

THE HOBBIT

CHAPTER ABSTRACTS – CHAPTER 3

- After crossing mountainous terrain, the travelers arrive at Rivendell, an enclave of elves governed by Elrond, a master of ancient lore and wisdom.
- The travelers rest and enjoy Rivendell, replenishing their provisions and preparing to cross the Misty Mountains.
- Elrond reads the runes on the swords taken by Gandalf and Thorin from the trolls' hoard, and discovers these swords were made by the High Elves of long-lost Gondolin (Gandalf's sword, Glamdring, once belonged to the King of Gondolin).
- Elrond also investigates Thorin's map and finds moon-letters on it that tell the reader where and when the keyhole to the secret door can be found.
- Quest adventures often involve comic relief and/or respite from hardship for the questers; the Rivendell episode has this function.
- In this chapter, Tolkien lets what he would call "higher matters" creep into a children's story. These are references to his private mythology (outlined in the Silmarilion) such as Durin, Gondolin and Elrond.
- The high level of detail given in the description of the road to Rivendell, along with the hints of a complex history, combines to make Middle-earth a realistic and believable "secondary world."

