

GOLLUM

- GOLLUM (in full view now). Bless us and splash us, my preciousss! Here's something to eat! (Guttural.) Gollum!
- BILBO (brandishing his blade, while shaking and backing off). Stay back!
- GOLLUM (swaying his head from side to side as he talks). What's he got in his handses, hmmm?
- BILBO (as fiercely as possible). A sword, an Elvish blade! It came out of Gondolin.
- GOLLUM (taken aback, hissing). S-s-s-s-s What iss he, my preciousss? Hic! (More politely.) Whom have we the pleasure of meeting?
- BILBO (rapidly). I am Mr. Bilbo Baggins, a Hobbit. I've lost the Dwarves and the Wizard and I don't know where I am--but then I don't want to know where I am. The only thing I want to know is how to get out of here!
- GOLLUM (hissing). S-s-s-s-s s'pose we sits here and chats with it a bitsy, my preciousss---- A Bagginess! (Rubs his stomach.) It likes riddles, p'raps it does, does it? S-s-s-s-s.
- BILBO. You mean me?
- GOLLUM. Yesssss----
- BILBO. Well, I'd love to, but I'm expected somewhere else---- (To himself.) I hope. (To GOLLUM.) So if you'd kindly direct me to the nearest exit----
- GOLLUM (cutting in). S-s-s-s-s stop. First a riddle, yesss?
- BILBO (resigned). Very well, if you insissst! After you----
- GOLLUM. S-s-s-s-s say,
What has roots as nobody sees,
Is taller than trees,
Up, up it goes,
And yet never grows?
- BILBO. Easy! Mountain. Now if you'll kindly----
- GOLLUM (cutting in). S-s-s-s-s so does it guess easy? It must have a competition with us, my precious. If we wins we eats if--it tastes better if we earns it. If it wins we shows it the way out. Yessss.
- BILBO (resigned). Well--all right. Only, how many of them are you? Who's this "Precious" you keep talking to?
- GOLLUM. Our Preciouss Self! We has to talk to someone, doesn't we? We are alone here--forever.