

The Rings of Power

Tengwar Glimpses from the Amazon Title Reveal

The Tengwar seen on the Letters are not the usual Ring Inscription in Black Speech as given by Tolkien, it seems to be a Neo-Sindarin rendering of the full Ring Poem, written in the full mode of Beleriand, the same mode (“Tengwar-Orthography”) as on the West-Gate of Moria. The readings are based on the image found in [this Reddit post](#) but unfortunately the quality makes it hard to decipher. First will be the Tengwar signs that I’m able to read, followed by a transcription of the lines in the Latin Alphabet. Then in normal font I try to fill some blanks based on the likely correspondence to Tolkiens Ring Poem and give a translation followed by an explanation of the phrase. All mentioned words with references to the source location can be found on [Eldamo](#).

This is a revised version incorporating some suggestions by Quirinius on the Vinyë Lambengolmor Discord server, what some of the more uncertain words might be.

Original Poem for comparison:

*Three Rings for the Elven kings under the sky,
Seven for the Dwarf-lords in their halls of stone,
Nine for Mortal Men doomed to die,
One for the Dark Lord on his dark throne
In the Land of Mordor where the Shadows lie.
One Ring to rule them all, One Ring to find them,
One Ring to bring them all and in the darkness bind them
In the Land of Mordor where the Shadows lie.*

Letter R

ꞨꞨꞨ ?...?ꞨꞨ ꞨꞨ ꞨꞨꞨ ?...?Ꞩ

cyr dh di m l

cyr *neledh di menel* “three rings under [the] sky”

→ However Ꞩ “l” doesn’t seem to appear in the second word.

- *cyr*, plural of *cor* “ring”
- *?neledh* “three”. (Numerals might appear before the noun they modify, cf. *Tad-dail* “two-feet”, Noldorin [Sindarin’s draft] *lhebern teil brann* “five foot high”)
- *di* “beneath, not touch, under”
- *?menel* “firmament, high heaven, the region of the stars”. This word might be resistant to soft mutation (we know *vi Menel*), so we don’t see *di + menel* → *di-venel*

Letter I

ἠἠἠ ἠ?...?ἠ ἠἠἠ

nin e l erain

n'in edhel-erain “of the Elf-Kings”

- *n'*, a contraction of *na(n)* “of” before vowels, as seen in *Mír n'Adhron*
- *in* “the”, the plural definite article.
- *edhel* “Elf”, or perhaps its plural form *edhil*
- *erain*, the plural of *aran* “King”. *Edh(i/e)l-Erain* might be a pseudo-compound “Elf-Kings” (but the order is usually reversed in Sindarin, cf. *Aran Moria* “Moria-King”)

Letter N

ἠἠἠἠἠ ἠἠἠ ?...? ἠἠἠ

adog fm gaith

odog (?vi gond) gaith “seven in stone halls”

- *odog* “seven”
- *vi* “in”, soft mutated form of *mi*
- *gond* “stone”. Unclear why this is not soft mutated ‘*ond*’.
- *gaith*, plural of *gath* “cavern”. This word might be replaced by *rond*.

Letter G

ἠἠ ἠἠἠἠἠἠἠ ἠἠἠ

an nogothrim thûr

an nogothrim thûr “to [the] ?secret dwarf-folk”

- *an* “to, for”, marks a recipient in this case
- *nogothrim* “dwarf-folk”, class plural of *nogoth* “dwarf”
- *thûr* might be a derivative of ^M√THUR root. “surround, fence, ward, hedge in, secrete”.

Usually a class plural triggers plural agreement (*galadhremmen* → *galadhremmīn ennorath*), so *thûr* → *thuir* would be expected. Perhaps here the singular is intended to clarify that it is “dwarf-folk” instead of “all dwarfs”.

Letter S

ἠἠ?...?ἠἠ ?...? ·ḥ· ?...?d?...?

c ng ,a, ch

No idea — it might correspond to “doomed to die”.

However ·ḥ· might actually be ·ḥ· which is attested as a delimiter between “Doors of Durin, King of Moria” and “Speak friend and enter” on the West-Gate of Moria.

Letter P

բիւր արժան

fîr edain

fîr edain “mortal men”

- *fîr*, the plural of *feir* “mortal (man)”, in this case used as an adjective (which is supported by its ancient form P^HER-jā). The usual word order would be *edain fîr*, because adjectives follow their noun, but the reverse order is attested in verse as well.
- *edain*, plural of *adan* “Human”, properly only applies to the Elf-friends.

Letter O

մին անի ծուհաւր

min ani duhaur

min an·i du·haur “one for-the dark-despicable”,

- *min* “one”
- *an* “to, for”
- *i* “the”, singular definite article. Usually triggers soft mutation, so the lexicon form of the following word would be expected to be *tuhaur*. However there seems to be no reasonable element *tu-*, so I would assume that *ani* is intended to trigger mixed mutation which leaves *d* unchanged.
- *Duhaur*, probably contains *dû* “night, dimness” + *saur* (*s* changes to *h* under soft mutation). *Saur* is probably intended to be the same Element as in Quenya *Sauron*, but this word probably occurs as *thaur* in Sindarin (Tolkien did consider SAW as a root for the name, but ultimately seems to have decided on THAW).

Letter W

ար զ...?ն թին ծուր

ar n dîn dûr

or (?châdh) dîn dûr “and ... his dark”. Based on the corresponding line in the English poem this should be “on his dark throne”.

- *ar* might be actually *or* “above”
- *châdh*, liquid mutated form of *hâdh*, a neologism for “seat”. However *hadhu* is attested for “seat”, and a derived word *ara·hadhu* “throne” is attested as well (in the spelling *arahadhw*).
- *dîn*, the soft mutated form of *tîn* “his/her”
- *dûr* “dark”

Letter E

ᑭᑦ...? ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ

d *gardh mordor*

(?*danin*) *gardh Mordor* “??? land of Mordor”

- *danin* — no idea, perhaps *dan + in* “against the, back to the”
- *gardh* “region”
- *Mordor*, the genitive “of” is implied by word order, cf. *Aran Moria*

Letter R

ᑭᑭ ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ

ias caedar úgelain

ias caedar úgelain “where un-lights lie”

- *ias*, a neologism for “where” on the model of Quenya *yasse* “where” and Sindarin *ennas* “there”
- *caedar*, the plural form of *caeda-* “to lie; to lay (down)”. (Because the attested relative pronouns *i* and *ai* cause soft mutation, I would assume that reconstructed *ias* should too, which would change *caedar* → *gaedar*.)
- *úgelain* appears to be *calan* “(day)light” in the plural (*celain*) with the negative prefix *ú*.