

ETA SIGMA PHI

Thirty-seventh Annual Latin Prose Composition Contest (2003)

To be written as an examination, under supervision, within a maximum of three hours. The contestant is permitted to use an English-Latin lexicon (e.g., Cassell's) but no other helps. The only identification on the contest paper should be the contestant's pen name. The works of J. R. R. Tolkien are currently enjoying renewed popularity, and we await with great anticipation the release in 2003 of the third installment of the film version. The following excerpt from The Return of the King depicts Aragorn in the Houses of Healing. This passage lends itself to direct literal translation, while also providing an opportunity for free and creative expression.



Then Gandalf said: 'Let us not stay at the door, for the time is urgent. Let us enter! For it is only in the coming of Aragorn that any hope remains for the sick in the House. Thus spake Ioreth, wise woman of Gondor: *The hands of the king are the hands of a healer, and so shall the rightful king be known.*' . . .

Then Aragorn entered first and the others followed. . . .

At the doors of the Houses many were already gathered to see Aragorn, and they followed after him; and when at last he had supped, men came and prayed that he would heal their kinsmen or their friends whose lives were in peril through hurt or wound, or who lay under the Black Shadow. And Aragorn arose and went out, and he sent for the sons of Elrond, and together they labored far into the night. And word went through the City: 'The King is come again indeed.' And they named him Elfstone, because of the green stone that he wore, and so the name which it was foretold at his birth that he should bear was chosen for him by his own people.

And when he could labor no more, he cast his cloak about him, and slipped out of the City, and went to his tent just ere dawn and slept for a little. And in the morning the banner of Dol Amroth, a white ship like a swan upon blue water, floated from the Tower, and men looked up and wondered if the coming of the King had been but a dream.