Hobbit Conversation
on Earth Classics

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Bilbo Baggins is talking to Thorin about classics that have originated on Earth and seem to be disappearing. Bilbo has dowsed categories of classics.

“Did you look up the definition of a classic?” asked Thorin.

“The word refers to something long regarded as outstanding of its kind. Judged over a period of time, classics are considered to be of the highest quality,” said Bilbo.

“You’ve dowsed categories that are specific to Earth,” said Thorin.

“Fashion, furniture, cars and film so far,” said Bilbo. “I thought architecture might be a category, but it dowses a ‘No.’”

“What do you think that means?” asked Thorin.

“It must mean that architecture we think originated on Earth exists somewhere else,” said Bilbo.

“Were there other ‘Nos’?” asked Thorin.

“I made a list,” said Bilbo showing Thorin his notebook:

• Architecture
• Fashion, Yes and No
• Telcos
• Entertainment companies for the past 30 years
• Oil
• Steel, Aluminum, Copper and other metals
• Glass
• Airlines
• Automobiles, Yes and No
• Ships, Yes and No
• Synthetic Music

“What about computers?” asked Thorin.

“Apple and Microsoft originated on Earth,” said Bilbo. “In 2010, *WIRED* magazine\(^1\) reported that Steve Jobs resigned as Chairman of Apple Computer on September 16, 1985 after losing a boardroom battle for control of the company with then-CEO John Sculley. And, in May 2015, Microsoft developer evangelist Jerry Nixon\(^1\) announced that Windows 10 would be the last.”

“Do you think Earth-based companies are being phased out?” asked Thorin.

“Yes,” said Bilbo.

“Why?” asked Thorin.

“I made another list that I've been dowsing,” said Bilbo turning to another page in his notebook:

• Fifty percent of today's products are not manufactured on Earth. Off-world production is faster. It's not cheaper *yet* because real, *Star Trek*-like replicator technology that's used needs to be hidden. When that technology can be set up on Earth, production will also be cheaper.
• Ninety percent of the companies that dowse a “No” are much larger, the headquarters are off-world and there are economies of scale.

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\(^1\) “Walmart's Notebook Computer with Windows 7, p. 13 and p. 3” by Mary Jo Fahey, [http://housing.x10host.com/pc_education_07_18_18.pdf](http://housing.x10host.com/pc_education_07_18_18.pdf)
• One-hundred percent of the companies that dowse a “No” are using Cyborg labor making labor a fixed cost. Earth-based companies cannot compete.

“Do any Earth-based companies use Cyborgs?” asked Thorin.

“About twenty percent,” said Bilbo.

“We've talked about Cyborgs,” said Thorin.

“They receive very little pay, and some work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week,” said Bilbo.

“They're slaves,” said Thorin.

“Yes,” said Bilbo.

“Do off-worlds have classics?” asked Thorin.

“I dowse a 'No,'” said Bilbo.

“Did they ever?” asked Thorin.

“Yes,” said Bilbo. “I dowse that their replicator technology destroyed their classics.”

“Have any Earth classics become popular off-world?” asked Thorin.

“I dowse a 'Yes,'” said Bilbo.
Bilbo and Thorin have resumed their discussion about Earth classics and Thorin has told Bilbo that he is interested in examples.

“We've talked about classic clothing styles,” said Thorin. “Did you dowse whether the styles are Earth-based?”

“Ninety percent are Earth-based,” said Bilbo.

“I'd like to know which styles are Earth-based and which ones are not,” said Thorin.

“I made a list,” said Bilbo showing Thorin his notebook:

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