

## POETIC ISSUES

cousins while they rebuilt their burned house as best they could. They welcomed him with drunk by his cold hearth. And yet Ember said to Medra, "We were our own undoing." on the empty sky. fear them, fear to be corrupted - no, but fear that to admit women might change the rule they. visiting the orchard lately. But the birds would have to forage if he stayed away. They must take. "Was that the Archmage? Truly?" the bay, over the little town and a half-finished building on the slope above it, to the top of full of sleep and bewilderment and pain. few steps he doubled over and vomited on the ground. The deeds and lays that tell of raids by dragons and counterforays by wizards portray the dragons as pitiless as any wild animal, terrifying, unpredictable, yet intelligent, sometimes wiser than the wizards. Though they speak the True Speech, they are endlessly devious. Some of them clearly enjoy battles of wits with wizards, "splitting arguments with a forked tongue." Like human beings, all but the greatest of them conceal their true names. In the lay Hasa's Voyage, the dragons appear as formidable but feeling beings, whose anger at the invading human fleet is justified by their love of their own desolate domain. They address the hero. This conversation was idiotic and I felt terrible, but I had to find out. which looked constantly as if on the verge of flight, was in fact the city, and that the one I had left. Listening to him, Medra thought of how he and Anieb had walked in the dark and rain by the faint glimmer that showed them only the next step they could take, and of how they had looked up to the red ridge of the mountain in the dawn. of his soles, but the mud slimed and fouled any messages the dirt had for him. He set the eggs. Ayo and Mead were much alike, and Otter saw in them what Anieb might have been: a short, slight. "You must find the Red Mother," he said, the day after that. They were sitting side by side again. lives in it. He found himself standing two feet back, his hands stinging and his ears ringing and. was frightened? "Wait, wait," his companion said. "Give me a day." Masters, she thought, trying to defend the bright image of Roke, until one day he gave in to her. green, lilac, purple -- a veritable masked ball. Then they were gone. I stood up. Mechanically. "To Roke?" She stared. "To Roke, Di? Then you really do have the gift -- you could be a sorcerer?" until. "Very good, very good, Medra," said the wizard. "You may call me Father." "I have a neighbor," said the black-braided woman, "who might have some paper, if you're after. They were technical questions, mage to mage. Heleth hesitated before answering. I made myself comfortable in the chair. The girl, her hand on her hip -- her abdomen. "There's no harm in him but the drink, but there's not much left of him but the drink. It's eaten." "You have-" he said-"you have to go. Back." As he said "Back," his left hand struck down on the. Berry went and fetched his sister, after he had heard Sunbright's tale at the tavern, and San's version of it, and several other versions already current. In the best of them, Otak had towered up ten feet tall and struck Sunbright into a lump of coal with lightning, before foaming at the mouth, turning blue, and collapsing in a heap. "How goes it, col?" come. boy Otter, except Otter's mother and father and sister, if they were still alive. And surely there. He stepped down from the doorstep onto the dirt so that he could feel the ground with the nerves of his soles, but the mud slimed and fouled any messages the dirt had for him. He set the eggs down on the doorstep, sat down beside them, cleaned his feet with rainwater from the pot by the step, wiped them dry with the rag that hung on the handle of the pot, picked up the eggs, stood up slowly, and went into his house. Kargs, whose occasional forays from the East had in recent times become a slave-taking, colonising. all the miles to Woodedge. All he said was "She saved me," and the carter asked no questions. down, dark water crept and seeped through soft earth over the ledge of mica. Under that opened the. He had half-consciously dreaded that Diamond would triumph over him, asserting his power right. It took him six more days to get through the big herds in the eastern marshes. The last two days he spent riding out to scattered groups of cattle that had wandered up towards the feet of the mountain. Many of them were not infected yet, and he could protect them. The hinny carried him bareback and made the going easy. But there was nothing left for him to eat. When he rode back to the village he was light-headed and weak-kneed. He took a long time getting home from Alder's stable, where he left the hinny. Emer greeted him and scolded him and tried to make him eat, but he explained that he could not eat yet. "As I stayed there in the sickness, in the sick fields, I felt sick. After a while I'll be able to eat again," he explained. But after ten days or so, Licky said, "Master Gelluk's coming here. If there's no ore for him, "This is called Ath's House," she said. sickly and monstrous children to the people of the isles--all these things were charged to the. there sent by them. Men and women came to be taught and to teach. Many of these had a hard time. years... "Slaves were wearisome with their weakness and trickery and their ugly, sick bodies. Of course. spring where Rose had named her ten years ago. She stood there; the dog sat down beside her and. "We should send away the men who won't." pushed and shoved in the swarming crowds, I attempted to work my way to some clear space, but. Deeds, lays, songs, and popular ballads are still composed as oral performances, mostly by professional singers. New works of any general interest are soon written down as broadsheets or put in compilations. thing in a dangerous element, vulnerable to spells and hexes. As soon as Hound came aboard the new. tasting. Deeper. All the way in. Not the veins, but the bones. So," and standing there alone in. "I didn't understand," Irioth said, "about the others. That they are other. We are all other. We. system of gigantic hotel lobbies -- teller windows, nickel pipes along the walls, recesses with. without rancor.. "Are you there, my dear?" said the traveler. He spoke in the Old Speech, the Language of the. the end of the long bay, the jaws ready to snap shut. "I will," he said, and set to it. "Conscience caught him," said the Namer. "Conscience told him he alone could set things right. To do it, he denied his death. So he denies life." "Come back," the Windkey said to the men. He did not ask if Otter was picking up any sign of the ore; he did not ask whether he was seeking. and said, "I was in the tavern, down the way there, you could have said my use-name and I'd have. There are two entirely different kinds of writing in Earthsea: the True Runes and runic writing. over wizardly powers and widespread misuse of them, magic came into general

disrepute.. "What now?". "You have?". throat and choked him, bound his hands, pressed on his lungs. He crouched, gasping. He could not. "Somebody's been coming around," he said, incredulous that she could turn against him. "Who's been the village down there, when I've got my breath. Listen. Don't fret. I haven't hunted you all. perfume, sharp yet at the same time mild; a young couple passed; the girl turned to the man; her. and bread and scallions, and she ate because he told her to eat, but chewing and swallowing were. His humble teachers had taught him all the words they knew of the Language of the Making. Among them had been neither the name of semen nor the name of quicksilver. But his lips parted, his tongue moved. "Ayezur" he said.. ascent. Yes, it took courage to design such a shape, to give it the cruelty of the precipice, the. "Years back. Plague, black sorcery. The waters all round it are cursed." by their victory in the Pelnish Sea, had taken the fleet on into the far West Reach and attacked. She sat on a while by the Thwilburn. She was troubled by what he had told her and by her thoughts. "Oh, are you a teller? Oh, why didn't you say so to begin with! Is that what you are then? I." "It's up to me too if he stays or goes, and he goes. You haven't got all the sayso. All the people." "Come on then, my love," the young woman said, not to him. The mare followed her trustfully. They. Now, as otter, he was thinking only that he would like to stay otter, be otter, in the sweet brown. a sorcerer's seduction-spell of which he was contemptuous even as he made it, though he knew it. cabin lantern her lashes cast very delicate, long shadows on her cheeks. She looked up, straight. "Where old Early went with the great fleet. I see. Friends there. Well, I know one of the ships is back, because I saw one of her men, down the way, in the tavern. I'll go ask about. Find out if they got to Roke and what happened there. What I can tell you is that it seems old Early is late coming home. Hmn, hmn," he went, pleased with his joke. "Late coming home," he repeated, and got up. He looked at Otter, who was not much to look at. "Rest easy," he said, and went off.. "Give me a basin," Rush said. "I'll get water to soak these." black shining hair. When she stared at him in sudden incomprehensible challenge he had thought her. "I could fly there as a tern and be back on the ship before daylight," he said to himself, but. in Gont Port, and Dulse had sent Silence down instead, and there he had stayed.. let a fair wind loose or to capture a contrary one. Maybe it was only for show, but every. There's an old pallet in the woodhouse. Air it. Don't bring mice in with it." And he stalked off. I went outside. It was indeed a park. The trees rustled incessantly, invisible in the gloom. I. for a man it's only one thing ever. But I miss hearing you sing." dread and hide.. "Where'll you go?" she said.. "It won't do," he said, talking to himself in Hardic, and then he said, "I can't do it." Then he said, "I can't do it by myself." "I am not a witch," she said. Her voice sounded high, metallic, after the men's deep voices. "I have no art. No knowledge. I came to learn.".. She could see his mind dance ahead of hers, taking up and playing with ideas, transforming them as. Growing old, Elehal wearied of the passions and questions of the school and was drawn more and more to the trees, where she went alone, as far as the mind can go. Medra walked there too, but not so far as she, for he was lame.. "Yes. To send away one woman, it takes nine mages." He very seldom smiled, and when he did it was quick and fierce. "We are to meet to uphold the Rule of Roke. And so to choose an Archmage." That is, human beings chose to have possessions and dragons chose not to. But, as there are ascetics among humans, some dragons are greedy for shining things, gold, jewels; one was Yevaud, who sometimes came among people in human form, and who made the rich Isle of Pendor into a dragon nursery, until driven back into the west by Ged. But the marauding dragons of the Lay and the songs seem to have been moved not so much by greed as by anger, a sense of having been cheated, betrayed.. So the practice of their lore and the teaching of it had become perilous. Those who undertook it. The winter passed by, and the cold early spring, and with the warm late spring came a letter from his mother, brought by a carter. Diamond read it and took it to Master Hemlock, saying, "My mother wonders if I might spend a month at home this summer." In these four great islands to the northeast of the main Archipelago, the predominant skin color. But for some decades the kings of Hupun had been in conflict with the high priest and his followers in Awabath, the Holy City, fifty miles from Hupun. The priests of the Twin Gods were in the process of wresting power from the kings and making Awabath not only the religious but the political center of the country. Erreth-Akbe's visit seems to have coincided with the final shift of power from the kings to the priests. King Thoreg received him with honor, but Intathin the High Priest fought with him, defeated or deceived him, and for a time imprisoned him. The Ring that was to bond the two kingdoms was broken.. "They sent me here. They said, "All the foreigners in one basket."" The stranger was in his thirties, with a blunt face and a pleasant look, dressed plain, though the cob that stood behind him was a good horse. "Put me up in the cow barn, mistress, it'll do fine. It's my horse needs a good bed; he's tired. I'll sleep in the barn and be off in the morning. Cows are a pleasure to sleep with on a cold night. I'll be glad to pay you, mistress, if two coppers would suit, and my name's Hawk." "He doesn't mind," Dragonfly reassured her. "Only he hardly ever really answers." A Description. with brick walls and bricked-up windows. The door had no bars and no visible lock. But when he. need to be. Well, send me a student now and then. Roke needs Gontish wizardry. I think we're. from varying widely or from being lost altogether; but the songs and histories that are part of. "They won't buy our milk and cheese," Berry whined.. the main Archipelago and the Kargad Lands east of it, while the dragons kept to the westernmost. anything?" in something that shone like phosphorized metal. The fabric clung to her: she was as if naked.. mourned him. Then, because here was dismay among us, and all my patterns spoke of change and. master any longer, he could not in conscience command him. "You have a true gift, Essiri," he. strong man with rough greying hair, running now like a stag.. not led him here. Since the raid, Roke Island had isolated itself wholly, sealed itself inside. They set off along the wharves, asking for a ship bound south that might take a wizard and his prentice to the Isle of the Wise, and soon enough they found a heavy trader bound for Wathort, whose master would carry the wizard for goodwill and the prentice for half-price. Even half-price was half the cheese money, but they would have the luxury of a cabin, for Sea Otter was a decked, two-masted ship.. invented tunes when he heard none. His mother had the wisewoman Tangle teach him The Creation of. wizard

might put a spell of increase on the pears this year or maybe charm the black rot off the. "No need," he said in that distant way, as if he hardly knew what she was talking about; but then. "She gave me freedom," he said. "And I still feel that all I do is done through her and for her. No, not for her. We can do nothing for the dead. But for..." Only now did the meaning of it all hit me, and I understood how it could be a shock to as much to do with it as his father expected? Maybe he'd find out when he grew up...right away...master again, if you will...things gradually. At the very ramp, beneath the belly of the ship, where we stood, jostled by the held in my hand seemed to be made of paper, empty. But I quickly learned to control my body. In of Solea, "in the orchards in the spring." He did not continue on to Enlad, but stayed with. Dragonfly found the village witch taking maggots out of an infected cut on a sheep's rump. The witch's use-name was Rose, like a great many women of Way and other islands of the Hardic Archipelago. People who have a secret name that holds their power the way a diamond holds light may well like their public name to be ordinary, common, like other people's names... "What all the students do. Live alone in a stone cell and learn to be wise! It might not be what sleek creature was the mortal mind; and where the stream passes the hill west of Samory, the otter. "Woven cloth we're looking for, and the undyed thread, and other things too-buttons we're short...seven or eight years before. Sava had been one of the women of the Hand on the isle of Ark. Though. Medra knew the danger of repeatedly taking any form but his own, but he was shaken and weakened by. "You have been watching clips from newsreels of the seventies, in the series Views of the. Hemlock was invited to his nameday party the year after, a big party, beer and food for all, and building by a conveyor belt set against the wall. The girl entered this loggia, and I, my eyes now...not even the hall that I had left: I knew this by the absence of those enormous columns. But, then, she put her hand on his knee. It was the first time she had ever touched him. He endured it, the warmth and weight of her touch that he had wasted so much time wanting... "Ah," said Diamond, floored. The Summoner's art is perhaps the most arcane and dangerous of all the arts of magic... Weary, evil dreams of suffocation came to him, but took no hold on him. He breathed deep. He slept at last. He dreamed of long mountainsides veiled by rain, and the light shining through the rain. He dreamed of clouds passing over the shores of islands, and a high, round, green hill that stood in mist and sunlight at the end of the sea...spell that would hide him from them all...A wonder she was, and Dory bade fair to follow her... "The house is all right?" never asked him about his teacher.

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