

# A Specimen of Non-Feorian Tengwar






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









There exists a drawing by J. R. R. Tolkien, dating probably from 1925, entitled “Lunar Landscape”<sup>1</sup>. The title is inscribed in very early, non-Feorian tengwar. This inscription is referenced as “DTS 27 – Lunar Landscape title” in The Mellonath Daeron Index of Tengwar Specimina<sup>2</sup>.

A facsimile of the inscription follows with a proposed transliteration.

  
*lw̄nr l̄nd<sup>a</sup>skyp<sup>e</sup>*

All characters involved are listed below with their presumed values and comments on the attribution, which is based mainly on similarities of shape and usage to the later, Feorian Tengwar and the Sarati of Rūmil, the first writing system of Arda, as applied to the writing of English.

	<i>l</i>	The shape is reminiscent of tengwa <i>r</i> 𐌵 and – more remotely – of sarat <i>l</i> 𐌻. It is also similar to tengwa <i>l</i> 𐌺 after reflection around a vertical axis and a quarter-turn counterclockwise.
	<i>w</i>	A shape containing a cusp, like sarat <i>w</i> 𐌺 – and of course similar to Latin <i>w</i> (which is probably a mere coincidence). Writing <i>ū</i> as <i>uw</i> is a practice not unknown in tengwar-modes. The two semivowels <i>w</i> and <i>y</i> in the present mode are upside-down versions of each other.
	<i>n</i>	A single-bowed letter like tengwa <i>n</i> 𐌵 in the mode of Beleriand.
	<i>r</i>	Similar to sarat <i>r</i> 𐌹. The present specimen represents <i>n<sup>e</sup>r</i> by <i>nr</i> .
	<i>d</i>	A character whose voiced nature is denoted by a double bow, like tengwa <i>d</i> 𐌵 and sarat <i>d</i> 𐌶. This character and the <i>k</i> - and <i>p</i> -characters below exhibit raised stems, while the tengwar <i>d</i> , <i>k</i> and <i>p</i> 𐌵𐌵𐌵 have lowered stems.

	<i>k</i>	An upside-down tengwa <i>k</i>  ; it has a closed bow like the latter and sarat <i>k</i>  . This character and the one for <i>p</i> below have raised stems, while their sarati equivalents  and  have stems to the right.
	<i>y</i>	The <i>y</i> -semivowel, containing a cusp like the sarat <i>y</i>  .
	<i>p</i>	Similar to a tengwa <i>p</i>  reflected around a horizontal axis, with a final swash.
	<i>u</i>	A diacritic corresponding exactly to the Feanorian tehta  , which has the value <i>u</i> in some modes. Reminiscent of the sarat-diacritic  for <i>u</i> , turned sideways and reflected.
	<i>a</i>	The precise equivalent of tehta <i>a</i>  and the Rúmilian <i>a</i> -diacritic  , turned on its side.
	<i>s</i>	A consonantal diacritic; tengwar and sarati also possess diacritics for <i>s</i> (  and  respectively).
	<i>e</i>	The rotated equivalent of sarat <i>e</i> -diacritic  .

In view of the assumptions above, the shapes of some other characters in this mode could be deduced. Thus, it might be reasonable to assume the following characters for *t*, *g* and *b*, and diacritic for *o*:



Additional deductions about this curious mode will have to await publication of further material.



Certur Harmatir  
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<sup>1</sup> J. R. R. Tolkien, *Roverandom*, p. 42+3. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1998. – Wayne G. Hammond & Christina Scull, *J. R. R. Tolkien: Artist & Illustrator*, p. 78. London: HarperCollins, 1998.

<sup>2</sup> [www.forodrim.org/daeron/mdtci.html](http://www.forodrim.org/daeron/mdtci.html)