, they were defeated and retreated to Morgoth. However, Denethor was slain, and many of his people hid away in fear. They were now called the **Laiquendi**, the green-elves. Melian put forth her power and guarded their region with the Girdle of Melian. Their hidden kingdom was called Eglador; later it was called **Doriath**. There, they sat in watchful peace. Around this time, Fëanor arrived in Middle-earth, at the Firth of Drengist.

## Chapter Eleven: Of the Sun and Moon and the Hiding of Valinor

After the flight of the Noldor, the Valar sat long in the Ring of Doom. But they were not idle. When they learned that Fëanor had come to Middle-earth, they tried but were unable to heal the trees. However, Telperion bore one last silver flower, and Laurelin bore one last golden fruit. Manwë hallowed them, and Aulë made vessels in which to preserve them. They were given to Varda that they might become "lamps of heaven".

The sun was a sign for the awakening of Men and the waning of the Elves; but the "moon cherished their memory." The sun and moon were each guided by one of the Maiar.

The moon arose first, just as Fingolfin blew his silver trumpets upon the shores of Middle-earth. Varda set the sun and moon on their journeys, each lighting the earth in their own time. Morgoth hated the new lights and was confounded by them.

## The Sun and Moon

### The Sun

- Made from the last golden fruit of Laurelin
- Guided by Arien, a Maia of Vána
- Called “Anar” (The Fire-Golden) by the Vanyar
- Called “Vása” (The Heart of Fire) by the Noldor
- Arien was chosen because she was a spirit of fire who was not deceived by Melkor in the beginning, and she did not fear the heats of Laurelin
- The Sun signified the dominion of men and the waning of the Elves
- The Sun is given feminine attributes

### The Moon

- Made from the last silver flower of Telperion
- Guided by Tilion, a Maia of Oromë
- Called “Isil” (the Sheen) by the Vanyar
- Called “Rána” (The Wayward) by the Noldor
- Arose first, before the Sun
- Tilion is said to be in love with Arien and is always pursuing her
- Cherished the memory of the Elves
- The Moon is given masculine attributes

## The Hiding of Valinor

*“And of the many messengers that in after days sailed into the west, none came ever to Valinor — save one only: the mightiest mariner of song.”*

The Valar raised the Pelóri and smoothed its outer sides. They fortified the outer area and placed a sleepless watch upon the **Calacirya**. They set the Enchanted Isles and filled the seas with shadow and bewilderment. Thus Valinor was hidden; the Blessed Realm was shut against Middle-earth.

## Chapter Twelve: Of Men

Now the Valar were at peace in Valinor, but Morgoth had dominion of Middle-earth, held back only by the light of the Sun and the valor of the Noldor. Then began the Years of the Sun, and the younger children of Ilúvatar awoke in Hildórien.

They were called:

- The Atani, the Second People
- The Hildor, the Followers
- The Apanónar, the After-born
- The Engwar, the Sickly
- The Fírimar, the Mortals
- The Usurpers
- The Strangers
- The Inscrutable
- The Self-Cursed
- The Heavy-Handed
- The Night-Fearers
- The Children of the Sun

The Men befriended the Dark Elves and learned a lot from them, but they learned little of the Valar and knew of them only by rumor. For a time, they lived in happiness, but the lies of Morgoth and the curse upon Fëanor were ever at work.



## Elves and Men

Elves and Men were alike in body, but Elves were immortal and Men were not. Men were more prone to illness and injury, and their fate after death was unknown to the Eldar.

## Chapter Thirteen: Of the Return of the Noldor

### The Last Days of Fëanor

As Fëanor and his sons came to Middle-earth, they burned the ships at Losgar. Unbeknownst to them, this scene drew the attention of the servants of Morgoth. The hosts of Fëanor passed into Hithlum and made their dwelling in Mithrim. Suddenly, the servants of Morgoth attacked the Noldor at their encampment. This was the Second Battle in the Wars of Beleriand, called the **Dagor-nuin-Giliath**. The Noldor were victorious.

Driven mad in wrath, Fëanor believed that he could take on Morgoth himself. He rushed ahead of his hosts and so found himself alone, surrounded by the servants of Morgoth. He was “smitten to the ground by Gothmog, Lord of Balrogs.” His sons carried him back towards Mithrim, but he died along the way. His body fell to ash as his fiery spirit left him.

### The Noldor in Beleriand

The Noldor met the Grey-Elves in Beleriand and were glad to see one another, but their speech had been sundered, so it was hard for them to communicate. An embassy came to the sons of Fëanor from Morgoth, feigning defeat. Maedhros agreed to meet with Morgoth’s ambassadors in bad faith, but he was taken hostage by Morgoth.

Morgoth demanded that the Noldor forsake their war against Morgoth and depart Beleriand. Bound by their oath, the sons of Fëanor were unable to agree — and they also knew Morgoth would not give them Maedhros either way. Maedhros was taken and hanged by the wrist from a precipice upon Thangorodrim.

## **The People of Fingolfin**

Eventually, the kindred of Fingolfin arrived in Middle-earth and came to Mithrim as the Sun was rising. They settled in Hithlum by the northern shores of Lake Mithrim. The people of Fingolfin and Finrod had no love for the people of Fëanor, and they consistently worked against each other.

## **Fingon Rescues Maedhros**

Fingon resolved to heal the feud between the Noldor by rescuing Maedhros. When Fingon found him, Maedhros begged Fingon to kill him. Feeling like he had no other option, Fingon prepared an arrow and begged Manwë to have pity on the Noldor.

At this moment, **Thorondor** came at the bidding of Manwë and carried Fingon to the rock where Maedhros was. He was unable to free his hand, so Fingon cut off Maedhros' hand above the wrist, and Thorondor bore them back to Mithrim. This heroic deed healed much of the hurt between the two groups of the Noldor.

## **Unrest among the Eldar in Beleriand**

Fingolfin was then the king of the Noldor, but not everyone accepted him in their hearts. At the same time, King Thingol was hesitant to welcome the Noldor in Beleriand. And only those of the house of Finarfin were allowed into Doriath because they could claim kinship with Thingol since their mother was Earwen, Olwë's daughter.

Angrod, son of Finarfin, was the first of the Exiles to come to Menegroth, and he spoke to the King. He didn't tell him about the kinslaying because he thought all was healed and forgiven. Thingol still would not allow anyone into Doriath unless they were his guest or sought him in great need, which angered the sons of Fëanor. The kin of Caranthir met the Dwarves, and while their friendship was not very great, they did profit from each other.

After twenty years, Fingolfin made a great feast called Mereth Aderthad, the Feast of Reuniting. Elves from many regions came. Long years of peace came after that. Thirty years passed.

## Dreams from Ulmo

**Turgon**, son of Fingolfin, and **Finrod** went on a journey and slept on the banks of the river Sirion. There, Ulmo gave them dreams, though they didn't tell each other about them.

Because of these dreams, they felt that they should prepare for a day of evil and establish a retreat.

There came a time when Finrod and Galadriel were guests of Thingol in Doriath. Galadriel stayed in Doriath, in part because she loved Celeborn. Finrod told Thingol about his dreams, and Thingol told him about the deep gorge of the River Narog and the caves under the High Faroth. Finrod came to the Caverns of Narog and began to delve mansions and called it Nargothrond. He commissioned the Dwarves to help with this. The Dwarves also made the Nauglamír, the Necklace of the Dwarves. **Finrod was renamed Felagund**, Hewer of Caves.

Turgon, guided by Ulmo, discovered the hidden vale of Tumladen and began plans to build a city there.

## The Dagor Aglareb, the Glorious Battle

Morgoth sent earthquakes and orcs from the North. This was the third great battle of the Wars of Beleriand, the **Dagor Aglareb, the Glorious Battle**. The elves were victorious, but they were also more cautious and watchful afterward.

Nearly 100 years after the Dagor Aglareb, Morgoth sent forth an army to the Firth of Drengist, but Fingon drove most of the orcs into the sea. After that there was peace for many years.

Morgoth realized that Orcs alone could not defeat the Noldor. After another 100 years, Glaurung, the first of the Uruloki, the fire-drakes of the North, came forth from Angband. He was young and not full strength. Fingon pushed him back, and he retreated to Angband. There was peace again for about 200 years, and the Elves prospered.

## Chapter Fourteen: Of Beleriand and its Realms

*“This is the fashion of the lands into which the Noldor came, in the north of the western regions of Middle-earth, in the ancient days...”*

This chapter is essentially a description of a map that details how the Eldar divided up Beleriand. I would not recommend trying to read this chapter without looking at the map. This chapter would've served best as an appendix, so don't spend too much time dwelling on every minor detail if this is your first time reading *The Silmarillion*. Below are a few online resources to help understand this map a bit better.

### Resources for this Chapter:

- There is an [incredible interactive map of Beleriand available on LOTRProject.com](#).
- I also found this map via [deviantart](#) by Sirielle
- [Silm Guide, Part 18: Of Beleriand and Its Realms](#)
- [The Silmarillion Writers' Guild: Of Beleriand and Its Realms](#)

## Chapter Fifteen: Of the Noldor in Beleriand

In this chapter, we witness the beginning of two great hidden kingdoms: **Gondolin** (Turgon / House of Fingolfin) and **Nargothrond** (Finrod Felagund / House of Finarfin). We also watch as the shadow of Fëanor's actions follows the rest of the Noldor and the damage that is caused, specifically in their relationship with the Sindar.

### Gone to Gondolin

With the guidance of Ulmo, Turgon built the city of Gondolin (“the Hidden Rock”) in secret. Ulmo promised that Gondolin would be the longest realm to stand against Morgoth, but that the curse and the Doom of Mandos still rested upon him. Turgon departed to Gondolin with all of his people, a third of Fingolfin's people, and many of the Sindar.

For many years, no one came into Gondolin after that — save Húrin and Huor. And the people of Turgon did not leave Gondolin until the **Year of Lamentation** Idril, Turgon's daughter, was the fairest of all in Gondolin.

While Gondolin was being built, Finrod Felagund built Nargothrond.

### **Meanwhile, in Doriath**

Galadriel (Finrod's sister) dwelt in Doriath with Melian. Melian confronted Galadriel about the Noldor, saying, "There is some woe that lies upon you and your kin." Finally, Galadriel told Melian about the Silmarils and the Noldor's desire to wage war against Morgoth. However, Galadriel did not tell Melian about the Oath of Fëanor, the Kinslaying, or the burning of the ships at Losgar.

Melian told Thingol about the Silmarils, and he began to understand the purpose of the Noldor more clearly. Melian and Thingol began to see the Noldor as a threat. Rumors concerning the Noldor spread among the Sindar, perpetuated by Morgoth.

Thingol invited all the sons of Finarfin to Doriath where he confronted Finrod about the rumors he had been hearing. Finrod replied: "What ill have I done you, Lord?" Thingol marveled at Finrod because he believed that Finrod had been a part of the kinslaying, and Finrod felt that he couldn't defend himself without telling Thingol everything. Then Angrod (son of Finarfin, Finrod's brother) finally told Thingol of the Kinslaying, the Doom of Mandos, and the burning of the ships at Losgar. Although the sons of Finarfin did not participate in the Kinslaying, the shadow of Mandos still lay upon them.

Thingol commanded them to leave. He told them that they may be allowed back later, and he also did not break his friendship with the sons of Fingolfin entirely because he felt they had bitterly atoned for what they did by having to endure the Grinding Ice.

Thingol also commanded that the language of the Noldor (Quenya) never be spoken in his realm again. They all spoke Sindarin after that. The House of Fëanor was banned from Thingol's realm.

## Chapter Sixteen: Of Maeglin

### Aredhel Leaves Gondolin

Aredhel, daughter of Fingolfin, wished to leave Gondolin. Turgon (her brother) was reluctant to allow her to leave, but he eventually yielded to her request. She went first to Himlad and dwelt with the people of Celegorm and Curufin for a time.

Eventually, she became restless and wandered off into Nan Elmoth, the tallest and darkest of forests in all of Beleriand. There dwelt Eöl, the Dark Elf, alone. He saw Aredhel and set about enchantments that guided her towards his home. When she arrived, he took her as his wife. Tolkien writes that she was not “wholly unwilling” or entirely miserable; however, Eöl commanded that she shun the sunlight and forbade her to seek the sons of Fëanor.

### Maeglin is Born

Aradhel bore a son who she named in secret Lómion, but Eöl named him Maeglin. Maeglin grew and loved his mother more than his father, and she taught him about her kindred. She began to desire to seek out her own kin again. And Maeglin desired to meet the sons of Fëanor. Eöl forbade Maeglin from this and threatened Maeglin. Eöl went to a feast in Nogrod, and when he left, Maeglin urged his mother to flee from Nan Elmoth and seek Gondolin.

Together, they left. But Eöl returned sooner than he had planned. When he saw that they had left, he pursued them in anger. Aredhel and Maeglin came to the Outer Gate of Gondolin and were received with joy. Unfortunately, Eöl had been following them, and he found the secret path into Gondolin. He was taken by the guard. He told them that Aredhel was his wife and demanded to be brought before Turgon.

Eöl was brought to Turgon’s hall, where Turgon told him that he would dwell in his kingdom as a kinsman — but that he would not be allowed to leave. Eöl refused to acknowledge Turgon’s law and demanded that Maeglin be returned to him. However, Turgon gave him a choice: “This choice only is given to you: to abide here, or to die here; and so also for your son.”

### The Choice of Eöl

Eöl threw a poisoned javelin at Maeglin, but Aredhel jumped in front of it and was mortally wounded. Eöl was brought before Turgon and cast down from the sheer walls of the city.

Before his death, Eöl cried to Maeglin: “So you forsake your father and his kin, ill-gotten son! Here shall you fail of all your hopes, and here may you yet die the same death as I.”

## **Maeglin in Gondolin**

Maeglin remained in Gondolin and grew great among the Gondolindrim. However, he was grieved because he loved Idril (his cousin), but “it was not the custom of the Eldar to wed with kin so near,” and Idril did not return his love anyways. She also thought it was weird that he liked her. Nevertheless, Maeglin became obsessed with Idril and the pursuit of power.

## **Chapter Seventeen: Of the Coming of Men into the West**

This chapter is about the race of Men (humanity) but specifically the three kindreds of men, and these are called the **Edain**, the Men of Beleriand.

### **Three Households of the Edain:**

House of Bëor — most like the Noldor, love knowledge

Haladin — not interested in learning lore, want to be left alone

House of Marach — strongest/most warlike

**The Elf-Friends:** refers to anyone who the Elves have deemed allies; in this chapter, it specifically refers to the Edain in general who were friendly with the Elves.

As the chapter begins, we are in a period of general peace. However, the servants of Morgoth are still wreaking havoc around Middle-earth, so these groups of Men come into Beleriand to escape them.

### **Finrod and the House of Bëor**

Finrod Felagund, lord of Nargothrond, came into the land of Ossiriand. There, he beheld a “strange people”: Men of the house of Bëor.

The Men called King Felagund “Nóm” (Wisdom). And they named his folk Nómín, the wise. The Men thought Felagund was of the Valar, but he taught them “true knowledge.” And they loved him and were loyal to the house of Finarfin.

Felagund realized that he could read the minds of Men when they wished to reveal through speech to him so their words were easily understood. He also learned that the men didn’t know a lot about their own origins, which was different from the Elves. Since they did not die of old age, they were able to pass down their history more easily.

The Elves understood that Morgoth had found the Men even as they awoke and had already been working to corrupt them.

Bëor told Felagund that the other two houses of Men would be coming over the Mountains soon: the **Haladin** and the House of **Marach**.

### **Unfriended by the Green-Elves**

The Green-Elves of Ossiriand were troubled by the coming of the men and asked Felagund to tell them to return to where they had come from, or else to go forward and away. They desired no strangers in their land and called themselves the “unfriends” of the men, threatening them.

At the advice of Felagund, Bëor moved his people to **Estolad**, “the encampment.” When Felagund returned to Nargothrond, Bëor went with him as a servant until the end of his life. Bëor left his people under the protection of Baran, his son. Felagund often visited the Men.

### **The Rest of the Edain Arrive in Beleriand**

When the Haladin came over the mountains, they went to Thargelion (the country of Caranthir, son of Fëanor). When the House of Marach came in the next year, they settled in Estolad, close to the people of Bëor. They were more warlike, and the Green-Elves were a little bit afraid of them, so they didn’t bother them along their way.

Fingolfin, King of all the Noldor, welcomed the Men, and many of them went into the service of the lords of the Eldar. One of these was Malach, son of Marach, also called Aradan.



## The Migration of the Edain

The Kings of the Noldor sent word to the Edain that they might live among their people. Thus began the great migration of the Edain. Over the next 50 years, many thousands of Men moved to various regions of the Noldor.

- The people of Bëor came to Dorthonion.
- The people of Adradan went to Hithlum.
- Magor, son of Adaran, went to Ered Wethrin.

Finrod was the only one of the Noldor to speak to Thingol about the coming of Men. Thingol was troubled concerning the coming of Men and would not allow them to dwell in Doriath. **However, Melian made a prediction to Galadriel that one man would indeed come into Doriath.**

## Of the Men in Estolad

Many men remained in Estolad, and many of them distrusted the Eldar. Eventually, these Men gathered in council to debate what to do about Morgoth and his servants.

**Bereg** and **Amlach** were the chief instigators of the unrest, saying that they would not go North because this was where Morgoth dwelt, and they were trying to escape him. The Elf-Friends advised the Men that they could aid the Elves in their war against Morgoth.

Amlach, **or one who appeared to be Amlach**, said: “All this is but Elvish lore, tales to beguile newcomers that are unwary. The Sea has no shore. There is no Light in the West. You have followed a fool-fire of the Elves to the end of the world! Which of you has seen the least of the Gods? Who has beheld the Dark King in the North? Those who seek the dominion of Middle-earth are the Eldar...”

However, later the real Amlach came into the group and denied ever saying this. And then they realized that a servant of Morgoth had taken on Amlach’s form in order to deceive them. After this, Amlach had a personal grudge against Morgoth. Amlach went into the service of Maedhros to fight Morgoth.

Many listened to Bereg and many doubted what they had been told. Bereg led a thousand of these people southward, and they passed out of this story. Some of his people went back over the mountains into Eriador and passed out of this story.

## **The Haladin in Thargelion**

Morgoth sent out orcs to destroy the Haladin who remained in Thargelion. **Haldad** gathered all the men he could find, and they built a stockade behind which to protect their women and children. However, they were held under siege until their food was gone. Haldad had two children: Haleth his daughter and Haldar his son. At last, Haldad and Haldar were slain by the orcs.

Haleth held her people together and fought for seven days until suddenly the people of Caranthir came and drove the Orcs into the rivers. Caranthir offered Haleth and her people the friendship and protection of the Eldar, if only they would dwell further north.

Haleth instead chose to go west to Estolad, where she brought her people to the Forest of Brethil. Brethil was claimed by King Thingol, and he would have denied it to Haleth, but Felagund spoke to Thingol on her behalf. Haleth lived in Brethil until her death.

## **Of Elves and Men**

The Elves and Men dwelt in peace together for a long time. After a while, the Elf-kings set regions apart where the Men would rule themselves.

Hador, of the house of Malach, entered the house of Fingolfin and was loved by the King. Fingolfin gave Hador the lordship of Dor-lomin.

In Dorthonion, the lordship of the people of Bëor was given to Boromir, great-grandson of Bëor the Old.

Here, Tolkien drops a family tree for Hador, which includes a few names that we'll see later on: Húrin and Húor; Túrin; Earandil; Beren; Lúthien; Elling; and from these came all the Kings of Númenor.

## **The Death of Bëor**

When Bëor the Old died at age 93, of no wound or illness, the Elves were grieved but also confused by the mortality of Men.

# Chapter Eighteen: Of the Ruin of Beleriand and the Fall of Fingolfin

## The Dagor Bragollach: The Battle of Sudden Flame

455 years after the coming of Fingolfin began the 4th of the great battles: **the Dagor Bragollach, the Battle of Sudden Flame**

During this battle came Glaurung the Golden, Father of Dragons, in his full might. Balrogs and the armies of Orcs came behind them. Most of the Grey-elves fled and forsook the northern war.

The sons of Finarfin were most hurt because they lived directly south of Ard-galen. Angrod and Aegnor were slain. Finrod was cut off from his people and would've been slain, but **Barahir** rescued him and was able to return to Nargothrond. He swore an oath to Barahir and his people and gave him his ring.

Fingolfin and Fingon were driven back to the fortress of Ered Wethrin. Hador the Golden-haired died defending Fingolfin; his son Gundor died with him.

Hithlum remained unconquered for the time being, but Fingolfin was cut off from his kinsmen. Celegorm and Curufin were overcome and fled to Nargothrond. Maedhros fought valiantly, but unfortunately, Glaurung came and they could not stand against him, and everyone fled. The Orcs did not come into Ossiriand.

Fingolfin rode to Angband's gates to challenge Morgoth in battle. Fingolfin had called him craven and lord of slaves for all of his servants to hear, so Morgoth felt forced to answer the challenge. Fingolfin fought against Morgoth valiantly but became weary and was crushed under Morgoth's shield. Morgoth pressed his foot against Fingolfin's neck, but Fingolfin stabbed Morgoth in the foot in one last desperate stroke. Thus, Fingolfin died.

Morgoth broke the body of Fingolfin and planned to feed it to the wolves, but Thorondor (Lord of Eagles) came and scratched Morgoth's face and took the body of Fingolfin, carrying it to Gondolin where Turgon buried him. Morgoth was permanently wounded in his foot due to Fingolfin and in his face by Thorondor.

Now Morgoth had dominion over the North and pursued the people of Barahir until one by one, only a few of them remained. They became so desperate that they sent their women and children away to Brethil to safety. Most of these men were not seen again for they were killed one by one until **only 12 remained** with Barahir: Beren his son, Baragund, Belegund, and nine of their servants: Radhruin, Dairuin, Dagnir, Ragnor, Gildor, Gorlim, Arthad, Trthel, and Hathaldir. These men were “outlaws without hope”, hunted like beasts, wandering in the forest homeless.

For two years after the Dagor Bragollach, the Noldor fought to defend the western pass, and Minas Tirith withstood against the Orcs. But after the fall of Fingolfin, Sauron, greatest of the servants of Morgoth, took Minas Tirith and made it a watchtower for Morgoth. The fair isle of Tol Sirion became called **Tol-in-Gaurhoth, the Isle of Werewolves**

### **The Swarthy Men**

In this time, the Swarthy Men came into Beleriand. Some of them had already secretly come under the service of Morgoth, but not all. Maedhros made an alliance with them and was friends with their chieftains, Bór and Ulfang.

The sons of **Bór** were Borlad, Borlach, and Borthand, and they followed Maedhros and Maglor faithfully. The sons of **Ulfang** were Ulfast, Ulwarth, and Uldor, and they followed Caranthir but “proved faithless.”

Húrin and Huor, the sons of Galdor in Dor-lómin, lived with the Haladin. When they were young (Huor was only 13), they went into battle but were cut off from their company and became lost in Dimbar.

They would've died, but Thorondor carried them to Gondolin. Turgon allowed them to live in Gondolin, but they eventually wished to return home. This was usually forbidden, but because they had been carried in by Thorondor, Turgon allowed them to depart in the manner in which they arrived.

Maeglin doubted this decision, but the boys swore an oath to never reveal anything about Gondolin. Then the eagles carried them back to Dor-lómin.

Turgon perceived that the end of the Noldor was coming soon, so he sent some of the Gondolindrim to the Isle of Balar to build ships and sail West in order to ask for pardon and help from the Valar. However, they were unsuccessful, and no help came.

Morgoth sent forth more spies to gather information about Nargothrond and Gondolin.

After a few years, Morgoth assailed Hithlum. Galdor was killed. Húrin drove the Orcs away. Fingon was outnumbered as he fought against the Orcs, but Círdan came with his ships up the Firth of Drengist, and they were victorious.

After this, Húrin was lord of the house of Hador and served Fingon. His wife was Morwen, daughter of Baragund.