



The Walking Song

Bilbo Baggins (J.R.R. Tolkien)



A WORTH IT MEDIATION

The Road Goes Ever On was a walking-song by J.R.R. Tolkien, fictionally written by Bilbo Baggins; verses of it are sung at various places in The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings.

The Hobbit | The original version of the song is recited at the end of his journey back to the Shire. Coming to the top of a rise he sees his home in the distance, and stops and says the following:

*Roads go ever ever on,
Over rock and under tree,
By caves where never sun has shone,
By streams that never find the sea;
Over snow by winter sown,
And through the merry flowers of June,
Over grass and over stone,
And under mountains in the moon.*

*Roads go ever ever on, Under cloud and under star,
Yet feet that wandering have gone, Turn at last to home afar. Eyes that fire and
sword have seen, And horror in the halls of stone
Look at last on meadows green, And trees and hills they long have known.[]*

The Lord of the Rings | Three versions. The first is sung by Bilbo when he leaves the Shire and is setting off to visit Rivendell:

*The Road goes ever on and on,
Down from the door where it began.
Now far ahead the Road has gone,
And I must follow, if I can,
Pursuing it with eager feet,
Until it joins some larger way
Where many paths and errands meet.
And whither then? I cannot say.^[3]*
The second version is identical

The second, replaces "eager" for "weary," spoken aloud, slowly, by Frodo, as he and his companions pause on their way to Crickhollow, looking beyond to lands that some of them have never seen before.¹ The third version is spoken by Bilbo in Rivendell after the hobbits have returned from their journey. Bilbo is now an old, sleepy hobbit, who murmurs the verse and then falls asleep.

*The Road goes ever on and on, Out from the door where it began.
Now far ahead the Road has gone, Let others follow it who can!
Let them a journey new begin, But I at last with weary feet
Will turn towards the lighted inn, My evening-rest and sleep to meet.*

Our Question



*The Road Goes Ever On (Walking Song), From Tolkien Gateway:
[https://tolkiengateway.net/wiki/The_Road_Goes_Ever_On_\(song\)](https://tolkiengateway.net/wiki/The_Road_Goes_Ever_On_(song))*

