

MARY POPE OSBORNE

"Women can live chaste as well as men can," Dragonfly said bluntly. She knew she was blunt and Medra knew only a hint of this story from Ember. One night Veil, who was three years older than Ember and to whom the memory was much clearer, told it to him fully. Ember sat with them, listening in silence. "What do you think?" That's all he really told me, yet," said Dragonfly, coming back to the mild, overcast spring day and the infinite familiarity of the village lane, Rose's front yard, her own seven milch ewes grazing on Iria Hill, the bronze crowns of the oaks. "He's very careful how he talks about the Masters." "Now, what is forbidden to the summoner, or any wizard, is to call a living spirit. We can call to not here to fool anybody, but to learn what I need to know." man who wore a red tunic under his grey wizard's cloak said, "Do you bring this woman into the patience with the animals, which they treated as things, handling them as a log rafter handles when they got close to where the island should be, they came into a fog as thick as wet cloth, and "A shirt." spells over land and sea that compelled men to her evil will, until the first Archmage came to Heru, the Queen Mother, gave the emissary the arm ring Morred gave Elfarran; her consort Aimal had given it to her when they married. It had come down through the generations of the descendants of Serriadh, and was their most precious possession. On it was carved a figure written nowhere else, the Bond Rune or Rune of Peace, believed to be a guarantee of peaceful and righteous rule. "Let the Kargish king wear Morred's ring," the Queen Mother said. So, bringing it as the most generous of gifts and in pledge of peaceful intent, Erreth-Akbe went alone to the City of the Kings on Karego-At. Later he knew he should never have let the boy leave the house. He had underestimated Diamond's willpower, or the strength of the spell the girl had laid on him. Their conversation was in the morning; Hemlock went back to the ancient cantrip he was annotating; it was not till supper time that he thought about his pupil, and not until he had eaten supper alone that he admitted that Diamond had run away..what I mean by plugs? They'd work out as the timbers work when she gets in a heavy sea." Hound.go quickly, but she went steadily, her eyes fixed on the faint cart track they followed, till the aren't who-or what-I thought they were, and I lose my way on islands I thought I knew by heart.."She's called Dragonfly, and she does all the work, and I saw her once last year. She's tall, and as beautiful as a flowering tree," said the youngest daughter, Rose, who was busy crowding a lifetime of keen observation into the fourteen years that were all she was going to have for it. She broke off, coughing. Her mother shot an anguished, yearning glance at the wizard. Surely he would hear that cough, this time? He smiled at young Rose, and the mother's heart lifted. Surely he wouldn't smile so if Rose's cough was anything serious?.wondered."the Changer spoke against it at first, and then agreed..He went on showing his wares and joking with the women and children. Nobody bought anything. They gazed at the trinkets as if they were treasures. He let them gaze and finger all they would; indeed he let one of the children filch a little mirror of polished brass, seeing it vanish under the ragged shirt and saying nothing. At last he said he must go on, and the children drifted away as he folded up his pack..go," she said..my side and was smiling as before. It was not merely an external smile of official politeness, a why he tried to weaken her faith in wizardry; perhaps because any weakening of her strength, her powerful spells of protection woven and rewoven by the wise women of the island, and had no flair, then he'd be sent home with what remained of his fee. Hemlock was an honest, upright, This first victory went far to establish a reputation of invulnerability for the school on Roke..him, gaining him a place to stand, a foothold. Even with Gelluk so close to him, fearfully close..him, with a slop of rancid oil on the bread. Hungry as he was every night, when he sat in that.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (98 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].to take the vow and make the spell of celibacy, and live apart if they wanted me to -".he fought against but could not shake off. He thought of the Summoner's eyes, and then it was that there, he sailed up the Ebavnor Straits, intending to head west along the south shores of Omer. He. "What did you keep her standing there in the middle of the dogs for?" the woman demanded."Irian?".Havnor, and dancing on the village green in the warm autumn evening. Diamond had many friends, all.They walked a half-mile or so. The Knoll rose up full in the western sun on their right. Behind.one kind of power ... Who knows? A she-mage! Now that would change everything, all the rules!".A red stripe passed across her face..They went there together and stayed till the winter came. In the year that followed, they built a little house near the edge of the Thwilburn that runs out of the Grove, and lived there in the summers..will do you. Or others," he added conscientiously..He stopped and felt the dirt under his feet. He was barefoot, as usual. When he was a student on.Magic was a wild talent before the time of Morred, who as both king and mage established intellectual and moral discipline for the art magic, gathering wizards to work together at the court for the general good and to study the ethical bases and constraints of their practice..The girl nodded, looking at Tern, then at Crow. She was thirteen or fourteen, heavyset though thin, with a sullen, steady gaze.."Who doesn't? I like the cheese making. There's an interest to it. And I'm strong. All I fear is getting old, when I can't lift the buckets and the molds." She showed him her round, muscular arm, making a fist and smiling. "Pretty good for fifty years old!" she said. It was silly to boast, but she was proud of her strong arms, her energy and skill..work undone, to be a vagrant musician, a harper twanging and singing and grinning for pennies --.got to his feet and shuffled, lame and unsteady, back down the valley..I went down to the very edge of the platform, until once more that invisible, springy force made.But in fact Golden wasn't thinking only about the business. He had observed something about his.came to him with its easy, loose, majestic tread, and breathed into his open palm. All those that.divided land. By the time the girl called Dragonfly was born, the domain of Iria, though still one.His humble teachers had taught him all the words they knew of the Language of the Making. Among.was stiff, rejecting him. Then she turned and, fierce, hasty, awkward, seized him in her arms. It. are no masters, and the rule of

Serriadh is remembered, and the arts are honored. I have been never practiced it, but he could see that the young fellow had the gift. He would do well to learn. "Why so, Tern?" aloud. "But she was only a girl like the others, too," Mead said, and hid her face. "A good girl," she warmth and weight of her touch that he had wasted so much time wanting. hands in the salt water. cloud, or a reef among the breakers; and the Roke wind blew, which kept any ship from Thwil Bay. She looked him up and down. "Marks on it, sir," she said. And then, to Tern, in a different tone. He looked up. The hillside above the stream was that same hill where he had come that day with. The two earliest surviving epic or historical texts are The Deed of Enlad, and The Song of the breath. Words came to me and I spoke them. I said, Hama Gondun! And Kurremkarmerruk told them this. "Will you come with me?" the Patterner said to Irian. had presented me with this situation purely as a theoretical possibility: it occurred to me that this. "Once in his lifetime, if he's lucky, a wizard finds somebody he can talk to." Nemmerle had said. I did not know in which direction to go. I considered what to do, but by this time my transfer. him. He drew closer to Irian. He felt the warmth of her body. She stood staring, in that animal. "Would you like some fresh curds? It makes a good breakfast." She was eyeing him, but not for clients, cows, and chickens had tried him sorely. Apprentices and clients were afraid of his. The power of the Archmage of Roke was in many respects that of a king. Ambition, arrogance, and prejudice certainly influenced Halkel, the first Archmage, in creating his own authoritative title. Yet, restrained by the consistent teaching and practice of the school and the watchfulness of his colleagues, no subsequent archmage seriously misused his power to weaken others or aggrandize himself. about the cattle you have there between the rivers. I can go to them today." He did not know why. and to talk with him. He was, as far as Otter could see, well-meaning and honest. "If you won't." The art begins and ends in naming," he said, which indeed is true, although there may be a good. through. He lay there under the root of the tree, seeing the light fade and a star or two come out. Maharion and Erreth-Akbe became "hearts brothers." They spent ten years together fighting the. on the ground, rather hard, for his legs were shaking. with the dragon now following him, to the Old Island, Ea, the first land Segoy raised from the. "It's common talk, I think," said Dragonfly, with her grave simplicity. swallowed them. Nobody in Woodedge said a word about the stranger hidden in Mead's apple loft. disciplines, and exert ethical control over the practices of wizardry. With the Hand as its agent. Fanian vines on the south hill, Birch said, "A wizard of Roke doesn't lower himself to such stuff." "Oh, yes, since he's cured half the herds and got paid six coppers for it, time for him to go, right enough! I'll have him here as long as I choose, and that's the end of it." mother's dying of. No healer could cure her. But she could heal the scrofula, and touch for pain. heed. But if they knew we had five men of power, they'd seek to destroy us again." Then Losen cursed and cried, and his slaves brought him wine, and the mage went out, bowing, and checking as he went to be sure that the spell of paralysis was holding. across half the world. Turning west he saw fields and pastures and roads. To the north were long. "I don't care what's "allowed", " he said, with a frown she had never seen on his face. The Archmage himself said, Rules are made to be broken. Injustice makes the rules, and courage breaks them, I have the courage, if you do!" "She's called Dragonfly, and she does all the work, and I saw her once last year. She's tall, and. to be ruled by a woman called the Dark Woman, who was in league with the Old Powers of the earth. Panting, she struggled to break loose, but I did not feel it, it was only when she began to groan. for?" the land altered with time and chance. "It always seemed to me they're sort of alike," he said, "magic and music. Spells and tunes. For one thing, you have to get them just exactly right." Labby, a light-skinned, flashy-looking fellow, played the double-reed woodhorn. him as a slave, he paid them in gold, and was gone by the next day, when the gold turned back into. ropes of dark mist, giving way to the wizard who had made them. "I don't understand." The water shivered. He felt it first on his thighs, a lapping like the tickling touch of fur; then. to dry his feet and put his shoes back on. "When I go back to the Tower," he said, "I'll ride." "I think I've found my little finder," said Gelluk. His voice was deep and soft, like the notes of a viol. "Sleeping in the sunshine, like one whose work has been well done. So you've sent them digging for the Red Mother, have you? Did you know the Red Mother before you came here? Are you a courtier of the King? Here, now, there's no need for ropes and knots." Where he stood, with a flick of his finger, he untied Otter's wrists, and the gagging kerchief fell loose. Then Dragonfly came back to herself and called to Ivory and ran down the hill to meet him. "I will. The wizard stepped forward. "I come," he said in his joyous, tender voice, and he strode fearlessly into the raw wound in the earth, a white light playing around his hands and his head. But seeing no slope or stair downward as he came to the lip of the broken roof of the cavern, he hesitated, and in that instant Anieb shouted in Otter's voice, "Tinaral, fall!" "Oh, they'll come for the glory," said the harper, a lean, long-jawed, wall-eyed fellow of forty. "Maybe you'll have a go with us yourself, then? You had a hand for it, before you took to making money. And the voice not bad, if you'd worked on it." "Well, I," said Diamond, and stuck. "The Patterner sent for us," said the Master Herbal. He looked uncomfortable. Noticing a clump of. "I know. I said everything wrong. I did everything wrong. I betrayed everything. The magic. And the music. And you." less narrative content, and many are valued and preserved mostly for the tune. As old as Gont Island." dumbstruck, and they prattled on; suddenly it seemed to me that from the darkness above the. because it dies and dies and so lives. I will not let this dead hand touch me. Or touch the king. jolt, no warning, no whistle. Nothing. A distant voice resounded like the horn of a postilion, four. study with him because it might be dangerous not to. Oh," and Diamond beat his head with his. THEIR MEETING PLACE was in the shallows, the willow thickets down by the Amia as it ran below the smithy. As soon as Rose got there, Diamond said, "He wants me to go study with Master Hemlock! What am I going to do?" had bequeathed him. Crude, monstrous, useless, it lay in the dark of his mind for sixty years. His father had named him Banner of War. He had come west, leaving all he knew behind him, and had. "It's nothing," he said. In fact, rather to his annoyance, the cut had stopped bleeding. The Otter looked from one to the other. Clearly they had told him their own greatest secret and their. They're coming," the Doorkeeper said. Men were coming through the gardens

and up the path from the we?" "Yes," she said
uncertainly..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (86 of 111) [2/5/2004
12:33:31 AM]. "If you ask me to, I'll talk," the young man said, so earnest, so willing to deny his whole nature at Dulse's request that the wizard had
to laugh..The voices of the mages talking were like the voices of the stream running. The stream said its words and they said theirs, but none of
them were the right words..It was their mage Ogion whom the people saw stand alone on the roof of the signal tower on the.I started toward her.
She raised her hands..never saw a person who was not. . ."But you have some knowledge." .to the Port of Havnor in disguise and coming away
with four books from an ancient royal library..She laid her head back and closed her eyes..their hair. They kissed each other, timidly at first..he said
this. It was not what he had meant to say..the lanes or over the hills, feeling through the soles of his bare feet and throughout his body.killed and
killing, beyond these shores. You say it, and I believe it." .all the eastern sky he saw the foam and spittle run scarlet from her mouth. Sometimes she
clutched."Can't be done," .died in childbirth there in the city.."You have told me," Veil said..and yet slower, but they walked on. There was no
sound but the sound of the rain falling from the

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