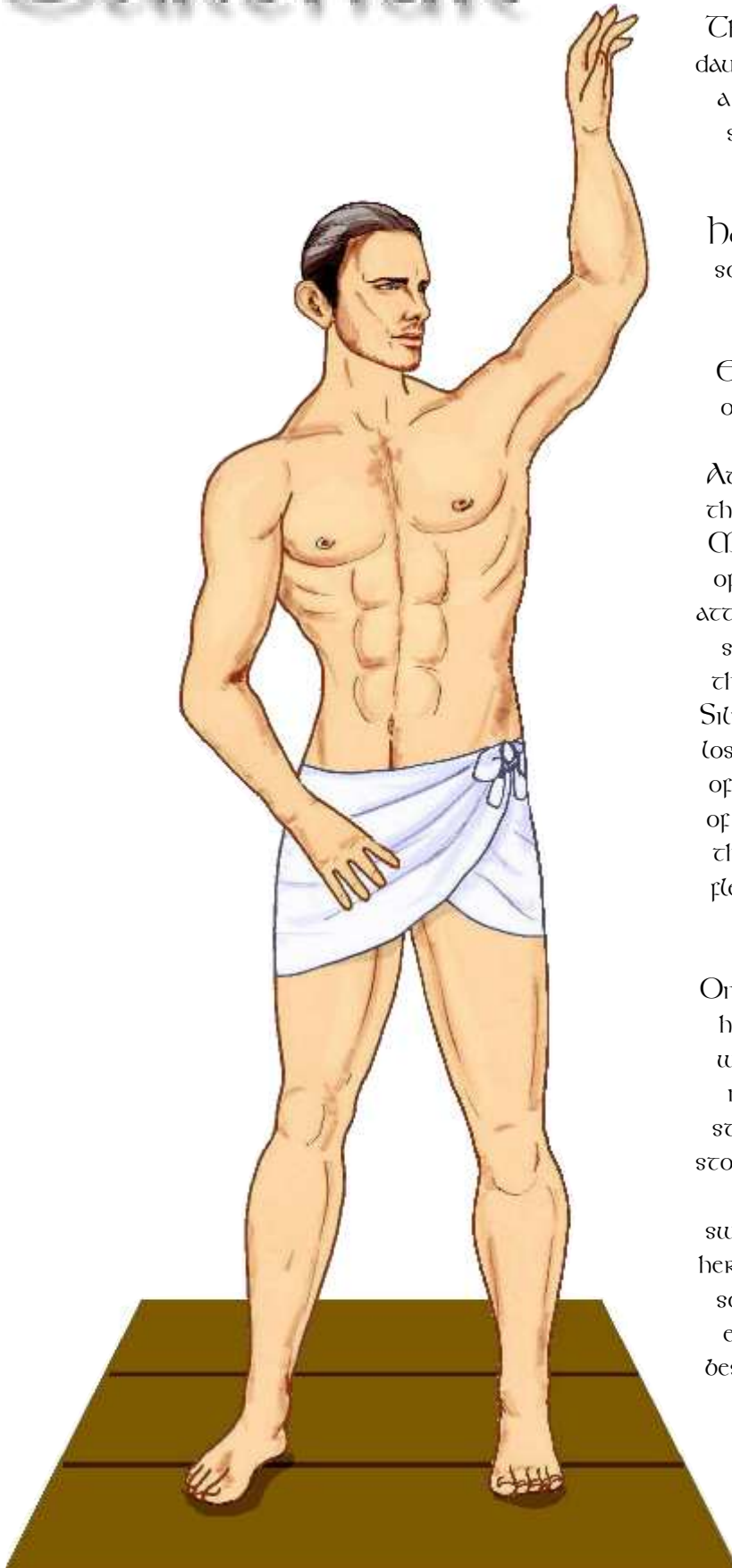


Eärendil



The great MARINER son of TUOR and Idril daughter of TURGON, Eärendil was raised as a child in Gondolin. When Eärendil was seven years old, he escaped the sack of Gondolin with his parents,

He married Ewing, daughter of Dior the son of Beren and Lúthien. They had two sons, Elrond and Elros.

Eärendil built a ship, Vingilot and sailed often around the seas west of Middle-earth,

At this time Ewing had in her possession the Silmaril that Beren had wrested from Morgoth. News of this came to the sons of Feanor that were still living, and they attacked the people living in Arvernien, and slew most of them. But Ewing, rather than be captured, threw herself with the Silmaril into the sea. The Silmaril was not lost, however as Ulmo bore up Ewing out of the waves, and he gave her the likeness of a great white bird, and upon her breast there shone as a star the Silmaril, as she flew over the water to seek Eärendil her beloved.

On a time of night Eärendil at the helm of his ship saw her come towards him, as a white cloud exceeding swift beneath the moon, as a star over the sea moving in strange courses, a pale flame on wings of storm. And it is sung that she fell from the air upon the timbers of Vingilot, in a swoon, nigh unto death for the urgency of her speed, and Eärendil took her to his bosom; but in the morning with marvelling eyes he beheld his wife in her own form beside him with her hair upon his face, and she slept.



Hearing of the tragedy that had befallen in Arvernien, Eärendil then sought after Valinor, and he and Eúning found their way there at last. Eärendil thus became the first of all mortals to set foot in Valinor. Eärendil then went before the Valar, and asked them for aid for Men and Elves in Middle-earth, to fight against Morgoth; and the Valar accepted his plea.

Because both Eärendil and Eúning were descended from a union of Elves and Men, Manwë granted to them and their sons the gift to choose to which race they would be joined (a gift that was further passed to the children of Elrond, who became known as the Half-elven). Eúning chose to be one of the Elves. Eärendil would have rather been one of the Men; however, for the sake of his wife, he chose to be one of the Elves.

The Valar, having listened to Eärendil's plea, went with a mighty host to Middle-earth, and overthrew Morgoth, and bound him. Eärendil took part in the battle, riding on Vingilot beside Thorondor and the Eagles. It was his blow that slew the great dragon Ancalagon and cast it down onto Changorodrim, the event which, along with the sheer devastation caused by the War of Wrath, led to the Ruin of Beleriand.

Eärendil sails the heavens, guarding the Door of Night through which Morgoth had been cast. He wears upon his brow the shining Silmaril, visible from the Earth as a bright star.

