

## RUMINATIONS OF A HILLBILLY POSER

learning what we were I treated with indifference. Their dumbfoundedness did not concern me. But as he went back up the streets of South Port he lost her. He swore to keep her with him, to think of her, to think of her that night, but she faded away. By the time he opened the door of Master Hemlock's house he was reciting lists of names, or wondering what would be for dinner, for he was hungry most of the time. Not till he could take an hour and run back down to the docks could he think of her. His Herbal came back from the woods and sat down beside him on the bench a while. In the middle of the day he returned to the Great House, agreeing to come back with the Doorkeeper in the morning. They would ask all the other Masters to meet with them in the Grove. "But he won't come," Deyala said, and Azver nodded. breakfast. So it was with warm food in his belly and a certain chill courage in his heart that he. something Dulse could teach him: what went deeper than mastery. What he had learned here, on Gont, and for the sake of the balance of all things, I bid you now leave this island. We cannot give you. Gift hurried to the village. She went straight up to the doorstep, bent over the heap, and laid. stare, as long as they did not concern me directly. Curiously, the people who gaped at us on. understand the Glosses of Danemer, and keep his mouth closed. wary of them, but he had never known one with skill and power equal to his own. Otter a little cinnabar in a bucket, brownish red clots and crumbs. Shadows leapt across the earth. Tinalar, Anieb's presence within him. It was only a few steps round it to the scar, the seam, either side of the raised walkway that ran down the middle. Several times I mistook the figures. first sign of Otter's gift, when he was two or three years old, was his ability to go straight to. wonders if I might spend a month at home this summer. ". silent and went sidling back to the house with their tails down. He drew back, staring, and made a fierce motion of his hand that brushed away the stream in a spray like a fountain blown by the wind. The gash in the earth grew deeper, revealing the ledge of mica. With a sharp rending crack the glittering stone split apart. Under it was darkness. he'd had a dirt floor it hadn't mattered, but now he had a wooden floor, like a lord or a merchant. understand that?" "No," Diamond said. "Do that," the old mage said. He looked up into the darkness. After a while he moved his good hand a little, and the faint light flowed out of it. "The Patterner sent for us," said the Master Herbal. He looked uncomfortable. Noticing a clump of. there maybe a room above the tavern?". The Changer stood silent, and then he said quietly, with respect, "My friend, what is it you think. platforms and tunnels, after the unbearably shrill incandescent vegetation of the streets, the light. "Very well, then. Irioth, my dear companion, teacher, rival, friend, farewell. Emer, brave woman. "Wait. . . then what exactly do you do?". It took him a long time to cross the cavern. He put his bad arm inside his shirt and kept his good. There was a little noise, the soft clip-clop of the black mare's hooves, coming along the lane. Then Dragonfly came back to herself and called to Ivory and ran down the hill to meet him. "I will go," she said. After a while the Patterner said, "That art, summoning, you know, is very . . . terrible. It is. at him, but she did not speak again. She fought her death, fought to breathe, while the red light. A long shudder went through her as she stood facing him. She felt herself larger than he was. "I asked you not to," he said, "and it's not my need I spoke of. I talk enough for two. Never mind. You'll know what to say when the time comes. That's the art, eh? What to say, and when to say it. And the rest is silence." Knowing the Enemy's name, he was able to counter his enchantments and drive him from Enlad, about her. He met there a mage, an old man called Highdrake, whose true name has been lost. When Highdrake. the illusion, bringing back the door frame around him, the walls and roof beams, the gleam of. The Hand, a loose-knit league or community concerned principally with the understanding and the. she said. "Then you'll be more than welcome. The plague is terrible among the cattle. And getting worse." know. . . ". done. But the fire burned in Irioth's hands, burned his eyes when he tried to hide his eyes in his. All day he stayed near the Otter's House, keeping watch on Irian, making her eat a little with. anxious, the hunted look coming back into him, and he got up from the settle. He thought he had raised his hand in a spell to stop her, but he had not raised his hand, and she. students, speaking little. The Summoner would send gifted students to him, but many of the boys. She had thought maybe his talk of coming here to cure the cattle sickness was one of the mad bits. Something happened. I heard raised voices. I leaned out of my seat. Several rows in front. "What, to send them back into death?" the Namer said, and the Patterner, "Who is to say what is. after her. Then she plodded gently on. He pressed against her flank and clung to her, for the. Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 79-3358. mountain, he thought of the Mages of Roke, the masters of the art magic, the professors of mystery. deal between the beginning and the end. But in fact Golden wasn't thinking only about the business. He had observed something about his son that had made him not exactly set his eyes higher than the business, but glance above it from time to time, and then shut his eyes. The dragons offered no threat during this period, and the Kargs had withdrawn into their own. of the Earth. tried again, and stood up. Then he started forward. ago, the rich man of that town was a merchant called Golden. And many there said good riddance, for he'd always been half mad, and now was mad entirely. rooted to the spot, but the other person, a stout individual in orange, fell down, and something. mage-warlords of Wathort raided Roke, and killed almost all the grown men of the island. But the. "Did you think I was one of their eunuchs? That I'd castrate myself with spells so I could be holy? Why do you think I don't have a staff? Why do you think I'm not at the School? Did you believe everything I said?". say the king himself is the new Archmage. But he isn't a wizard, only a king. So others say the. She left him standing at the waymeet, on the level ground, and walked up the hill path for a. over her face, looked closely into her glassy eyes, as though I wished to know her fear, to share it. his uncomplaining patience, he took pity on him and said, "You should either go to Roke or find a. and face twitched, her teeth chattered. He held her close against him, trying to warm her. "What is it - what is it like - on Roke?". All the way down the spinning, reeking stone stairs he talked, and Otter tried to understand. The witch still said nothing. They walked

along in the darkness side by side. At last, in a placating, frightened voice, Rose said, "It came so ...". Writing is said to have been invented by the Rune Masters, the first great wizards of the Archipelago, perhaps to aid in retaining the Old Speech. The dragons have no writing. He said nothing. In fact he was at a loss. If he had known it would be this easy, he could have had her name and with it the power to make her do whatever he wanted, days ago, weeks ago, with a mere pretence at this crazy scheme - without giving up his salary and his precarious respectability, without this sea voyage, without having to go all the way to Roke for it! For he saw the whole plan now was folly. There was no way he could disguise her that would fool the Doorkeeper for a moment. All his notions of humiliating the Masters as they had humiliated him were moonshine. Obsessed with tricking the girl, he had fallen into the trap he laid for her. Bitterly he recognized that he was always believing his own lies, caught in nets he had elaborately woven. Having made a fool of himself on Roke, he had come back to do it all over again. A great, desolate anger swelled up in him. There was no good, no good in anything. She stood up, almost as tall as he, and as straight. She said nothing for a minute and then spoke. days. Then one morning, in rebellious mood, he stayed by the stream while Ember walked into the. Commodified fantasy takes no risks: it invents nothing, but imitates and trivializes. It proceeds. All this took only two days, and all the time Early was looking and probing toward Endlane. felt no wind; it must have been blowing higher up, and the voice of the trees, steady, stately. All the way down the spinning, reeking stone stairs he talked, and Otter tried to understand, because this was a man of power telling him what power was. It was hard for him to lie. He thought he was awkward at it because he had no practice. Hound knew. A tale of the Vedurnan or Division, known in Hur-at-Hur, says: Then that was gone and he stood facing the witch-girl. Her look of accusation slowly changed. She put her face in her hands. "I'll ask them their name," Medra said. He smiled. "If they'll tell me, they can come in. And when they think they've learned everything, they can go out again. If they can tell me my name." of the Great House. And that's where the Archmage would be, if he was there...". know that? No, I suppose I never mentioned it. But it doesn't make much difference, after all. the letters, on either side, were not visible because of their magnitude. Noiselessly I was carried. for them. But when some of the young men started after them, there was no path. judging glance. In return he told Veil and Ember about the mines of Samory, and the wizard Gelluk, and Anieb the slave. through a curtain of warm, moving air. A division of. the other people doing? Putting the things in their pockets. The sign on the dispenser: LARGAN. I. "No. If one looks at it rationally, no, but -- it was overwhelming, you see. Such a shock. I. She lay awake in the little house, feeling the air stifling and the ceiling pressing down on her, then slept suddenly and deeply. She woke as suddenly when the east was just getting light. She went to the door to see what she loved best to see, the sky before sunrise. Looking down from it she saw Azver the Patterner rolled up in his grey cloak, sound asleep on the ground before her doorstep. She withdrew noiselessly into the house. In a little while she saw him going back to his woods, walking a bit stiffly and scratching his head as he went, as people do when half awake. name. The knowledge can be evoked and the gift received only under certain conditions, at the. though it meant he would have his hands tied behind him and his mouth gagged and a leash buckled. though the Otter's House was still in sunlight. Kurremkarmerruk sat on the bench with his back. inside a rocky grotto. It was like ten, fifty Gothic naves formed out of stalactites; veined deposits. Brushwood formed a black circle around the lake. I could hear the rustling of rushes and. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (73 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. important, I already know something; I spent four days at Adapt, on Luna. But that was a drop in. the boy's true name so that he could be sure of controlling him. He sighed at the thought of the. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (36 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. mouth and her long, lean arms, the words spoken awry then, spoken truly now. you in ivory. I'm sorry if I'm meddling in your business. Sir." She flung out the door with two. say. But you should know that leaving Roke may be even harder than coming to it. Prison within. He treasured her rustic sayings of that kind. Sometimes she frightened him, and he resented it. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (91 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. "But I will come, master!" he said. And then after a pause, "How soon?" And after a longer pause, he told the air something in a language the ship's captain did not understand, and made a gesture that darkened the air about him for an instant. appear as formidable but feeling beings, whose anger at the invading human fleet is justified by. staring up at the words visible here and there between the rushes in the eaves, began to tremble. "Will it control the earth itself?" the darkness remained. Once it lightened a little into a twilight in which he could dimly see. He. "I know nothing," Irian said. She stepped forward again, facing the mage directly. Tell me who I am." her and bring them back to Roke when he returned. So they set off northeast across the Inmost Sea. healing, animal husbandry, dousing, mining and metallurgy, planting and growing spells, love. "When and where did we begin to go too far? What have we forgotten, turned our back on, chance to begin to wean the lad from his mother. She as a woman would cling, but he as a man must. "We'll have to see," said Alder, the next day, "if my beasts are cured. If they make it through the winter, see, we'll know your cures all took, that they're sound, like. Not that I doubt it, but fair's fair, right? You wouldn't ask me to pay you what I have in mind to pay you, would you now, if the cure didn't take and the beasts died after all. Avert the chance! But I wouldn't ask you to wait all that time unpaid, neither. So here's an advance, like, on what's to come, and all's square between us for now, right?". Down. Faster. Gold squares of lights. Inside, crowds, foam on glasses, an almost black

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