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**HOBIT ANEB CESTA TAM A ZASE ZPÁTKY:
VÝVOJ BILBA PYTLÍKA**

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**THE HOBBIT OR THERE AND BACK AGAIN:
THE DEVELOPMENT OF BILBO BAGGINS**

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ABSTRACT

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The following thesis focuses on Tolkien's *The Hobbit or There and Back Again*, published in 1937, and partially on *The Lord of the Rings*, published in 1954, especially on the character named Bilbo Baggins and his psychological development. Its aim is to observe and subsequently delineate changes in the main character's mental processes and behaviour caused by the key points in his life.

The thesis is divided into four major parts. The first part delineates the hobbits in general as it is important to have knowledge of the whole group before the deep analysis of one representative. The second section renders information about the main character, Bilbo Baggins, and clarifies his decision to join the dwarves in their quest. The next segment is devoted to the crucial points that push him forward in his development. The final part of the thesis deals with the hobbit's development after his return home, which is mainly connected with the power of the found ring of invisibility.

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1. Introduction

The following thesis focuses on Tolkien's *The Hobbit or There and Back Again*, published in 1937, and partially on *The Lord of the Rings*, published in 1954, especially on the character named Bilbo Baggins and his psychological development. Its aim is to observe and subsequently delineate changes in the main character's mental processes and behaviour caused by the key points in his life. Developmental change is usually a transition from less complex to complex. According to Marie Čížková, "The psychological development and its interdependence comprise a complex unit that rests with many factors" (5; translation mine). The psychological development of the individual represents an entity of developmental psychology, which is one of the basic branches of psychology.

The first part deals with the general delineation of the hobbits, that is, their appearance, characteristics and stereotypes. It is important to be familiar with as many facts as possible about the studied group before the proper analysis of an individual commences. Later, the collected data help to demonstrate the potential concordances or variances of that particular individual and therefore, to determine his/her presumptive behavioural patterns.

The next part concerns itself with the depiction of the observed character of Bilbo Baggins before he decided to affiliate to the dwarves on their journey to the Lonely Mountain and illuminates the real causation of his joining the company. The initial state of Bilbo's psyche can be subsequently compared to the resulting state, which helps to illustrate the difference between these two states, that is, the progress achieved through the developing process.

Another part of the thesis focuses on the aforementioned crucial events described in *The Hobbit* that trigger the changes in Bilbo's personality. These are listed chronologically for the attainment of the clearly arranged ideas and involve for instance the encounter with the trolls, the elves of Rivendell, goblins, the find of the ring of invisibility, the meeting Gollum who is the previous owner of the ring, the wild wolves, the eagles, Beorn, spiders and Elves of Mirkwood, people of Esgaroth and in addition the encounter with the dragon and his subsequent defeat. Bilbo's quest can be compared to maturing, although physically he is an adult for a long time. Similarly, as a mental development is a set of changes in mind, Bilbo's development can be characterized as a set of changes in his life. According

to Diogo Gonçalves's essay, "Throughout the story, Bilbo goes through many changes, being at the end of the narrative closer to the epic hero than he was at the beginning" (1).

The final section is devoted to Bilbo's development after sixty years from his adventure with the dwarves, which is mentioned in *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. Because the trilogy predominantly deals with other characters, only several chapters are dedicated to Bilbo. His role in *The Lord of the Rings* is that of "a dying father" in Brooke-Rose's point of view (72). According to *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, Bilbo's further progress is strongly affected by the dark power of the ring, which incidentally was not the initial intention of Tolkien. The only solution to renew Bilbo's mind is to destroy the ring where it was made and so to divest himself of its control and as a result to retain the common sense.

2. General Description of the Hobbits

“In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit.” This is the first sentence of Tolkien’s well known book *The Hobbit or There and Back Again* from 1937 concerning the adventures of the hobbit named Bilbo Baggins. Originally, Tolkien wrote this statement on a blank sheet of paper while correcting students’ essays. In that time, he did not possess any concrete picture of how these creatures should have looked like. Only after he wrote it down, Tolkien commenced to think about the hobbits’ image, nature, habits and stereotypes. Later Tolkien admitted that he himself became a model for these little fellows, as he stated in one of his letters to Deborah Webster from 1958:

I am in fact a Hobbit in all but size. I like gardens, trees, and unmechanized farmlands; I smoke a pipe, and like good plain food (unrefrigerated), but detest French cooking; I like, and even dare to wear in these dull days, ornamental waistcoats. I am fond of mushrooms (out of a field); have a very simple sense of humour (which even my appreciative critics find tiresome); I go to bed late and get up late (when possible). I do not travel much.
(Carpenter, 303)

Furthermore, hobbits in Tolkien’s point of view are keen on meeting their friends in a pub while drinking ale and having fun together. They can seem to be rather lazy or careless but the appearances can be deceptive; they just want to enjoy their lives in peace and harmony which is also the reason why they never do anything unexpected. Hobbits are perceptive and have very keen hearing. As it is clear from the very first sentence of *The Hobbit*, they live underground in their holes which are homely and well equipped. All the rooms lie on the same floor which means that there is no need to go upstairs or downstairs. They are about half our height and can go barefoot for the reason that their feet are naturally furry. Also their hair grows curly and is usually brown or silver when they are old. Their average life span ranges from ninety to one hundred years of age. Nevertheless, due to their delight in eating, the bodies of hobbits remain little bit fat. On the other hand, although hobbits are fond of having fun and organizing various meetings with lots of food, they carry on farming and doing the chores, which indicates that they still try to be hard-working.

3. Characteristics of Bilbo Baggins

The main character of *The Hobbit*, Bilbo Baggins was born on September 22, 2890 of the Third Age to Bungo Baggins and Belladonna Took whose hobbit-hole lies in the side of The Hill in the Country Round. The Bagginses are considered honourable by other hobbits, not only for the reason they have been always wealthy but also they completely meet the conventions of the hobbit lifestyle as it can be proved by Bilbo's pronouncement "We are plain quiet folk and have no use for adventures. Nasty disturbing uncomfortable things! Make you late for dinner! I can't think what anybody sees in them" (Tolkien, H 6). On the contrary, the Tookes are not considered as honourable as the Bagginses are, in spite of being unquestionably wealthier. The reason why the Tookes are not commonly respected is that they have never followed the common habits of the settled life of hobbits and rather preferred an adventurous lifestyle. Bilbo is said to give the impression of being like a second edition of his reliable and likeable father but he has a Tookish heart beating inside him. According to Gandalf the wizard, "Both his parents had died early for Shire-folk, at about eighty; and he had never married" (Tolkien, UT 417).

Actually, it was Gandalf who convinced Thorin Oakenshield of taking Bilbo to his expedition to The Lonely Mountain to get the treasure stolen by the dragon Smaug back. He was searching for someone who possesses a little bit of the Took on one side and at the same time someone who is quite phlegmatic which refers to Baggins more likely. Gandalf remembered Bilbo mainly for his enthusiasm, cleverness, courage, his vital spark, his concern for the world outside the borders of the Shire and his devotion to stories and maps. That Bilbo fancies maps can be demonstrated by the fact that "in his hall there hung a large one of the Country Round with all his favourite walks marked on it in red ink" (Tolkien, H 20). Bilbo is talked about by other hobbits in the sense that he is turning odd and more and more wanders alone; still Gandalf's memory of Bilbo inspired him to recommend the hobbit to the dwarf to take part in his company. Therefore, he drew a secret sign on Bilbo's door, through which the dwarves recognized the right place, as he agreed with Thorin before, "I will put the thief's mark on his door, and then you will find it ... You must look for that door, Thorin Oakenshield! I am serious" (Tolkien, UT 433).

Gandalf wants Bilbo to participate in the expedition for several reasons; not only for his own desire to deal with Smaug but even for his willingness to help Bilbo escape the stereotype and loneliness of his life. Furthermore, the dragon has hardly heard about the

hobbits, much less smelt them, which gives the Thorin's company a huge advantage of moving to The Lonely Mountain undercover. It took a long time to Gandalf to persuade Thorin to engage Bilbo in their business; he even almost failed but finally he forced Thorin to accept it by his utterance:

Listen to me, Thorin Oakenshield! If this hobbit goes with you, you will succeed. If not, you will fail. A foresight is on me, and I am warning you ... I can say no more – unless it is this: I do not give my love or trust lightly, Thorin; but I am fond of this hobbit, and wish him well. Treat him well, and you shall have my friendship to the end of your days. (Tolkien, UT 420)

Gandalf's insistence on Bilbo being a part of Thorin's company proves that the hobbit is of a big value to Gandalf. This is Gandalf's comment on persuading of Thorin, "There were many difficulties on the road afterwards, but for me this was the most difficult part of the whole affair" (Tolkien, UT 420). Afterwards Gandalf admits that he has made a mistake by talking to Thorin before visiting Bilbo first for the reason that Bilbo has changed since the wizard saw him last time and was unpleasantly taken by surprise by unexpected visits of the thirteen unknown dwarves.

As far as Bilbo's hobbies are concerned, apart from his delight in maps, he is also keen on reading and writing poetry and guessing riddles. Besides that, he loves the sound of the whistling kettle, drinking tea and creating smoke rings while sitting in front of his door as the narrator of *The Hobbit* depicts not only in the very first chapter, "Then Bilbo sat down on a seat by his door, crossed his legs, and blew out a beautiful grey ring of smoke that sailed up into the air without breaking and floated away over The Hill" (Tolkien, H 6). In spite of Bilbo's politeness which indicates that he is well-brought-up, the hobbit detests any kind of disturbing. He is fond of visits but only if they are arranged in advance; no wonder that he feels discomposed by the visits of thirteen dwarves instead of one wizard. Despite his amazement of the incursion of the dwarves into his house, Bilbo remains still gentle as it can be seen for instance from his reply to Dwalin's greetings and his subsequent invitation of Dwalin for a tea, "I am just about to take tea; pray come and have some with me" (Tolkien, H 8). This implies the hobbit's ability to keep his head even in the unforeseen situations and simultaneously has the educational effect on children for whom the book was intended at first.

3. 1 Bilbo's Decision to Affiliate the Dwarves on Their Quest

The story of Bilbo Baggins “is a story of how [he] had an adventure, and found himself doing and saying things altogether unexpected” (Tolkien, H 5), which stands in contradiction to the common stereotypes of the hobbits. From the very beginning of *The Hobbit*, it is obvious that Bilbo is influenced by his origins. Both the Baggins and Tookish sides within himself apparently wage the eternal conflict between each other, nevertheless, at the beginning of the story, the Tookish part “only waited for a chance to come out” (Tolkien, H 5). There is need to persuade Bilbo to join the dwarves, which represents perhaps even more difficult task than to persuade Thorin Oakenshield to take Bilbo with him and his company. Initially, Bilbo does not feel comfortable after the unexpected incursion of the dwarves, although in general, he is keen on visitors. Furthermore, he feels affronted by their addressing him ‘a burglar’ but he is too surprised to raise any objection, according to the narrator who states, “but the compliments were quite lost on poor Bilbo Baggins, who was wagging his mouth in protest at being called *audacious* and worst of all *fellow conspirator*, though no noise came out, he was so flummoxed” (Tolkien, H 16). On the other hand, while listening to the dwarves singing, Bilbo temporarily feels the desire to wander with them and to discover the stolen treasure after the defeat of the dragon. Finally, it is the fact that the dwarves think Bilbo is useless, what wakes up the hidden Took in Bilbo and encourages his participation in the quest as he claims:

Pardon me [...] if I have overheard words that you were saying. I don't pretend to understand what you are talking about, or your reference to burglars, but I think I am right in believing [...] that you think I am no good. I will show you. I have no signs on my door – it was painted a week ago –, and I am quite sure you have come to the wrong house. As soon as I saw your funny faces on the door-step, I had my doubts. But treat it as the right one. Tell me what you want done, and I will try it, if I have to walk from here to the East of East and fight the wild Were-worms in the Last Desert. (Tolkien, H 18)

As it is obvious from the citation above, Bilbo's consent of joining the group is a precipitate decision rather than a well thought-out action. Nevertheless, according to Richard Roos, Bilbo represents an ideal main character for an expedition as he is opened to tidings, which is a fundamental prerequisite for the successful ending of the task (1176). As the story continues, there are together eleven references to Bilbo's regretting of his

imprudence, as the narrator emphasizes in the very first chapter, “Many a time afterwards the Baggins part regretted what he did now, and he said to himself: ‘Bilbo, you were a fool; you walked right in and put your foot in it’” (Tolkien, H 18). The regretting of certain decision in the life is a common issue. The beings need to feel assurance and safety on one hand and the possibility of a change on the other. When the individuals feel they lose their assurance and safety, which is in Bilbo’s case represented by his home, they might in danger regret their decision to depart.

4. The Chief Crucial Events Influencing Bilbo Baggins's Development

In fact, Bilbo's development is a long process influenced by several crucial events and a certain portion of luck. Actually, the development of a human being is ordinarily influenced by the biological factors on one side and by the extrinsic factors on the other. Therefore, certain final state is always a result of certain factors' influencing and their mutual interaction. Obviously, Bilbo's nature is different at the beginning of his journey than at the end of it, which is a result of several changes. Similarly, the changes take place from the lower to the higher forms, which means from simplicity to complexity, and are aimed at more and more complex forms of psychological processes as well as the relationships of the individual to the outside world (Čížková & kol. 7, translation mine). According to Dorothy Matthews, "[...*The Hobbit*] is the kind of story that has provided the most profound insights into the human psyche", which is worth of deeper analysis (31). In her essay, Matthews compares Bilbo's journey to the Lonely Mountain to the individuation process and sees a seeking for maturation in his quest that comprises a self-reliant and responsible hobbit. Moreover, the obstructions related to the journey itself may in reality constitute mental rather than physical testing of the main character. Dorothy Matthews explains that as follows:

Just as a hero is mysteriously summoned, often despite his initial reluctance, to undertake a journey beset by perils in order to find some treasure, so each individual must pass through crucial periods of trial at which times part of his former self must die so that a new and changed personality may emerge. A child must pass through puberty before reaching manhood. (32)

It is clear, not only from the Matthews's essay but also from *The Hobbit* itself, that all the evil creatures Bilbo and his friends meet, finding of the ring of invisibility, wandering around the dark forest and even the final battle influence the hobbit's development.

4.1 The Chaotic Inception

The first surprising fact occurs in the morning after the unexpected party in the form of Bilbo's disappointment of the dwarves' departure. It indicates that Bilbo's Tookish part really insists on his joining the company, which surprises even Bilbo himself. However, his feelings slightly change shortly after finding out that he leaves his home without a cap, a cane, without money, his second breakfast, untidy and without a handkerchief. Evidently, Bilbo's mood is influenced by the fact that he does not carry all

the necessary objects. In Wiklander's point of view, "The handkerchief is not just a luxury thing to bring on a journey; the handkerchief can also be seen as a symbol of a child's comfort blanket" (11). This quotation demonstrates that Cecilia Wiklander sees in Bilbo's missing things the first step of independence.

Subsequently, the arrival of the first rain makes Bilbo regret his decision to set out for the journey for the first time as he asserts, "Bother burgling and everything to do with it! I wish I was at home in my nice hole by the fire, with the kettle just beginning to sing" (Tolkien, H 30)! According to the narrator, it is not the last time Bilbo wishes that. When he promises to join the dwarves, he hardly thinks of the comfort and catering during the journey to The Lonely Mountain. The fact that the little hobbit, who has been used to sleep in his bed all his life, has to overnight outdoors and what is more without fire and anything to eat makes him glum because he realises that "adventures are not all pony-rides in May-sunshine" (Tolkien, H 31). Therefore Bilbo remembers his cosy hobbit-hole and the whistle of his kettle.

4.2 The Encounter with the Trolls

Moreover, in spite of his consciousness of threat, it emerges soon that Bilbo prefers wealth to the safety of his companions by trying to rob one of the trolls instead of warning his fellows of the danger associated with the presence of the ogres, which afterwards causes several riots among the dwarves. Even though the dwarves blame Bilbo for his imprudence, after all it is somehow useful to them in the form of the treasure found later in the troll caves: the treasure includes several food supplies as well as the elvish knife that plays also very important part in Bilbo's adventure. Although Bilbo feels very vulnerable on his way to the trolls and he almost does not breathe a word, his ability to move quietly like a mouse encourages him to attempt to steal the troll's purse, in spite of the danger that threatens not only Bilbo himself but also the dwarves. It is obvious that Bilbo is aware of the threat, as he thinks, "Either he should have gone back quietly and warn his friends that there were three fair-sized trolls at hand in a nasty mood, quite likely to try roasted dwarf or even pony, for a change; or else he should have done a bit of good quick burgling" (Tolkien, H 33). Still Bilbo's desire to show Thorin and his company what he can do is apparently bigger than his self-preservation instinct, which results in his attempt not to return empty-handed and therefore ransack the troll's pocket. Bilbo's choice seems to be

also a precipitate decision rather than a well thought-out action, where the hobbit's wish to be useful plays an important part in.

Now that Bilbo is in a tight corner, his smartness and ingenuity become evident when he tries to outfox the trolls. Although he is so scared of them that he is not able to remember the owl hooting, when the going gets tough, he is able to stay calm and pluck up courage to face danger, as he says to the trolls, "I am a good cook myself, and cook better than I cook, if you see what I mean. I'll cook beautifully for you, a perfectly beautiful breakfast for you, if only you won't have me for supper" (Tolkien, H 34). The fact that Bilbo gathers his strength to do something indicates that there is really more in him than one would expect. It shows the reader that it is better for the main character to do something, no matter what the cost, than to do nothing with resignation. On the other hand, without the help of the wizard, Bilbo and the dwarves would hardly survive this adventure; therefore, Bilbo should learn and the next time to think twice before intervention.

4.3 The Visit to Rivendell

Another crucial point appears during the visit to Rivendell, when Elrond helps the fellowship decipher the moon-letters written on their map, which not only gives them fundamental information necessary to get to the Lonely Mountain but also cheers them all up. Elrond gives them wise counsel as well, as for which road the company is to take. Rivendell, full of elvish singing and tasty food, represents a kind of comfort for Bilbo who feels desolated after the ascertainment of the real distance in front of them to travel:

..., and just at that moment he felt more tired than he ever remembered feeling before. He was thinking once again of his comfortable chair before the fire in his favourite sitting-room in his hobbit-hole, and of the kettle singing. Not for the last time! (Tolkien, H 43)

The visit of the elves is the first pleasant experience that Bilbo meets since the start of their journey. On one hand, he is keen on elves and their singing as well, even though he does not know many of them. On the other hand, he is afraid of them little bit, too. For all that, Bilbo desires to stay in Rivendell forever. It is almost unbelievable that Bilbo, known as a lover of good food and comfort, prefers staying with the elves and listening to their songs over the night to eating and sleeping. Moreover, Bilbo supposes that the elvish point of view of the journey to the Lonely Mountain might be interesting for the elves are said to be very intelligent and fond of observing world events. They usually know what is new in a

few seconds and they might be aware of what is happening in The Wilderland. Finally, even though Bilbo does not learn about what interests him, he at least discovers interesting facts about the cunning handwriting, which is not only very useful for the expedition but also exciting for Bilbo himself for the reason that he loves maps and all kinds of letters, as mentioned at the beginning of this thesis.

After leaving Rivendell Bilbo commences to understand the distance between him and his home, which vexes him. It is not only the distance between him and Hobbiton what Bilbo is afraid of, but also a huge storm they experience in the Misty Mountains.

According to Bilbo, it shows that the company does not move as apace as he supposed. When he made his decision to join the dwarves on their journey to the Lonely Mountain, he thought it was closer, and that it would take quite a short time and soon he would be safe back at home.

4.4 The First Proof of Bilbo's Utility

Nevertheless, during their passing through the Misty Mountains it is the first time when Bilbo proves to be useful, which is a significant event in his development as it encourages him and boosts his confidence. It demonstrates that Bilbo is not a burden to the rest of the company, who only adds to their worries. After his noticing the crack in the wall of the cave, every member of the fellowship sees that Bilbo's presence is helpful, after all. It is Bilbo's yell what gives the wizard enough time to disappear unnoticeably and so rescue the hobbit's and the dwarves' lives. However, according to the narrator, while kept in captivity by the goblins, Bilbo thinks of his home again and again, as he states, "and Bilbo was more unhappy even than when the troll had picked him up by his toes. He wished again and again for his nice bright hobbit-hole. Not for the last time" (Tolkien, H 56). Bilbo's dismay and subsequent desire for home result from the menace of killing. The necessity of safety and assurance, one of the basic necessities of life, is not fulfilled in Bilbo's case.

4.5 The First Indication of Bilbo's Self-Reliance

As soon as Bilbo comes to life after the blow to his head, his fright increases as he ascertains he is quite alone. Furthermore, he does not know the way out and the goblins follow hot on his heels. Bilbo's only encouragement shows to be the little sword he got from the trolls' cave, according to which he is able to estimate the distance between him and the goblins. The sword gives Bilbo a great advantage not only for the reason that it

indicates the space between its wearer and the danger, but also the goblins are afraid of it. Bilbo knows quite positively of which value the sword is and that gives him courage to plough ahead with his journey on his own. In Green's point of view, "The blade awakens something Tookish in him, and the hobbit becomes a reluctant warrior and explorer [...]" (28). Although this time Bilbo already carries the ring of invisibility, he does not know what magic is hidden in it and what power it gives to the one who wears it. Another advantage represents the fact that Bilbo is a hobbit who lives underground and so is used to tunnelling as well as to soft movement, as it is described in *The Hobbit*:

Hobbits are not quite like ordinary people; and after all if their holes are nice cheery places and properly aired, quite different from the tunnels of the goblins, still they are more used to tunnelling than we are, and they do not easily lose their sense of direction underground - not when their heads have recovered from being bumped. Also they can move very quietly, and hide easily, and recover wonderfully from falls and bruises, and they have a fund of wisdom and wise sayings that men have mostly never heard or have forgotten long ago. (65)

Still it is somewhat difficult for Bilbo to stay calm because he does not know where his friends are and what happens to them.

4.6 The Meeting with Gollum

The next important part of Bilbo's journey is his encounter with Gollum, the previous tricky owner of the Ring. This very moment when Bilbo first sees Gollum, he thinks about all sorts of disgusting oozy creatures that might appear underground in the water and so there is no wonder that he is all the more frightened of the hissing sound that Gollum produces and of Gollum's pallid eyes watching over him. The riddling contest that they previously agreed on can be compared to a test of Bilbo's ability to hold his nerve and logically ruminates on the right answers under pressure. At this point, a progress in Bilbo's development is quite obvious as he is able to think of a plan and stay calm. Though it is not simple to keep attention both when the time is limited and when there is a threat of being eaten, on the other hand, time-limitation is a common part of life as in their essay, Ordóñez and Benson claim, "many real world decisions are made under some form of time constraint" (122). Generally, it is also said that the first thought is often the best one. Therefore, it might be better to give the answers to the riddles under time pressure because

there is more chance that the replies might be right. On the contrary, when there is more time to think about the assigned task, there is a tendency to incline to the incorrect answer. Moreover, two of the riddles are answered by Bilbo by luck or purely by accident, not by his own efforts. Even though the hobbit seems to be outwardly rather self-composed and even-tempered, inwardly his only thoughts concentrate on finding of the way out since he is scared stiff of the presence of Gollum, as the narrator delineates, “That made the hobbit most dreadfully uncomfortable and scattered his wits” (Tolkien, H 73). Still Bilbo trusts that Gollum keeps his word rather than to try to discover the way out on his own. In spite of the fact that Gollum threatens the hobbit, Bilbo somewhat comprehends his behaviour and feels sorry for him, after he sees the conditions under which Gollum has to live and as a consequence, Bilbo is not able to kill Gollum, although there is an opportunity. It indicates that the hobbit is very sympathetic and therefore a peaceable character.

4.7 The Gaining of the Ring of Invisibility

One of the most important turns in Bilbo’s development is the finding of the ring of invisibility, especially his ascertainment of how it works. This time Bilbo has no idea either of the power of the ring or of its history. Accidentally, after putting on the ring, it emerges that it might be not as ordinary as it seems to be, which is afterwards supported by Gollum’s monologue. Naturally, it is difficult for Bilbo to believe that:

It seemed that the ring he had was a magic ring: it made you invisible! He had heard of such things, of course, in old old tales; but it was hard to believe that he really had found one, by accident. Still there it was: Gollum with his bright eyes had passed him by, only a yard to one side.

(Tolkien, H 79)

Bilbo’s initial scepticism is a result of his rather cerebral thinking. However, when Gollum unintentionally guides Bilbo to the egress, there appears a problem, which cannot be solved either by the magic ring. Again, Bilbo’s courage is necessary to overcome the obstacle in the shape of Gollum sitting in the middle of the way out. It seems that Bilbo’s fright trickles away as Bilbo becomes aware of the fact that whatever he desires, he has to risk for at first. At this stage of Bilbo’s development, he is already used to the idea that he might rely only on himself. Bilbo realizes that he manages nothing by sitting at the same place or thinking about a plan and so that a radical intervention might be a far better variant. It might be a result of Bilbo’s increasing self-assurance, which may be caused by

the finding of the ring and its qualities. The hobbit is aware of the fact that with the help of this ring he is able to achieve whatever he wants without being noticed. Finally, Bilbo's successful escape from the goblins allows him to concern about the rest of the company, which seems to be another difficult task at the sight of the landscape in front of him, as it is described by the narrator in *The Hobbit*:

“Good heavens!” He exclaimed. “I seem to have got right to the other side of the Misty Mountains, right to the edge of the Land Beyond! Where and O where can Gandalf and the dwarves have got to? I only hope to goodness they are not still back there in the power of the goblins!” (84)

The reunion of the hobbit with the rest of the company and their subsequent appreciation of Bilbo's skills make a very different hobbit from Bilbo as also Dorothy Matthews states in her essay, “The new respect which Bilbo has earned from his companions in turn leads to increased self-confidence; he is becoming a very different kind of hobbit. His decision to face danger has profoundly changed him” (36). Actually, it means that the connate qualities corresponding with the Tookish and the Baggins parts of Bilbo's personality are now in harmony and therefore as a result, Bilbo comes over as a capable member of Thorin's company. However, it is a very congenial feeling for Bilbo to be esteemed by the dwarves and so he decides not to tell the rest about the magic ring as the narrator describes, “Indeed Bilbo was so pleased with their praise that he just chuckled inside and said nothing whatever about the ring; and when they asked him how he did it, he said: “Oh, just crept along, you know - very carefully and quietly”” (86). The reason why Bilbo conceals the ring from the rest of the fellowship might be that he wants them to think he manages all the things on his own without the help of the magic ring. He also might be little bit ashamed of the fact that the ring was somewhat stolen by him, although it depends on the point of view; later it proves that the ring itself desires to be found and returned to its master. Thus, the finding of the ring might not be a complete coincidence. According to the narrator, Bilbo still cannot divest of the impression that the wizard sees through his source of success, which makes Bilbo quite uncertain.

4.8 The Want of Aliment

Moreover, Bilbo's adventure is the whole time attended by the want of basic foodstuffs. The food intake is closely related to both the physical and the psychical condition as it not only provides the organism by the weighty energy necessary for the

proper functioning but also satiates the psyche. Thus, the lack of food influences the body and the mind negatively. It is a large strain on the hobbit's psyche, used to at least six meals a day, to starve for a major part of the journey. No wonder that Bilbo passes the journey by searching for food, as it is delineated in *The Hobbit*:

As they went on Bilbo looked from side to side for something to eat; but the blackberries were still only in flower, and of course there were no nuts, not even hawthorn-berries. He nibbled a bit of sorrel, and he drank from a small mountain-stream that crossed the path, and he ate three wild strawberries that he found on its bank, but it was not much good. (89)

It is a common knowledge that food represents one of the basic necessities of life; therefore, in case of the lack of food, no other necessities can be satisfied. When not sufficiently nourished, each organism feels both fatigue, and sleep disorders, which causes more troubles as for instance the melancholy mood as well as depression. It is also proved that the individual unsupplied with nutrients is less sensitive and distracted. The hobbit finds it even harder to confront the lack of aliment because of his eating habits. His conception of time is still influenced by the daily meals, even though there are none, as it can be proved by the narrator's description, "Teatime had long gone by, and it seemed supper-time would soon do the same" (Tolkien, H 45). It indicates hobbit's strong avocation in food. However, despite insufficient nourishment and the subsequent search for any kind of food Bilbo is able to take a fancy to trifles, which points to his strong and balanced personality. Paradoxically, the suffering from the lack of food strengthens him and gives him motivation necessary to continue their way.

4.9 Surrounded by the Wolves

Another crucial point in Bilbo's development from a timid and quite indolent hobbit into a reliable and courageous individual appears when the company is confronted by the wolves. Even though the hobbit is not familiar with wolves from his personal experience, it is evident that he is afraid of them. Nevertheless, Bilbo knows this kind of wolves from recounting of one of his cousins. It might be much worse to encounter with something the person in question is familiar with than to meet something brand new. Furthermore, Bilbo's consternation is strengthened by the fact that his new ring is no use against any kind of animal because of its better sense of smell. It follows that although the bearer cannot be seen, he still can be smelt, which is a great disadvantage. Bilbo's

knowledge of the unusability of the ring makes him feel nervous and helpless at the same time since the ring represents a kind of sense of security for Bilbo. Again he is dependent only on himself or his companions. It is usually difficult to do a step backwards for each individual used to better conditions. Thereto, that the meeting with wolves is quite an experience for Bilbo can be substantiated by the proverb, which he helps to come into existence, as he cries, “What shall we do, what shall we do!” and “Escaping goblins to be caught by wolves!”(Tolkien, H 91). This quotation demonstrates Bilbo’s helplessness as well as the seriousness of the problem. Actually, at this point Dori proves to be a genuine fellow of the hobbit when he risks his own life to save Bilbo’s, as it is described by the narrator in *The Hobbit*:

Dori was really a decent fellow in spite of his grumbling. Poor Bilbo could not reach his hand even when he climbed down to the bottom branch and hung his arm down as far as ever he could. So Dori actually climbed out of the tree and let Bilbo scramble up and stand on his back. (92)

The quotation above shows that the amity emerges between the hobbit and the dwarf, although Dori initially scolds for carrying Bilbo.

4.10 The Eagles’ Help

The next key turn of Bilbo’s development is represented by the encounter of the Eagles. Despite the Eagles save the hobbit’s life, he does not find it a congenial experience to be carried by them as it is painful and, on top of that, Bilbo gets vertigo. Bilbo is also afraid of the Eagles because of his small size; at first he is scared of them since he guesses they eat him for dinner as a rabbit. When Bilbo’s concerns about the Eagles are off, it is obvious that he feels relieved, even though he is hungry again. However, soon Bilbo’s stomach is satisfied by toasted meat, which satiates also him and lets him sleep contentedly though on the solid rock. Finally, Bilbo’s psyche is reflected in his dreams as they are confused as he is in the reality. As soon as Bilbo wakes up, his mind remains puzzled but he realizes in a short time where he is and what is awaiting him. The ascertainment that he is not home as well as the cold breakfast only exacerbates the hobbit’s mood. Furthermore, Bilbo is not delighted at all from another flight in the Eagle’s claws. Still he is now mature enough not to manifest his resistance to flying, as it can be proved by his rejoinder to the Eagle on the inquiry what is better than flying, “Bilbo would have liked to say: “A warm bath and late breakfast on the lawn afterwards;” but he thought it better to say nothing at

all, and to let go his clutch just a tiny bit” (Tolkien, H 103). At last it is apparent that the hobbit feels very relieved after the soft landing.

4.11 In Beorn’s House

Another turning point in the development of the hobbit appears shortly after his leave of the Eagles when the fellowship encounters Beorn. Beorn, who is half a human being and half a bear, with all his animals seems very noteworthy to Bilbo as he has never seen anything like that before. All the diverse plants on Beorn’s garden coerce Bilbo to cogitate of their names. Bilbo’s interest in the nature indicates that this part of the journey is more congenial to him than the others. On the other hand, initially Bilbo’s mind is full of the fear of Beorn, which originates in unawareness of him as well as in his curious appearance. Again, according to the narrator, the hobbit’s dreams are influenced by his tenebrous thoughts, as he portrays in *The Hobbit*:

The hobbit felt quite crushed, and as there seemed nothing else to do he did go to bed; and while the dwarves were still singing songs he dropped asleep, still puzzling his little head about Beorn, till he dreamed a dream of hundreds of black bears dancing slow heavy dances round and round in the moonlight in the courtyard. Then he woke up when everyone else was asleep, and he heard the same scraping, scuffling, snuffling, and growling as before. (120)

However, Bilbo’s opinion on Beorn changes before long when Beorn renders them eatables, accommodation, his own ponies and really salutary pieces of advice. Eventually, the mood of Bilbo deteriorates with the ascertainment of the wizard’s withdrawal. The idea, that it is Bilbo who is now responsible for the rest of the journey, dismays him. Without the wizard he feels very vulnerable and clueless. Bilbo is aware of the fact that the dwarves are quite contingent on him. Moreover, he feels dejected of the food supplies he is to carry because it is a heavy burden for the long way. And the forest seems very terrifying besides, which does not tag on Bilbo’s fortitude. After the hobbit’s unsuccessful attempt not to go on the journey through the forest and rather take another direction, it is beginning to dawn on Bilbo that “Now began the most dangerous part of all the journey” (Tolkien, H 127).

4.12 The Journey through Mirkwood

The next significant milestone of Bilbo's development occurs on the way through the forest. Right from the start Bilbo notices that the forest is not quite safe, although he acknowledges the path they are to take is fairly clear. Even though the hobbits are used to dark places as their holes are underground, Bilbo commences to feel unease after a lapse of time. The arrival of the first night only confirms Bilbo in his persuasion that the forest is really malevolent as he is appalled by the diverse eyes that are all around watching him. Also they cannot make a fire in the forest because it notifies of their presence. Generally, darkness impacts negatively the psyche, which means that the long-term exposure to gloom can trigger depression, distaste for food or the malfunction of the sleep. Albeit it is a huge pressure on the psyche to be exposed to darkness for a long time, it does not seem that Bilbo might be suffering from depression or the absence of appetite, even though he cannot satiate it.

Soon the dwarves take the earliest opportunity to utilize Bilbo, when they want him to climb up the tree and so find the way out. This is the narrator's comment on the selection of Bilbo:

They chose him, because to be of any use the climber must get his head above the topmost leaves, and so he must be light enough for the highest and slenderest branches to bear him. Poor Mr Baggins had never had much practice in climbing trees, but they hoisted him up into the lowest branches of an enormous oak that grew right out into the path, and up he had to go as best he could. (Tolkien, H 135)

The citation above demonstrates how weighty Bilbo is to the dwarves. That is, they seem to be totally reliant on Bilbo's aid. The fact that the hobbit is not experienced in climbing trees is of no concern to the dwarves, which is quite thoughtless of them. Although Bilbo is not much enthusiastic about climbing the tree at first, it turns to be congenial experience at last. After several days they have spent in dark, he can finally see the sun and feel the wind on his cheeks, which really cheers him. It is a pleasant change for the psyche to see the light after the days spent in the complete darkness. Furthermore, Bilbo is delighted by the butterflies flying everywhere around him and he enjoys them for a while. However, his rumination is concluded by the impatient dwarves. Suddenly, Bilbo's delectation is out, when he sees there is nothing but the trees all around the place. Even though Bilbo does his best, the dwarves are not satisfied by what news the hobbit brings them, which is again the

demonstration of their inconsiderateness. Bilbo risks his life to save them all and so he deserves at least a bit of praise, no matter how his task ends. Instead, he meets only the wailing of the dwarves, as the narrator describes, ““The forest goes on for ever and ever and ever in all directions! Whatever shall we do? And what is the use of sending a hobbit!’ they cried, as if it was his fault” (Tolkien, H 136). Because of the lamenting of the dwarves, Bilbo feels even worse than before. Moreover, he feels sorry about the dwarves’ indifference towards the butterflies flying in the light during the blowing wind. Nay the dwarves are annoyed even more, when Bilbo tells them about that.

The subsequent turning off their path might have had fatal consequences, were it not for Bilbo’s intervention. Again, because of Thorin’s incapability to take action, the chief dwarf dispatches the hobbit on spy mission to the lights in the forest, as he states, ““I shall send Mr Baggins alone first to talk to them. They won’t be frightened of him – (‘What about me of them?’ thought Bilbo) – and any way I hope they won’t do anything nasty to him”” (Tolkien, H 139). According to this quotation, the hobbit is not quite without fears. Furthermore, his opinion is not obviously taken into consideration, which again refers to the thoughtlessness of the dwarves. As a result of their straying from the right path, it happens that the company disunites. This part of the journey is one of the worst for Bilbo Baggins because he occurs somewhere in the dark forest without any of his fellows. It is not the first time he has to rely only on his own. This time, Bilbo again remembers his distant home shortly before his encounter with the huge spider. Now in a tight corner Bilbo fortunately recalls his sword, through of which help he contrives to kill the monster. In Rateliff’s point of view, “that [Bilbo] is indeed ‘much bolder and fiercer’ is shortly borne out in the spider battle, where Bilbo attacks first, initiating combat to save his friends [...]” (340). Also according to *The Hobbit*, Bilbo’s victory over the spider is a relevant point in his development, which can be supported by the subsequent citation:

Somehow the killing of the giant spider, all alone by himself in the dark without the help of the wizard or the dwarves or of anyone else made a great difference to Mr Baggins. He felt a different person, and much fiercer and bolder in spite of an empty stomach, as he wiped his sword on the grass and put it back into its sheath. “I will give you a name,” he said to it, “and I shall call you *Sting*.” (141-142)

The fact that Bilbo is able not only to escape unhurt but also to kill the spider without any help ameliorates his own opinion about himself so that he feels self-reliant and strong as

well. From now on, Bilbo is a different person because his decision to confront the threat fundamentally changes him. Bilbo's subsequent appellation of the sword indicates that it is of a great value to him. The presence of the sword together with the ring of invisibility and the dead spider left behind encourages Bilbo to search for the rest of the company. According to Dorothy Matthews's essay, "From this point on, Bilbo has the self-esteem needed to fulfill his responsibilities as a mature and trustworthy leader" (38). Again Bilbo's ability to move quietly proves to be very salutary as it enables him not to be heard or observed by the spiders.

During his rescue operation, Bilbo ceaselessly blames himself for the turning of the path they are to take. His internal monologue demonstrates that he feels better among the rest of the company, as the narrator describes, "'O! Why did we not remember Beorn's advice, and Gandalf's!' he lamented. 'What a mess we are in now! We! I only wish it was *we*: it is horrible being all alone'" (Tolkien, H 142). Bilbo's regretting indicates he is aware of their mistake and simultaneously he is the only one who can liberate his companions. In addition, the hobbit is aghast when he overhears the conversation among the spiders and so ascertains their intentions with the dwarves. Despite Bilbo's consternation he knows only too well that his intervention is absolutely necessary before it is too late. In the succeeding battle against the enraged spiders Bilbo establishes his courageousness, power and intelligence; although a bit of good luck also intervenes. That Bilbo is now really reliable person is obvious from his decision to introduce his ring of invisibility to the dwarves despite his original intent. When he notes there is no other chance he does not vacillate and slips on the ring through the aid of which he defeats the spiders. The end of the battle comes just in time as Bilbo feels that he has no more energy to resist them.

Eventually, it can be seen from several inquiries of the dwarves directed at the hobbit that Bilbo is appraised by them exactly like the wizard had said. The following citation delineates the situation after the victory over the spiders:

[The dwarves] had changed their opinion of Mr Baggins very much, and had begun to have a great respect for him (as Gandalf had said they would). [...] They knew only too well that they would soon all have been dead, if it had not been for the hobbit; and they thanked him many times. Some of them even got up and bowed right to the ground before him, though they fell over with the effort, and could not get on their legs again for some time. Knowing the truth about the vanishing did not lessen their opinion of Bilbo

at all; for they saw that he has some wits, as well as luck and a magic ring – and all three are very useful possessions. In fact they praised him so much that Bilbo began to feel there really was something of a bold adventurer about himself after all, though he would have felt a lot bolder still, if there had been anything to eat. (Tolkien, H 150)

This quotation illustrates what importance the dwarves attach to Bilbo's major success. Therefore, their appreciation influences Bilbo's psyche positively because he commences to cogitate about himself as about a brave adventurer. It means that he becomes a self-confident individual who is aware of the fact that he is able to manage what he resolves. Generally, the self-confident people achieve more success than the ones who do not have faith in themselves; therefore, this is a very significant moment in Bilbo's development.

4.13 The Temporary Residence at the Elves'

Because of the battle Bilbo and the dwarves ascertain to their consternation a bit later that Thorin is missing. This actuality represents a weighty problem because without the chief dwarf the fellowship is not able to continue their way. Furthermore, soon the leader of the company is not the only one missing; the rest of the dwarves is subsequently captured as well and it is only because of a great portion of luck that Bilbo does not pertain to them. Again it is Bilbo's turn to manifest his abilities, which marks the next significant event in his development. Even though the hobbit is disgusted by his stay in the Elvenking's palace, he is willing to assist the dwarves with the escape from there.

However, according to *The Hobbit*, his remembrances are again focused on his home:

“I am like a burglar that can't get away, but must go on miserably burgling the same house day after day,” he thought. “This is the dreariest and dullest part of all this wretched, tiresome, uncomfortable adventure! I wish I was back in my hobbit-hole by my own warm fireside with the lamp shining!” He often wished, too, that he could get a message for help sent to the wizard, but that of course was quite impossible; and he soon realized that if anything was to be done, it would have to be done by Mr Baggins, alone and unaided. (158)

The fact that the stealing food is in conflict with Bilbo's manners indicates that he is a well-brought-up hobbit. Actually, nobody feels comfortable when staying in somebody else's house but it is much worse not to be invited, yet to stay there. Logically, in this sort

of situations the human psyche develops an attachment to something congenial, which is in this case represented by Bilbo's own house.

After his discovery of one more entrance to the king's house, a disconsolate plan of an escape emerges in his mind, and so he has no choice but to wait for an apposite opportunity to execute it. Afterwards, when the time has come to essay the flight, Bilbo is prepared for the quick intervention. He knows only too well that it might be their only chance to attempt the rush. Although Bilbo's head is full of apprehensions about the rescue of the dwarves, he also finds time for returning the keys to the guard, as it is explained by the narrator, "That will save him some of the trouble he is in for," said Mr Baggins to himself. "He wasn't a bad fellow, and quite decent to the prisoners" (Tolkien, H 163). The returning of the keys is useful not only because they are the proof of the guard's innocence but also by reason that the presence of the keys indicates there is other way how the prisoners manage to escape and so to flummox the elves. This idea is also a result of Bilbo's cunningness.

Definitely it cannot be said that Bilbo is selfish or that he thinks only of himself, as opposed to the inception of their journey when they encounter the trolls. Even though Bilbo's plans seem to be absolutely elaborated, still there occurs one imprudent detail. That is in a hurry, the hobbit totally omits to include himself to his plans. The following quotation is evidence of Bilbo's willingness to save his companions at all costs as well as of his responsibility:

It was just at this moment that Bilbo suddenly discovered the weak point in his plan. Most likely you saw it some time ago and had been laughing at him; but I don't suppose you would have done half as well yourselves in his place. Of course he was not in a barrel himself, nor was there anyone to pack him in even if there had been a chance! [...] He wondered what on earth would happen to [the dwarves] without him; for he had not had time to tell the dwarves all that he had learned, or what he had meant to do, once they were out of the wood. (Tolkien, H 165)

From the citation above the change of Bilbo's cerebration is clearly visible. Although the hobbit ascertains the weakness of his plan, the next thing that springs to his mind is what will happen with his fellows, which demonstrates an unusual moral force of Bilbo. Therefore, it testifies to a distinguishable progress in his development. However, in spite of the mistake, Bilbo contrives to escape thanks to his ability to think calmly in a tense

situation. Again the luck is on Bilbo's side and soon the hobbit and the dwarves are in the place of destination.

4.14 The Lonely Mountain

Even though Bilbo is able to see the Lonely Mountain, which is the goal of their journey, he does not feel relief; on the contrary, he is aware of the fact that the real danger is yet to come. Usually, the attainment of the aim impacts the human mind positively because the result of obtaining goals is satisfaction. On the other hand, this is not Bilbo's case. After he knows how dangerous it is only to reach the destination, he can imagine how difficult defeating the dragon might be. There is no sign of his satisfaction, as can be seen from the following, "Bilbo had come far and through many adventures to see it, and now he did not like the look of it in the least" (170). From the citation it is clearly visible the hobbit's disappointment resulting from his impression of the Mountain frowning at him. Also he does not absolutely trust the men as can be seen on his concealing of the sword, which indicates that he learned his lesson from the previous experience as well as that he feels safer with it. Nevertheless, this actuality attests to the progress in Bilbo's development as it is obvious that now he assays to foresee the possible incidents to be able to react on them. Again, the only thing that delights Bilbo is expressing of the dwarves' gratitude towards him. Actually, it is only the dwarves who praise Bilbo because the men are not familiar with the hobbits; they only know the dwarves, especially Thorin's antecedents. This might be the reason why Bilbo feels redundant or less weighty because despite his bravery nobody is interested in him. Therefore, it is a manifestation of the necessity of life belonging to each individual to be respected by other people. In spite of the acclaim of the dwarves, Bilbo is still cogitating about the sight of the Lonely Mountain, as it is described by the narrator:

Then, as [Thorin] had said, the dwarves' good feeling toward the little hobbit grew stronger every day. There were no more groans or grumbles. They drank his health, and they patted him on the back, and they made a great fuss of him; which was just as well, for he was not feeling particularly cheerful. He had not forgotten the look of the Mountain, nor the thought of the dragon, and he had beside a shocking cold. For three days he sneezed and coughed, and he could not go out, and even after that his speeches at banquets were limited to "Thag you very buch." (Tolkien, H 179)

The quotation above is a proof of Bilbo's poor both mental and physical state. Finally, after the departure from the town, Bilbo's feelings remain the same if not worse, as can be seen on the assertion, "The only person thoroughly unhappy was Bilbo" (Tolkien, H 181). It seems that in contrast to all his previous adventure, Bilbo has no more energy to resist the dragon.

The next crucial sequence of events influencing the development of Bilbo's psyche takes place under the Lonely Mountain. After the silent arrival of the fellowship to the bottom of the Mountain, it is turn to find the secret entrance inside. Again it is principally the hobbit that has to ruminate over some plan, according to which they are able to get there. Bilbo is aware of the fact that the faster he discovers the entry the sooner he is back at home, which is his only desire. Therefore, he spends a lot of time by looking at the map of Thorin and thinking of a way that takes the hobbit and the dwarves into the Mountain. Although Bilbo manages to find the entrance, there is still one little problem and that is how to open the door. However, despite it might be difficult, it is necessary to be patient and have strong nerves in this sort of situations because the prominent decisions should not be rushed. Therefore, it is important to stay calm and to concentrate only on the subject matter. However, the bad times come as the companions must not show any sign suggesting of their presence in the interest of their safety. The fact that no progress seems to be in ken impacts negatively the psyche of all the company, especially of Bilbo who desires most of them to return back home. In general, the time passes more slowly when there is nothing to do, which is also the reason why the stay of Bilbo and the dwarves in front of the main entrance seems to last for ages. Therefore, after all that he has done for them, the hobbit is sorry to hear the dwarves complaining about him. The following quotation from *The Hobbit* illustrates Bilbo's feelings after his ascertainment that the dwarves are no more grateful to him:

Bilbo heard this – the dwarves were on the rocks just above the enclosure where he was sitting – and "Good Gracious!" he thought, "so that is what they are beginning to think, is it? It is always poor me that has to get them out of their difficulties, at least since the wizard left. Whatever am I going to do? I might have known that something dreadful would happen to me in the end. I don't think I could bear to see the unhappy valley of Dale again, and as for that steaming gate! !!" (189)

It is again the dwarves' ungraciousness to put the blame for their lack of success on Bilbo. Subsequently, because of the attitude of the dwarves to the hobbit, Bilbo feels more disappointed than ever before as he does not deserve such an ingratitude after all. There might be even a sign of self-pity as Bilbo apparently desires someone else to do the difficult tasks. Moreover, his mental state triggers that Bilbo's sleep is not continuous. The fitful sleep is simultaneously the nub of all the problems because it limits efficacious energy expenditure, influences the capability of the brain to react on the initiative as well as causes several health complications. In spite of Bilbo's exhaustion caused by the lack of sleep, he cannot divest himself of the haunting sense that something is to happen after all. Eventually, it is again Bilbo who puts the pieces of already known information together and therefore discovers the way to open the door.

By this time Bilbo is a much more different person than the one who commenced the journey without a handkerchief. After all his experience he is now a self-confident, reliable and brave fellow who assumes the leadership of all the company. Moreover, Bilbo does not obey the orders of the dwarves; on the contrary, he is the one to set the conditions. The hobbit knows only too well that the dwarves are contingent on his services and that is the reason why he does not let them complain about him anymore. However, Bilbo is delighted by Balin's display of amity as this dwarf is the only one who is willing to join Bilbo on his way down to negotiate with the dragon. Balin's demeanour affirms a well known proverb, "A friend in need is a friend indeed". The fact that Balin joins Bilbo makes the hobbit even more self-assured as he feels for the first time that he is not thrown back only on himself. In spite of the presence of Balin, there is still little doubt in Bilbo's mind caused by the fear of the unknown. The following citation is the narrator's comment on Bilbo's route to the dragon's lair:

Then the hobbit slipped on his ring, and warned by the echoes to take more than hobbit's care to make no sound, he crept noiselessly down, down, down into dark. He was trembling with fear, but his little face was set and grim. Already he was a very different hobbit from the one that had run out without a pocket-handkerchief from Bag-End long ago. He had not had a pocket-handkerchief for ages. He loosened his dagger in its sheath, tightened his belt, and went on. "Now you are in for it at last, Bilbo Baggins," he said to himself. "You went and put your foot right in it that night of the party, and now you have got to pull it out and pay for it! Dear

me, what a fool I was and am!” said the least Tookish part of him. “I have absolutely no use for dragon-guarded treasures, and the whole lot could stay here for ever, if only I could wake up and find this beastly tunnel was my own front-hall at home!” (Tolkien, H 192-193)

Again Bilbo’s remembrances are focused on his distant home, which is a symbol of shelter for the hobbit. Despite being aware of the fact that it is an insanity to go to meet the dragon, he wants to be through it soon and subsequently at home. However, the real battle between Baggins and Tookish sides of his character takes place during his way through the tunnel. Afterwards, it seems that the Tookish part of Bilbo’s character wins, as he continues his journey to the heart of the Mountain.

The sight of all the gold lying in front of him makes Bilbo even forget about the dragon guarding the dwarves’ stolen treasure. The hobbit had never seen that much gold at one place, which is also the reason why initially he is not able to breathe or speak at the sight of the treasure. Subsequently, after Bilbo comes to his senses, he essays to rob the dragon of one small piece of the treasure, which turns to be not a wise idea at all. However, the hobbit’s intention is clear; he desires to show the dwarves they chose a good companion for their quest as he is able to steal a piece of gold guarded by the dragon. It seems that the only thing Bilbo wants is to prevail up on the dwarves to acknowledge their error because his chief thought is, as the narrator emphasizes, “I’ve done it! This will show them. ‘More like a grocer than a burglar’ indeed! Well, we’ll hear no more of that” (Tolkien, H 194). The previous quotation shows Bilbo’s desire to be highly regarded by the dwarves, not only for his courage but also for his bringing the piece of the treasure.

Consequently, it is again Bilbo who saves the other companions’ lives after the dragon’s ascertainment of the missing golden cup. This time Bilbo keeps a grip on the control as the dwarves apparently rely on his abilities as well as on his ring of invisibility and on the luck that seems to be on his side:

Naturally the dwarves accepted [Bilbo’s] offer eagerly. Already they had come to respect little Bilbo. Now he had become the real leader in their adventure. He had begun to have ideas and plans of his own. When midday came he got ready for another journey down into the Mountain. He did not like it of course, but it was not so bad now he knew, more or less, what was in front of him. Had he known more about dragons and their wily ways, he

might have been more frightened and less hopeful of catching this one napping. (Tolkien, H 199)

Because Bilbo has already seen the dragon he feels more self-composed as can be seen in the quotation above. It is connected with the fact that human mind inclines usually to dismay of the unknown. Therefore, in case that the individual is familiar with what awaits him, the fear is in remission.

4.14.1 The Discovery of the Dragon's Weak Point

As Bilbo remembers, according to his father, "Every worm has his weak spot" (Tolkien, H 199). Consequently, this proverb turns to be true when Bilbo discovers the demerit of the dragon, which plays a vital part in his devastation. During his conversation with the dragon, Bilbo proves to be a sagacious negotiator and it is only because of his cunningness that he finds the hole in the dragon's waistcoat. On one hand, a good thing for Bilbo is that the dragon does not know his smell, which throws him off his balance. On the other hand, Bilbo loses his confidence as well after hearing the dragon's opinion on the dwarves and their desire to retrieve the stolen treasure. Even though Bilbo did not set out for the journey because of the gold, of course, he wants what belongs to him. This fact illustrates that finally Bilbo is aware of his price and the price of his services. Despite his discovery of the dragon's weak point, after his return from the dragon's lair the hobbit feels very uncomfortable, which can be supported by his venting anger on the innocent thrush. The origin of Bilbo's dejection comes from his sorrow for the information given unintentionally to the dragon. Although the dragon's failing is revealed only owing to Bilbo's smartness, on the contrary, he feels that it is his fault that the dragon knows what direction the company goes from. Therefore, Bilbo regrets his conversation with the dragon as he is sure that by his endeavour lot of innocent people are endangered. Moreover, the danger threatens not only the people living in the Lake-town but also Bilbo and the dwarves. Because the hobbit is aware of it, he is again able to save both his own life and of his fellows.

4.14.2 Bilbo's Disposal with the Arkenstone

The last crucial event in Bilbo's development, as far as the journey is concerned, refers to his accidental discovery of the Arkenstone. As the narrator reports, in spite of Bilbo's enchantment with it, later Bilbo surmises that it only adds to his worries:

Bilbo was climbing the great mound of treasure. Soon he stood upon the top, and still went on. Then they saw him halt and stoop for a moment; but they did not know the reason. It was the Arkenstone, the Heart of the Mountain. [...] Suddenly Bilbo's arm went towards it drawn by its enchantment. His small hand would not close about it, for it was a large and heavy gem; but he lifted it, shut his eyes, and put it in his deepest pocket. "Now I am a burglar indeed!" thought he. "But I suppose I must tell the dwarves about it – some time. They did say I could pick and choose my own share; and I think I would choose this, if they took all the rest!" All the same he had an uncomfortable feeling that the picking and choosing had not really been meant to include this marvellous gem, and that trouble would yet come of it. (Tolkien, H 212-213)

Although initially Bilbo does not know what to use it for, later with the help of this gem he prevents the battle between the dwarves and men with elves on the other side. From the foregoing description it is not clear whether Bilbo wants the Arkenstone for his own or whether he intends to use it more advisedly. Anyway, according to Bilbo's bad feeling, he is aware of the fact that by taking the stone he pursues something what the dwarves do not appreciate. He knows only too well what the gem denotes to the dwarves and so his intervention would cause objectionable corollaries.

After Bilbo's ascertainment that the adventure is not over with the decease of the dragon, his only goal is to terminate it once and for all. As Bilbo notices that Thorin is not going to change his mind, he determines to intervene and so to expedite the whole affair with negotiating. According to *The Hobbit*, soon "the beginnings of a plan had come into his little head" (240). The fact that Bilbo decides to take the events by the scruff of the neck indicates that a measurable progress in his development was made. This time he does not rely on someone else's help, which shows that he becomes a self-reliant individual who does his best to achieve what he resolves. Moreover, he cares about the general welfare as well because he does not want to cause harm to anybody but only to return safely back home. Subsequently, Bilbo proves to be a great peace negotiator as not only that his arguments make the elves believe him and, what is more, to praise his idea, as the narrator asserts:

The Elvenking looked at Bilbo with a new wonder. "Bilbo Baggins!" he said. "You are more worthy to wear the armour of elf-princes than many

that have looked more comely in it. But I wonder if Thorin Oakenshield will see it so. I have more knowledge of dwarves in general than you have perhaps. I advise you to remain with us, and here you shall be honoured and thrice welcome.” (Tolkien, H 244)

According to the citation, the Elvenking impugns the dwarves’ understanding for Bilbo’s intervention, as unfortunately turns to be right later. Again the hobbit shows his fairness and willingness to be responsible for his own actions. Although Bilbo is afraid of the dwarves’ response to what he has done, he politely declines the offer of the Elvenking, which points to his extraordinarily strong character. Moreover, it demonstrates Bilbo’s ability to make his own decisions and to be responsible for his conduct. Apparently, it is not only the elves who praise Bilbo’s fortitude but also the wizard, who returned not long ago, seems to be delighted by Bilbo’s conduct. In spite of the fact that Bilbo cannot divest himself of the guilty feeling, he is pleased at the success of his plan and at his seeing the wizard.

4.14.3 The Final Battle

Even though Bilbo stops the coming battle between the dwarves on one side and men and elves on the other, another battle turns to be inevitable. Despite Bilbo does not play any significant role in it, according to the narrator it is the battle he was later “most proud of, and most fond of recalling long afterwards [...]” (Tolkien, H 253). Actually, were it not for Bilbo’s possession of the ring of invisibility, of the elvish armour, which he was given by Thorin before and of a certain portion of luck, he would hardly survive the battle, so it is fearful. At the end of the battle, in spite of his preceding anger dying Thorin forgives Bilbo his intentions with the Arkenstone; nay, he manifests his understanding of Bilbo’s behaviour, which delights the hobbit most because he only wants each other to part in kindness. Furthermore, Bilbo is even esteemed by Thorin for his qualities, as he clarifies, “If more of us valued food and cheer and song above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world” (Tolkien, H 259). Bilbo is pleased by Thorin’s forgiveness as he acknowledges that it was an unforgettable adventure, of which he is glad to be a member. At last Bilbo accompanied by the wizard and Beorn is preparing for the return journey, which he has looked forward to all the time of their adventure.

4.15 Bilbo's Unexpected Return

Although Bilbo does not regret his complicity in the quest of the dwarves, he can hardly wait to be back at home. In spite of the fact that the hobbit really enjoys their stays in Beorn's house and in Rivendell, he still longs for his own home. Anyway, he is now truly a different person; however, it seems that the Baggins part of him commences to predominate again. Even though Bilbo's homecoming does not go off without a hitch as opposed to his surmises, it does not seem to bother him. It indicates that now he is aware of the fact that there might be more serious problems and so there is no point in losing time in banalities. The citation below illustrates the narrators comment on Bilbo's reaction to the auction taking place in his hole and the subsequent loss of his repute among other hobbits:

I am sorry to say he did not mind. He was quite content; and the sound of the kettle on his hearth was ever after more musical than it had been even in the quiet days before the Unexpected Party. His sword he hung over the mantelpiece. His coat of mail was arranged on a stand in the hall (until he lent it to a Museum. His gold and silver was largely spent in presents, both useful and extravagant – which to a certain extent accounts for the affection of his nephews and nieces. His magic ring he kept a great secret, for he chiefly used it when unpleasant callers came. He took to writing poetry and visiting the elves; and though many shook their heads and touched their foreheads and said "Poor old Baggins!" and though few believed any of his tales, he remained very happy to the end of his days, and those were extraordinarily long. (Tolkien, H 271)

As it is obvious from *The Hobbit*, after the adventure Bilbo lives life to the fullest. He reveres details of ordinary life even more than ever before, nevertheless, he does not forget about his real friends. It is a proof of Bilbo's knowledge of his social role he is to discharge. According to Dorothy Matthews, "Bilbo finds the greatest prize of all: a knowledge of his own identity" (41). That is at the end of the journey Bilbo has grown to manhood from psychological point of view, as he trusts his own judgements and despite obstacles he is able to use his discretion. Furthermore, he knows his role in the context of the whole world and is satisfied by himself.

5. Bilbo's Development after His Comeback

The final stage of Bilbo's life is closely related to the magic ring which possesses power to control the mind of its user. The ring is a symbol of evil, which influences its wearer's psyche in a negative way as well as his physical condition in the sense that the body does not grow old. According to George H. Thomson, "[Gandalf] understands also that it must be destroyed, for the Ring of absolute power [...] will corrupt any one, however strong and good" (52). Although Bilbo is a balanced individual when he returns home, after some time spent by his occasional use of the ring despite Gandalf's previous warning, Bilbo's mind slowly changes. In Witzsche's point of view, "[The ring] determines the actions of men to fulfil its purpose" (14). In addition, as a result of the influence of the ring, he feels thin and stretched, as he clarifies, "I feel I need a holiday, a very long holiday, as I have told you before. Probably a permanent holiday: I don't expect I shall return. In fact, I don't mean to, and I have made all arrangements" (Tolkien, LOTR1 23). Consequently, he decides to depart from the Shire leaving all his property including the ring to his adopted cousin Frodo. Once more the hobbit's mind wages an internal battle – whether take the ring with him or leave it to Frodo. The fact that the ring has a command of him can be proved by his changed behaviour. As in his essay Thomson alleges, "at a lower level the Ring exerts a terrible attraction simply as a possession" (52). However, Bilbo's farewell with the ring is not as easy as it might seem to be, which points to his strong addiction to it. The following quotation is Bilbo's own comment on his relationship to the ring:

Bilbo drew his hand over his eyes. 'I am sorry,' he said. 'But I felt so queer. And yet it would be a relief in a way not to be bothered with it any more. It has been so growing on my mind lately. Sometimes I have felt it was like an eye looking at me. And I am always wanting to put it on and disappear, don't you know; or wandering if it is safe and pulling it out to make sure. I tried locking it up, but I found I couldn't rest without it in my pocket. I don't know why. And I don't seem able to make up my mind.' [...] Bilbo took out the envelope, but just as he was about to set it by the clock, his hand jerked back, and the packet fell on the floor. Before he could pick it up the wizard stooped and seized it and set it in its place. A spasm of anger passed swiftly

over the hobbit's face again. Suddenly it gave way to a look of relief and a laugh. 'Well, that's that,' he said. 'Now I am off!' (Tolkien, LOTR1 25)

Bilbo is aware of the evil power of the ring as well as of the fact that without the ring he will soon die but he knows as well that death is the natural part of life and so he prepares for his last journey to see his friends in Rivendell and in Dale at last and to finish his writing of the book there. According to Leif Jacobsen, "He has finally been given the chance to age and enjoy his days of retirement" (17). Furthermore, Bilbo's strong will manifests itself on Elrond's conference when he understands that the only way to establish peace once and for all is to destroy the evil ring. The only thing that seems to bother Bilbo is that he feels responsible for Frodo's quest; therefore, he renders his dagger and mail to Frodo in a hope that it will help him to save his life. Moreover, Bilbo is not awaiting himself to start for a new journey and so Frodo will find it more useful. Bilbo regrets that because of him Frodo is to make a dangerous journey to destroy the ring as can be seen on his thinking about the never-ending adventures. After Frodo's successful return to Rivendell, Bilbo seems to be aged but self-composed and enervated; nevertheless, his wish is to outlive the Old Took. Additionally, although Bilbo seems contented, he desires to see the ring of invisibility once more for the last time:

'What's become of my ring, Frodo, that you took away? [...] What a pity!' said Bilbo. 'I should have liked to see it again. But no, how silly of me! That's what you went for, wasn't it: to get rid of it? But it is all so confusing, for such a lot of other things seem to have got mixed up with it: Aragorn's affairs, and the White Council and Gondor, and the Horsemen, and Southrons, and oliphaunts – did you really see one, Sam? – and caves and towers and golden trees, and goodness knows what besides. I evidently came back by much too straight a road from my trip. I think Gandalf might have shown me round a bit. But then the auction would have been over before I got back, and I should have had even more trouble than I did. Anyway it's too late now; and really I think it's much more comfortable to sit here and hear about it all. The fire's very cosy here, and the food's very good, and there are Elves when you want them. What more could you want?' (Tolkien, LOTR3 166)

It can be seen on Bilbo's confusion of all the events that now he is really old. Evidently, he regrets that he did not continue his journey after his return from the adventure and rather

stayed at home, even though he is aware of the fact that he would have lost all his property. However, Bilbo is happy about his stay in Rivendell as he lacks nothing there. Finally, Bilbo's only wish comes true when he survives the Old Took at the age of a hundred and thirty-one. It seems he is really delighted by his long life as he says, "Well, I have passed the Old Took today! So that's settled. And now I think I am quite ready to go on another journey. Are you coming?" (Tolkien, LOTR3 195). Bilbo's pronouncement testifies to his even temper as there is nothing unfulfilled in his life.

6. Conclusion

The main purpose of the thesis was to observe the psychological development of Bilbo Baggins, a character performing in *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*, which is influenced by several crucial points. The aim was to discover and delineate those crucial events and to define their effect on the psyche of the hobbit. It was proved by research that Bilbo Baggins's nature is quite different at the commencement than at the end of his life. The greatest changes of Bilbo's mind always arise after a conflict either with another character or within Bilbo's personality.

Also the familial traits play an important role in Bilbo's psyche as it is obvious that the two sides of his character take turns in predominating, which results in relevant types of his behaviour. It can be said that at the inception of *The Hobbit* the Baggins side preponderates within him, which is soon substituted by the Tookish side as he commences his journey. Afterwards again the Baggins side prevails, as opposed to *The Lord of the Rings*, where the Tookish type of behaviour becomes predominant once more. Generally, there are presented more types of character in each individuality, however, it depends on the specific situation what type of character has the upper hand.

The final element significant for the changes in Bilbo's character refers to the bodily needs, especially hunger and the paucity of sleep. Starvation has a negative impact on human psyche and on the physical aspect as well. Substantial sleep is a weighty part of life as it provides energy not only to the organism but also to the mind. Commonly, when the basic necessities of life are not satisfied, then no other necessities can be. Thus, the psychical progress of an individual is arrested until the necessities are fulfilled.

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SHRNUTÍ

Tato bakalářská práce se zabývá vývojem Bilba Pytlíka, protagonisty Hobita (1937) a Pána Prstenů (1954). Protože v době, kdy se Bilbo vydává na svou cestu s trpaslíky je už fyzicky dospělý, tato práce studuje spíše jeho psychologický vývoj a srovnává počáteční stav s konečným.

Bakalářská práce je rozdělena do čtyř hlavních částí. První část se zabývá popisem hobitů obecně, jejich vzhledem, vlastnostmi a zvyky, protože analýza jednotlivce obvykle začíná studiem celé skupiny. Druhá část popisuje Bilba Pytlíka z pohledu autora a Gandalfa a udává důvod, proč se Bilbo rozhodl podniknout nebezpečnou výpravu. Třetí a nejobsáhlejší část identifikuje rozhodující události, které zapříčinily změny v jeho vývoji, jako například nález kouzelného prstenu, který zároveň ovlivňuje i Bilbův pozdější vývoj, o čemž pojednává i poslední kapitola této bakalářské práce. Závěr ve zkratce stanovuje původní cíl práce a definuje její výsledek.

Průzkumem bylo zjištěno, že dobrodružství Bilba Pytlíka spojené s cestou k Osamělé hoře úzce souvisí s jeho duševním vývojem. Na začátku díla je pohodlný a možná trochu zbabělý a sobecký na rozdíl od konce, kde se z něho stává soběstačný, statečný a moudrý hobit, což značí určitou změnu osobnosti. Nicméně Bilbův vývoj je ovlivněn ještě jinými faktory, jako například zvyky, dědičné předpoklady nebo neuspokojené primární potřeby.