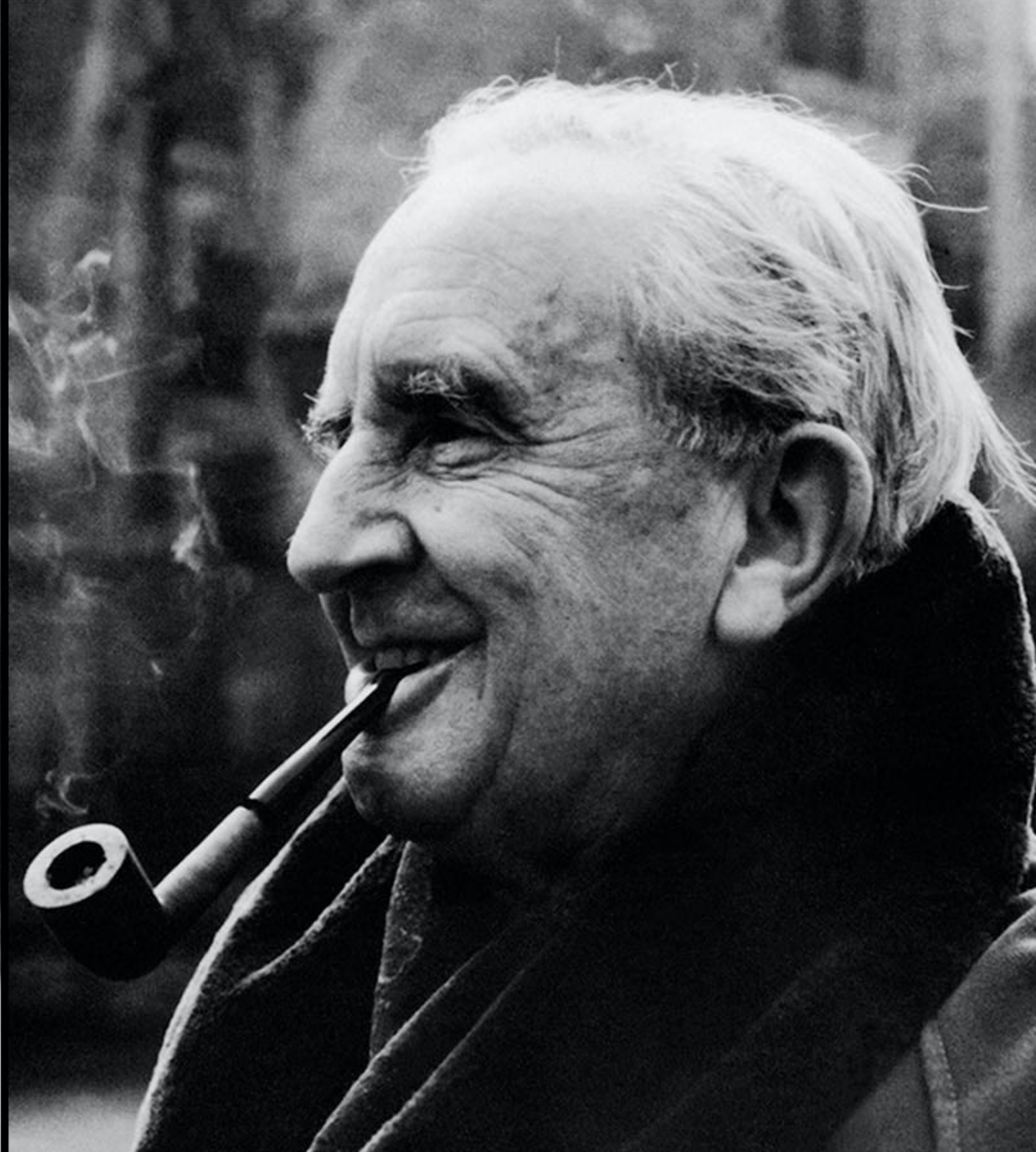


THE  
*Wise Women*

OF CHRISTMAS







# Hamlet and Horatio

**Hamlet and Horatio**

**Celie and Nettie**









In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. The man's name was Elimelek, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion.

*Ruth 1: 1 - 2*

Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

*Ruth 1: 3 - 5*

With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah.

*Ruth 1 : 7*

Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back, each of you, to your mother’s home. May the Lord show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. May the Lord grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband.” Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud and said to her, “We will go back with you to your people.”

*Ruth 1 : 8 - 10*

But Naomi said, “Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? Return home, my daughters;

*Ruth 1 : 11 - 12*

It is more bitter for me than for you, because  
the Lord's hand has turned against me!"

At this they wept aloud again.

*Ruth 1: 13 - 14*

Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law  
goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

*Ruth 1:14*



What does Ruth do  
that's wise? On the  
road to her future,  
she embraces the  
***power of friendship***

“Look,” said Naomi, “your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her.”

*Ruth 1 : 15*

But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.”

*Ruth 1 : 16 - 17*

Grit



When Naomi realized that Ruth was  
***determined*** to go with her...

Ruth 1 : 18

Here's the grit question:

Here's the grit question:

*Are your relationships based on what **others can do for you**, or on what **you can bring to the table in friendship**?*

Grit

Grace





Here's the grace question:

**Here's the grace question:**

*Is there a price tag on  
your relationships?*

...the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?" "Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty.

*Ruth 1: 19 - 21*

I left here full of life, and God has brought me back with nothing but the clothes on my back.

Grit

Grace

Gratitude



**Here's the gratitude question:**

Here's the gratitude question:

*To what lengths will you  
go to **show your gratitude**  
to someone else?*

So Boaz said to Ruth, “My daughter, listen to me. Don’t go and glean in another field and don’t go away from here. Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the women. I have told the men not to lay a hand on you.

*Ruth 2 : 8 - 9*



“It will be good for you, my daughter,  
to go with the women who work for  
him, because in someone else’s field  
you might be harmed.”

*Ruth 2 : 22*

“For your daughter-in-law, who loves  
you and who is better to you than  
seven sons...”

*Ruth 4 : 15*