



## **Peril & Mystery:** **The Theology of Fairyland** with Dr. Junius Johnson

Webinar Show Notes

### **Agenda**

- A. Synopsis:** In this talk, theologian and author Dr. Junius Johnson explores the way Fairyland embodies central theological themes, such as the holiness of God, the relation of the natural to the supernatural, and the transformative power of salvation. He expounds on the boundary between Mystery and the Fantastical as they come together in this world and for eternity. Dr. Johnson shares for the first time a short fairy tale written for adults embodying these truths.
- B. Personal Announcements:**
- Books: *On Teaching Fairy Stories*: [eBook](#) & [print](#)
  - Courses: [Teaching Fairy Stories](#); [Close Reading: Fantastical Literature](#); [Theology of the Imagination](#)
  - Websites: [www.juniusjohnson.com](http://www.juniusjohnson.com) & [Junius Johnson Academics](#)
- C. Main Goals Tonight (30-35 mins):**
- The God-head: Fairyland & holiness
  - The Incarnation: Fairyland & the relation of the natural and supernatural
  - Salvation & Transformation: Fairyland as the Realm Perilous
- D. Q & A to follow (15-20 mins)**



## **TONIGHT'S OUTLINE**

- I. Preparing the soil: a fairytale reading by Junius
- II. Contact between fairyland and theological truths
  - a. The God-head: Fairyland and holiness
  - b. The Incarnation: Fairyland & the relation of the natural and supernatural
  - c. Salvation & Transformation: Fairyland as the Realm Perilous

## **Q & A**

*Some questions that were answered in the webinar*

- When should we stop reading fairy stories?
- What is the value of reading retellings of fairy tales to children instead of the original tales?
- When do you recommend beginning reading Spenser's Faerie Queene?
- How do you write good symbolism reflecting Christian themes in stories like mystery and adventure?
- What is your advice in defense of original readings written for adults read to children?
- What should we avoid when teaching Story to students?

## **Encore Resources**

- I. **Where you can find Junius Johnson:**
  - A. Websites:
    1. [Junius Johnson Academics](#)
    2. [www.juniusjohnson.com/](http://www.juniusjohnson.com/)
  - B. [Schedule a meeting](#)



## II. Junius's Resources

- A. Books
  - 1. [Find his titles here](#)
- B. Articles & Essays
  - 1. ["Dragonish Thoughts in Our Hearts: Dragons as Mirrors of the Human."](#) *An Unexpected Journal* 4:2 (2022)
  - 2. ["Nothing More Likely."](#) *Story Warren*, April 17, 2023.
  - 3. [Find more articles and reviews here](#)
- C. Podcast & Radio Interviews
  - 1. [The Classical Mind](#) podcast
  - 2. [The Consortium Podcast, episode 40](#)

## III. Recommended Reading:

- A. [The Hobbit](#) by J.R.R. Tolkien
- B. [The Chronicles of Narnia](#) by C.S. Lewis
- C. [The Neverending Story](#) by Michael Ende
- D. [The Light Princess](#) by George MacDonald
- E. [Phantastes](#) by George MacDonald
- F. [Have Sword, Will Travel](#) by Garth Nix and Sean Williams
- G. [The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making](#) by Catherynne M. Valente
- H. [The Dragon of Lonely Island](#) by Rebecca Rupp
- I. [The Dark Is Rising](#) by Susan Cooper
- J. [The Faerie Queene](#), a text-faithful, contemporary prose rendering by Rebecca K. Reynolds

## IV. Related Resources:

- A. [CiRCE Institute blog](#): All Great Stories Are Biblical by Josh Mayo
- B. [A CiRCE Guide to Reading](#)
- C. [Tales of Wonder Volume 1 + 2](#)
- D. [The Commons Podcast](#): Angelina Stanford on the "Problem" of Magic in Children's Literature
- E. [412TEENS.ORG](#)
- F. [Forma; Issue 18; p. 68](#): The Ubiquity of Classical Pedagogy: A Study in Video Games