

An excerpt from "The Lay of Leithian: Canto VII" in *The Lays of Beleriand*

He [Thu/Sauron] chanted a song of wizardry,
of piercing, opening, of treachery,
revealing, uncovering, betraying. 2175

Then sudden Felagund there swaying
sang in answer a song of staying,
resisting, battling against power,
of secrets kept, strength like a tower,
and trust unbroken, freedom, escape; 2180
of changing and of shifting shape,
of snares eluded, broken traps,
the prison opening, the chain that snaps.

Backwards and forwards swayed their song.
Reeling and foundering, as ever more strong 2185
Thu's chanting swelled, Felagund fought,
and all the magic and might he brought
of Elfinesse into his words.

Softly in the gloom they heard the birds
singing afar in Nargothrond, 2190
the sighing of the sea beyond,
beyond the western world, on sand,
on sand of pearls in Elvenland.

Then the gloom gathered: darkness growing
in Valinor, the red blood flowing 2195
beside the sea, where the Gnomes slew
the Foamriders, and stealing drew
their white ships with their white sails
from lamplit havens. The wind wails.

The wolf howls. The ravens flee. 2200

The ice mutters in the mouths of the sea.
The captives sad in Angband mourn.
Thunder rumbles, the fires burn,
a vast smoke gushes out, a roar --
and Felagund swoons upon the floor. 2205