



SOUTHWEST PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY

Presents

# Tolkien, Enchantment, and Loss: Steps on the Developmental Journey

**Zoom Event**

Saturday, March 12, 2022  
10:00 am to 12:00pm MST



Presenter

John Rosegrant, PhD

SPS Members \$20    Non-Members \$25

## **About the Program:**

John will present central ideas from his recently published book that focuses on the themes of enchantment and loss in the fiction of J. R. R. Tolkien. He will incorporate elements of developmental psychology to explore both Tolkien's life and art, deepening our understanding of the interrelationship between his biography and writing.

Tolkien's early years saw a good deal of trauma: the loss of both parents, serious illness, poverty, and battlefield action during World War I, including the loss of close friends. Yet he presented an enchanted worldview in the stories of Middle-earth, and that tension between enchantment and disenchantment—as it results from significant trauma and loss—lies at the very heart of Tolkien's creative endeavors.

Tolkien's creative effort can be understood, especially from the perspective of his own psychological development, as a way to maintain a sense of enchantment in the face of great personal loss. Throughout our lives, at several stages we must surrender earlier forms of enchantment and develop more mature forms so that life does not become barren, drab, or dismal. Tolkien found ways to use his personal losses and struggles to address universal psychological issues in his art, giving his work great emotional sophistication and complexity.

## About the Presenter:

John Rosegrant, Ph.D. trained in Adult and Child & Adolescent Psychoanalysis at the (then-called) New York Freudian Society. He is on the Faculty and a Training and Supervising Analyst at the New Orleans-Birmingham Psychoanalytic Center, and is a Training and Supervising Analyst at the Contemporary Freudian Society. He has published on a wide variety of topics including psychoanalytic technique, short-term psychotherapy, play therapy, dreams, fairy tales, Harry Potter, and the World of Warcraft computer game; his most recent publication is “‘Creative Writers and Daydreaming’ and Creative States of Consciousness” in the current issue of *American Imago*. John edited a special issue of the *Journal of Clinical Psychology* on “Adolescents, Children, & Technology,” and is currently co-editing with Steve Ellman and Neal Vorus a special issue of *Psychoanalytic Psychology* in honor of Sheldon Bach. His psychoanalytic investigation of the life and works of J.R.R. Tolkien, *Tolkien, Enchantment, and Loss: Steps on the Developmental Journey*, has recently been published by Kent State University Press. John is also the author of the Young Adult fantasy series *The Gates of Inland*. In his private practice he treats adults, adolescents, and children, and has consulted with schools and Headstart programs.

If you have any questions you can contact Pam Hays at [phays@swparentandchild.org](mailto:phays@swparentandchild.org), or 520 465-3488.

Go to the link below to register

SPS Members \$20    Non-Members \$25

You will receive a Zoom meeting link before the event.

Payment can also be mailed to:

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3504 Highway 153, PMB 304  
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