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Just passing through

Humphrey Carpenter tries to explain how Tolkien, who cared so deeply for the natural world and its beauty, lived such a cookie-cutter modern suburban life:



Tolkien seemed to consider goodness as always in retreat from badness, with only occasional victories. As we see in "Leaf by Niggle," the only real happiness, victory, perfection, consummation, etc. comes in the next life.

Also, it's much easier to ignore your surroundings when your imagination is as muscular as Tolkien's was. [#Carpenter](#) [#Tolkien](#) [#imagination](#)

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