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Hey there, fellow travelers. Welcome to the Tolkien Road, episode 345. In this episode, we're continuing our journey through the fall of numenor by exploring the Chapter 1200 sauron endeavors to seduce the Eldar. Before we get started, I'd like to give a double up Air Five to our amazing Fellowship. Stick them up, Fellowship. Three, two, one. Whoops. Very nice. Special thanks to this episode's. Executive Producers John R. Caitlin of T with Tolkien Jacob Blockham john H. Melkor, 27, and Kg Also a shout out to those celebrating their Fellowship anniversary in August of 2023. Anne E garrett P mario G matt R ben D lauren H will H henry B jonathan L austin B And Carol W. Thank you all so much for sticking with us over the years. Join the Fellowship of the Road by visiting [patreon.com. Slash Tolkien road](https://patreon.com/SlashTolkienRoad). When you join the Fellowship of the Road, it helps us to keep on evering on and lend you some cool perks along the way.

01:06

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01:56

The original source for this chapter is primarily two sources the History of Middle Earth, part Twelve the Peoples of Middle Earth as well as unfinished tales. All right, so, year 1200. We are 1200 years into the Second Age. The full title of this chapter is actually much longer than what I said at the beginning. It's quite a mouthful, but it really lays out the four key things that we want to consider here. First sauron endeavors to seduce the eldar. So, Sauron is not attacking the Eldar. He is attempting to seduce them. He is attempting to bring them over to his side, get him to cooperate. Get them to cooperate with him. Next, we learn that Gil Galad refuses to treat with him. We'll talk a little bit more about that in just a moment. But Gil Galad, he doesn't trust this fella, whoever he is.

02:49

The Smiths of areegion are won over. So the Smiths of Oregion, these are the Elf Smiths that are working in this area of let's take a quick look at that on the old map right here. So Eregion is the region here to the west of the Misty Mountains. So if you kind of think of the Misty Mountains on our map of Middle Earth as being the spine that runs down the center of the map here, the spine of mountains that run down to the center of the map here. Well, Eregion is this region in here, which is just outside of Moria. And this is where many of the Elves are dwelling in the Second Age, and many of the Elves that are very creative right, that are smiths and then lastly, we learned that the Numenoreans begin to make permanent havens. And we'll talk a little bit more about that in just a moment as we talk about Tar Ankalime, who is in the 125th year of her reign.

03:53

We talked a good bit about Tar Ankalime in the last episode, tar Ankalime the first ruling queen of Numenor, but she comes from a situation of familial strife. You'll recall we spent a good deal of time on the story of her father, Tar Aldarian, and her mother, Erndis, and their marriage, which was not a happy one, right? It should have been happy. It could have been happy. They were very apparently fond of each other at the beginning, but because of their different predilections, if you will, aldarian was drawn to the sea, and Arendis hated the sea, and this really pulled them apart and caused a lot of strife in their marriage. And Ankalime really suffered a lot from that. And she grew up apparently bitter and became a bitter ruling monarch, the first queen and also a bitter queen. But we learned she has neglected the policies of her father with respect to Middle Earth.

04:52

And at first I was going to call this an isolationist stance because it says that basically what it means by that is that she turned her back on this alliance with Gil Galad and the Elves of Lindan and really didn't respect it, didn't attend to it. But really, it's not isolationist. It's not so much isolationist as it is unilateral, because we learned that during this time period, the Numenoreans began to make permanent havens in Middle Earth, so they made their own permanent havens in different parts of Middle Earth. So that's not necessarily the same thing as isolationism. That's more like, hey, we're not going to work in these alliances. We're going to do things essentially our own way. We're going to do it all on our own. This is akin in the real world to when a country were to say, like, oh, we need to pursue this foreign policy goal.

05:46

Maybe we need to fight this war, and we're going to do it by ourselves, instead of saying like, well, we're going to get this big alliance together, all right? So that would be multilateralism. So unilateral foreign policy. That's really what Numenor seems to be pursuing at this know just the fact that Numenor and I think let me say this I think this is important of bad things to come because at least before when they were getting involved in Middle Earth again it was to help the other free peoples of Middle Earth. It was to essentially use their position in the world being this really island nation that wasn't under threat from anyone else in any kind of direct fashion. It was saying like, hey, maybe we should use maybe we should help the others, right? Maybe we shouldn't just kind of keep to ourselves all the time, but maybe we should go out of our way to help the others.

06:42

We can debate whether that was a good idea or not, but we know that something is going on that's bad in Middle Earth. And we know that if we go back to Tarman Eldor, he resigned earlier than he was planning to because he knew his son Aldarion, who became Tar Aldarian, was more of the mindset and more equipped, more experienced to be able to handle whatever this growing threat was in Middle Earth. But yeah, unfortunately that doesn't happen. And it becomes this sort of like, well, we'll do our own thing in Middle Earth and we'll establish these permanent havens. And what's the point of those permanent havens? Well, could it be anything but their own? The enrichment of numenor, right? The power of numenor? And furthermore, they're permanent, right? They're not these places that are set up for a specific purpose and only last a certain time, but they become permanent locations, which means that they can potentially expand to greater locations, and they are going to be seen as their own centers of power eventually as well.

07:52

So just an interesting development in this one small little statement right here regarding permanent havens. All right? So we also learned there's this curious statement here no rumor of this portent reached the distant north. So I was curious about and what this is in reference to is the coming of the Numenorians in the year 600, which is of course, 600 years ago at this point. But it's mentioned in this chapter, and it says, no rumor of this portent the arrival of the Numenoreans is reached the distant north. So I was like, well, who are we talking about in the distant north? So I looked up this reference in volume twelve of the history of Middle Earth, the Peoples of Middle Earth. And this reference to the distant north has to do with the source of this passage, the chapter titled Of Dwarves and Men, which goes into much more detail about the long relationship of these two people groups.

08:41

It's kind of insignificant outside the original context, which is interesting. And it's very worth reading if you're super into Dwarves, actually. It's worth reading just if you're into the whole into the legendarium itself, if you're the kind of person that wants to read these kinds of interesting little tidbits that Tolkien threw here and there. It's actually a fairly long essay and it goes into a lot of really interesting things about the history of this particular time period. But I won't go into any of that here. I'll just say that reference has a specific reference within the chapter that you might find interesting if you want to look it up. So that's why it says that none of this news reached the distant north and it kind of seems out of place right here. All right, so Sauron we learn that Sauron presents himself in this kind of fair form and he endeavored to win the friendship and trust of the Eldar.

09:32

So why is he so interested in winning the friendship and trust of the you know, I think it has to do with the fact that the Eldar are still really the most powerful of all of the peoples even though they maybe are a little bit diminished at this point. He knows that the Eldar, when it all comes down to it, are going to be the ones that, when they finally kind of wake up to what he's doing will be the most equipped to push back on him. And so he wants to win their friendship. Right? He wants to bring them as close as possible so that they won't think to resist him. Right? And by the time they would realize they need to resist him, it would almost be too late. And slowly he reverted again to the allegiance of Morgoth. And I found this really interesting because is this indicating that Sauron was truly repentant at know there is some discussion about that at the beginning of the Second Age.

10:30

If we read Aqalabith, I believe it makes reference to that possibility that some held that he was truly repentant at first but he didn't take the action he needed to take. I believe we covered that in several episodes ago. But he didn't take the action of actually going back to Aman, right back to the Blessed Realm and kind of seeking the pardon of the Valar. Instead, he stayed here in Middle Earth and he lingered and eventually he got back to his own you know, it also says he reverted again to the allegiance of Morgoth. So in a way, Sauron is not simply acting on his own in the Second Age. He does see himself as being an ally of Morgoth, who we might think, how is Morgoth even at work in the world? Interesting things will happen later in the history of the Second Age that might indicate to us that though Morgoth is not present in the world in any kind of bodily fashion, in any kind of visible fashion, he is still an actor and he is still someone that Sauron looks to remember.

11:37

Morgoth, in the end, is a spirit, right? He is a spirit that becomes embodied for the better part of the early history of Middle earth. But at this point, he is banished beyond the walls of the world, right? So it's possible that Sauron was truly repentant at first but he eventually reverts back to the allegiance of Morgoth. Men apparently are the easiest of peoples for Sauron to sway. Now, why is that? Why would Men be the easiest for Sauron to sway? Well, I think we can simply kind of get to the idea that Men because of their short lifespan with comparison to the Eldar and to the Dwarves men are the most willing to make deals, right? To kind of make the deal with the devil because they know that their days are numbered. They know that their days are swift or coming to an end.

12:38

You know, it's interesting when we think about that context because in a way the gift of long life that was given to the Numenoreans we may be able to see that as a way to make them strong to resist the temptations of evil, right? But especially for the men that remained in Middle earth who do not have the longer lifespans it's easier to sway them to the deeds of darkness, to doing the deeds of evil. Because you can say, what if I reward you with long life? Right? What if I reward you? What if I make it so that death you can even beat death. You can live forever, you can be immortal like the Elves, right? So that's not laid out directly here. But that's why I would surmise that Men are the easiest to sway. I mean, there's all kinds of other reasons we can list because we can list, because we're all men.

13:28

We're all of the race of Men. So we can understand the different kinds of things that we are prone to. But I would say it all kind of ties back to the shortness of our lifespans. Especially when Men would look out and they'd see like Elves and Dwarves living much longer than them. And he labors hard to persuade the Elves, meaning Sauron labors hard to persuade the Elves again. I think we talked about this already. But the Elves, they're really still in charge, right? They're still in charge. We're not quite to the time when Men are truly the age of Men just yet, except for a numenor. Numenor is kind of this one little exception. But the Elves are really the ones who still hold the power. They don't really wield it. Like we might think of in these terms, of these great empires but they have these little havens of Elvish civilization that are really the great locations, the great little kingdoms of goodness, of freedom, of power, of civilization in this time.

14:34

And so he wants to get the Elves on his side again because if he can get them on his side then he can do whatever he wants, right? He can eventually do whatever he wants now, I found this note also very interesting, that his hue, Sauron's hue, was still that of one both fair and wise. So Sauron does not appear, as he does in the films, as the Dark Lord, right? Kind of how we might think of this sort of very frightening, demonic presence. But he appears both fair and Christopher Tolkien. In the footnote of this, it actually says that Christopher Tolkien said that in this time he appeared more like the later istari. It was almost like a foreshadowing of the istari, which was interesting to me because it got me thinking about, like, okay, did he appear then more like kind of a beautiful old man, right?

15:28

So kind of like the beauty of wisdom, right? And I got to thinking about the whole how he's presented in the Rings of Power. So spoiler alert. Pause right there if you haven't seen the Rings of Power. I don't want to spoil it for you, but I'm going to talk about some of the big revelations in the first season of the Rings of Power. So, of course, the character Halbrand is revealed to be Sauron himself. And Halbrand, I don't think he really adds up to the presentate, to what Christopher says here. Halbrand looks much more like kind of a young version of Aragorn, right? He looks like he could just be ancestor of Aragorn, right. As we see Aragorn in the films played by oh, gosh, I had it on the tip of my tongue, too. Viggo mortensen. Thank you. You thought I was going to get it wrong.

16:28

You were wrong. All right, so viggo Mortensen he has that vigo Mortensen Aragorn kind of look to him, hallbrand in the Rings of Power TV show. But in the book here, Christopher Tolkien actually said that he appears more like a later istari. So we might think of maybe and I have a hard time thinking that Sauron would guise himself like we think of Gandalf, especially Gandalf the Gray. Now. Maybe more like Gandalf the white. Maybe more like with the robes, the flowing robes of white and kind of the well kept hair and looking kind of very Lordly. But know that fairness. But also he looks perhaps wise, right? Because he's got the wisdom of age going on. So that seems to be more what's indicated to me. It's not a lot to go off of, but that seems to be more like how we should have perhaps seen an early Sauron who we didn't know was Sauron presented in the Rings of Power.

17:35

I just think that presenting Hallbrand as this or hidden Sauron as this. Vigo Mortensen aragornish kind of figure was not quite what Tolkien and Christopher Tolkien had in mind there. All right, so why were Gilgallad and Elrond wise to him? It says they didn't actually realize who this was. They didn't realize he was Sauron. But all I can think is that he was a little too slick, right? Gilgallad and Elrond, they probably had a decent enough spidey sense about the agents of evil and how they like to operate, and they could probably pick up on it fairly quickly, but they did not know for sure it was Sauron. I don't even know that they had, like, a strong hunch that it was, but my guess is he just operated with just a little too much slickness, right? These great Elvish lords, they have a way of picking up on these things.

18:29

They've been around the block a few times. They know how it works. They know how the world works. And some of us can probably understand there are some of us in the world that have a better sort of spidey sense about these things, who are the smooth operators, the slick willys of the world, right? The people who are a little too just good at everything, like they got the right answer for everything, a little too salesmanny, right? We kind of all understand that mode of operation. All right, so let's talk a little bit about the rulers that follow Tar Ankalime. So the next ruler is Tar Anarian. Tara narayan is the son of Tara ankalime his reign begins in the year second, age 1280, and he is 277 years old. At his accession, he had two daughters who refused the scepter. So his youngest child and only son, Suryan, becomes king after him.

19:31

So remember, at this point, the law had been changed so that the eldest daughter could receive the scepter. I talked a little bit about my confusion about this fact last time, so I won't go into that too much here. But there is sort of some confusion about how those laws of succession might have worked in Numenor around this statement here. So, nevertheless, Suryon, the youngest child of Anarion, becomes the king, and Tara Anarian rules until 1394, dies ten years later at the age of 401. And then Tar Surion, his reign begins in second age 1394. He is 220 years old at a session, and he has two children Telperion, a daughter, and Isilmo, a son. And Telperion will go on to be the second ruling queen. More about her probably in the next episode. Tarsurian ruled until 1556, dies 18 years later at the age of 400.

20:29

And as far as our images go in this chapter, I got to be honest, I'm not really sure what we're looking at here. My best guess was this of Sauron treating with the elves, or perhaps men. But to be honest, that's just a best guess. I don't have any degree of confidence about me being right on that. If you have a clearer idea, please feel free to mention it in the comments below. All right, so what are the key takeaways from this brief chapter? I'd note two things especially. First, Sauron is acting, but not aggressively at this point. He seems to be content with gaining ground by seduction and influence, if possible. Not everything has to be a clear act of war with Sauron. Second, the familial strife in Numenor's monarchy is leading it down a very dangerous path. Not only are they failing their friends, the Elves of Lindan, but they are actively pursuing their own interests in other locales.

21:22

Numenor has changed. Next time, we'll learn about the forging of the Rings of Power as well as the reign of Numenor's second Queen. As always, keep the correspondence coming. We'll do our best to respond to you somehow. And at some point and don't forget to stop by truemyspress.com for great merch like Super Stylin'and. Comfy, tolkien Road T shirts like you see here. Mine's getting a little worn out. I'm gonna have to get myself a new one here soon. Two Trees camper mugs, and signed copies of my books once again. That's truemyspress.com. It will take you to our all new Etsy store. Thank you for supporting our work with your purchase. All right, thank you to our amazing patrons, especially the following john R. Caitlin of T. With Tolkien. Jacob Blockham. John H. Melcore. 27 kg. Emilio P. Jonathan D. Robert H. Paul D. Julia Wordy, joe Bagelman richard K matt R.

22:14

Matthew W. John W. Eugene D. Chris B daniel S. Seb M. Corey C. Carolyn S. Emil K ms. Anonymous. Andrew T. Redhawk shannon S brian O zeke F james L chris L. Aja. V ish of the hammer. Teresa. C david of Pints with Jack and Eric. B thank you so much, Fellowship. You all are amazing. I feel your love right here every time I say those names. And I think of the rest of you who are part of our fellowship too. Thank you all so much for your support. Truly appreciate you. And thank you to everybody for watching and or listening. We will talk at you next time. Bye.