

Before

Michael Vass

Abstract

The poem "Before" is infused with references to epic poetry as journeys to God, bringing the ideas of glory and renown back to the root, Him. I have enjoyed reading epic poems as they address heroism and greatness, but the most a Christian can hope for is to be faithful with what they are given, even if it seems unimportant. I hope this poem inspires readers to reflect on epic themes and how God can be seen through them.

Keywords: epic, poetry, Christian hope

Before, before Beowulf was nevermore.
Before the gluttoned Grendel's arm he tore.

Before, before the laurel poets wore,
Before Eros' poison settled the score.

Before, before he shot suitors galore,
Before Calypso bound Noman on shore.

Before, before Homer's epic of war.
Before by gods the heroes fought and swore.

Before, before Milton's Adam thought more
Before the bitter bite for Eve he tore.

Before, before the skies outstretched Atlas bore.
Before me now the one that I adore.